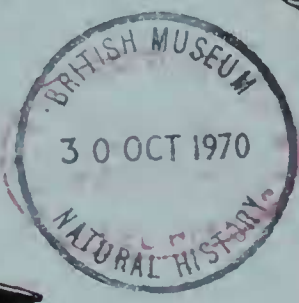
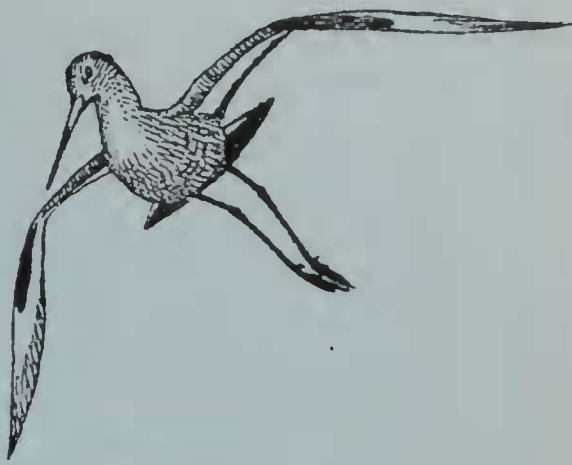


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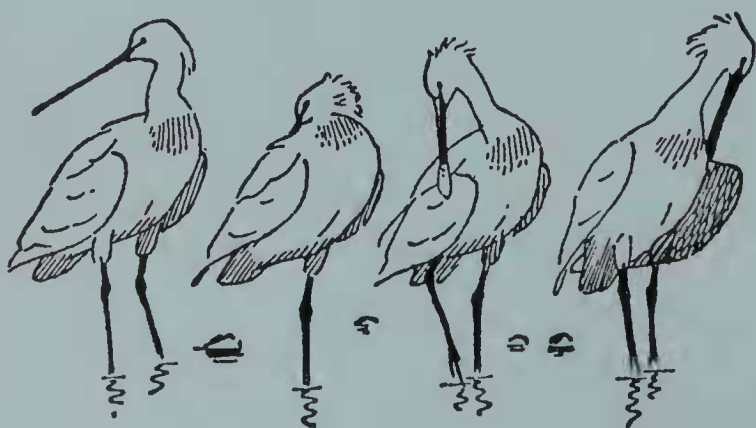
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*The *NORFOLK NATURALISTS TRUST*, the first of its kind in Great Britain, was founded in 1926 for the purpose of acquiring by purchase or gift, those properties in Norfolk and on the Suffolk border, requiring protection as nature reserves, and to hold these in perpetuity. Amongst the properties now administered are Hickling, Barton, Ranworth and Surlingham Broads, Cley Marshes, and parts of Breckland. A full list of Trust properties appears on page 192.

Details of membership may be obtained from the Secretary,
4 The Close, Norwich, NOR 16P (*Telephone: 25540*).

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

Details may be obtained from the General Secretary, Chalet
72 Wymondham College (*Telephone: Wymondham 3285*).



NORFOLK BIRD AND MAMMAL REPORT 1963

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THE NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Castle Museum, Norwich



Transactions of The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society,
Volume 20 Part 3

Norfolk Bird Report - 1963

Edited by

MICHAEL J. SEAGO

Assisted by

R. A. RICHARDSON, J. F. W. BRUHN, D. A. DORLING
AND G. R. SOUTH

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Edited by

F. J. TAYLOR-PAGE

Assisted by

R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley

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Norfolk Bird Report

1963

INTRODUCTION

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

For the last time we acknowledge the wealth of material received annually since 1949 from Cley Bird Observatory which was most regretfully dissolved at the end of the year.

The Year: The Arctic weather with biting easterly winds and exceptionally severe frosts which set in at Christmas 1962 continued for ten long weeks causing many casualties. Under such exceptional conditions great numbers of wildfowl reached Norfolk, particularly sawbills and other diving "hard-fowl". Just before the end of the long frost as many as 4-5,000 wigeon and as many mallard were feeding on frozen grass in Holkham Deer Park. They left March 7th.

In addition to 48 bean, 500 white-fronted and 28 pink-footed geese in East Norfolk, at least 3 and possibly 4 lesser white-fronts were identified. Whooper and mute swans died on the rivers and Broads, herons and bitterns perished and water-rails were among the first to die. Eleven water-rails were found dead on the saltings between Blakeney and Morston; on the tide-line at Wells on three occasions water-rails were seen attacking dunlin and knot. On Jan. 30th a water-rail there was disturbed from the corpse of a freshly dead dunlin on which it had undoubtedly been feeding. Water-rails at Hoveton were reported feeding on the corpses of coypus. At Surlingham, a little owl killed a water-rail on the frozen fen.

Many moorhens were crippled by the encrusting of their plumage at night when they were sleeping. At Surlingham extremely weak moorhens sat down to feed in a garden among blackbirds and thrushes. The survivors, however, enjoyed a highly successful nesting season and some nests contained as many as 16 eggs. Kingfishers were very badly hit and only one successful nest was reported. Wrens were frozen to death on the very coldest nights and at the end of the year showed little sign of recovery. Over 40 wrens roosted in a nest box at Weston Longville during the height of the hard weather and there were other reports of up to 15 roosting together. At Wymondham College wrens roosted inside the glass wool insulation of the overhead hot-water system, but none survived there. Tree creepers became scarce but, rather surprisingly, a number of long-tailed tits survived. Fortunately,

the snowfall was not heavy and bearded tits were able to keep alive by feeding on reed seeds.

Town gardens were invaded by exceptional numbers of redwings, fieldfares and blackbirds. Many existed on spoiled apples left over from the bumper harvest of 1962. Redwings even foraged beneath the stalls at Norwich fruit market. Others were not so fortunate and the majority of a flock of redwing which took refuge in a spinney at Taverham were found dead beneath the trees at New Year. Up to a hundred redwing were found dead in roosts at Stiffkey and Sculthorpe. In the spring it was found that small rookeries were deserted and larger ones much reduced, doubtless due to winter losses.

At Holme Observatory, a kestrel attacked a woodcock in flight, knocking it to the ground unharmed. Water-rails fed on dead birds under the windows of The Firs and one, which was cornered, was found to have its belly feathers encased in ice. It was thawed out and fed on mealworms, accepting these fearlessly from one's fingers.

Cley Observatory log lists several dead little grebes and comments that many moorhens starved to death; several woodcock which arrived there in severe weather between Jan. 8th and 20th perished from starvation. Redshank numbers were decimated and they remained scarce throughout the year at Cley (as in many other places). The winter hordes of wood pigeons were reduced by starvation and intensive shooting. At least 2 green woodpeckers were known to have died at Cley and by mid-Jan. the only redwings there were dead ones. Fieldfares were reduced to a pitiable condition at Cley and had to content themselves with pecking frozen carrots in the fields. So feeble did they become that many, clustering round a water hole in the ice of a marsh dyke, were blown in by the bitter east wind and drowned. But for the many windfall apples lying in the orchards from the previous autumn the mortality would have been much heavier.

Many woodcock died and several fed in salt water among knot and dunlin at Wells, Stiffkey and Burnham Overy. At Morley, a cat brought home 5 starving snipe on the night of Jan. 21st. At Breydon, there were heavy casualties among waders, particularly redshank, dunlin and knot. Great crested grebes suffered too.

In addition to the bitter cold, sea and shore birds had to contend with oil pollution which was severe. At Sheringham many guillemots became casualties, together with razorbills, gulls, scoters, scaup, cormorant, dunlin, redshank, sanderling, turnstone and oystercatcher.

Other cold spell records appear in the sections covering the Reserves, Observatories and special areas.

Noteworthy Feb. observations included a black-bellied dipper at Aylsham water-mill and a snow goose on the coast and in the Fens. In March pride of place must go to the great bustard found

dead at South Creak on 28th. There had been a remarkable influx of great bustards in Belgium some weeks earlier and a flock of 13 to 16 was seen at Beigem from Feb. 9th to March 7th. Apart from a single bird in Nov. 1956, these were the first great bustards recorded in Belgium since 1940.

April surprises were kite and Kentish plovers at Cley and hoopoes at Saxthorpe and Lang Mere. Further Kentish plovers passed through Breydon and Holme in May when there was a hoopoe at Holme and Hunstanton and a red-spotted bluethroat at Horsey. A passage of black terns took place at the end of May continuing until June 6th.

June was an exciting time at Holme with icterine and wood warblers, and very late redwing and firecrest. At Melton Constable, a brambling was in full song on 17th. A kite passed over East Wretham on 25th. 1,280 pairs of Sandwich terns and 1,900 pairs of common terns nested on the coast. Herons showed a sad decline, only 181 pairs nesting compared with 360 in 1962 and 430 in 1961. Black redstarts nested at Yarmouth and Norwich, but no young are known to have been reared. In the Broads, over 60 pairs of bearded tits bred, but no harriers. Five pairs of little ringed plovers summered and common sandpipers nested at Thompson Water.

The collared dove continued to spread in the county. By 1963 it was breeding in at least 25 of the 40 counties of England, in 4 counties of Wales and in 8, and probably 13, counties of Scotland and in 4 counties of Ireland (see *British Birds*, Vol. 57, p. 170). The wood pigeon campaign continued and 79,881 nests containing 66,109 eggs and 26,263 young were reported destroyed. 14,689 adult pigeons were claimed as killed.

July surprises were stilt sandpiper at Wisbech S.F., grey phalarope in red summer plumage at Blakeney and Mediterranean black-headed gull and Alpine swift both at Cley. During Aug. a little bittern was at Barton Staithe and hoopoe at Santon. An "escaped" sacred ibis was at Breydon and Wisbech S.F.

North American waders have been an almost annual feature since 1947 when a solitary sandpiper appeared at Cley/Salthouse, followed by pectoral sandpipers there in 1948 (3 birds), 1950 (2), 1952, 1954/5, 1957 (3), 1960 (2), 1961 (3) and 1962. White-rumped sandpipers were recorded at Cley 1948 and 1961; semi-palmated sandpiper in 1953, spotted sandpiper and dowitcher in 1957 and buff-breasted sandpiper in May 1964. Wisbech S.F., too, has shared in these visits from long distance travellers with pectoral sandpipers 1955/6, 1960/1, 1962 (2) and 1963; a white-rumped sandpiper in 1955 and the stilt sandpiper and dowitcher this year. Single dowitchers have been identified at Scolt Head in 1950 and 1954.

An autumn feature was the first major early Sept. drift since 1958. Among the rarities at this time were barred warblers, ortolans,

and a dozen red-breasted flycatchers. Other Sept. highlights included a dowitcher at Wisbech S.F., Alpine swift at Horsey and hoopoe on Blakeney Point. An Indian purple gallinule which appeared at Hickling towards the end of Sept. almost certainly escaped from Cromer.

Mid-Oct. storms made sea-watching very rewarding, particularly for skuas and all 4 species were observed. Oct. 20th brought an Arctic warbler to Cley and a yellow-browed warbler to Holme. The latter Observatory had another surprise a week later when a Pallas's warbler appeared, with others at St. Catherine's on 27th, at Dungeness and St. Agnes on 31st and at Walberswick Nov. 16th. Another yellow-browed warbler was identified at Holkham Nov. 3rd when a considerable irruption of waxwings began. A hundred waxwings had assembled at Weybourne by the 11th. At the end of the year as many as 85 shore-larks were at Salthouse. Impressive herds of Bewick's swans passed through Norfolk on 21st and again on 26th.

239 full species were recorded in the county during the year. **Unusual nest sites** included a blackbird's on top of cricket net posts stored horizontally at a North Walsham school; the young hatched successfully. At Thetford, a blackbird nested in a cell at the Police Station and at Blakeney a pair nested on the top step of a step-ladder inside a shed. A nest containing eggs of both pheasant and mallard was found at Surlingham. At Scoulton, swallows reared 2 broods in the bedroom of an occupied house; the nest was built on the window pelmet. Yarmouth collared doves chose unusual sites and one nest was in a cotoneaster on the wall of a house in the town centre. Two pairs of collared doves nested successfully at the top of 20-foot telegraph poles 150 yards apart; the nests were supported between the telegraph wire insulators.

Road casualties over a five-mile stretch of the A47 between Great Yarmouth and "Stracey Arms" totalled 62 birds, as follows: 25 moorhens, 2 fieldfares, 4 rooks, 15 black-headed gulls, 2 common gulls, single reed bunting and redstart, 8 house sparrows, 2 black-birds and 2 lapwings. The road was covered twice weekly throughout the year.

Toxic Chemicals: Special attention is drawn to the fourth report of the B.T.O. and R.S.P.B. on "The risks to bird life from chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides". Between Sept. 1962 and July 1963 484 bodies of 80 species of birds suspected of being contaminated by chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides were sent to R.S.P.B. Garden and insectivorous birds now head the list of species involved, with increasing casualties amongst such water birds as great crested grebes and herons.

Acknowledgments: We are indebted to R. A. Richardson for the cover drawing of black-tailed godwits and for other illustrations; also to H. A. Hems and R. Jones for photographs; to Cley and

Holme Bird Observatories; to the Norfolk Naturalist Trust wardens at Cley/Salthouse (W. F. Bishop) and at Hickling (E. Piggin and G. E. Bishop); to R. H. Harrison (Scroby and Breydon); to P. R. Allard (Breydon area); to the National Trust (Blakeney Point); to the Nature Conservancy (Scolt Head); to G. Crees (Horsey); to Cambridge Bird Club (particularly G. M. S. Easy); to Great Yarmouth Naturalists Society (light-vessel notes); to Trinity House Depot at Great Yarmouth; to D. R. Andrews for valuable assistance and to all other contributors.

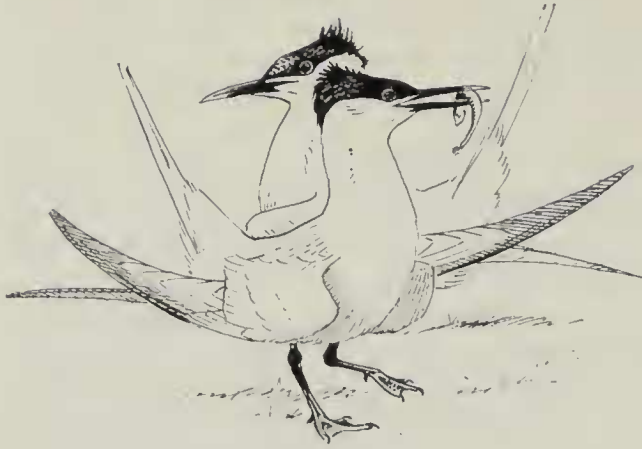
Recording: Records for the 1964 Report should be sent by the end of January to Michael J. Seago, 33 Acacia Road, Thorpe, Norwich, NOR 71T. Contributors are requested to submit notes in Check-list order (giving serial numbers based on the 1952 B.O.U. Check-list) using separate sheets for distinct areas (e.g. the Breck, Fens and Wash). In order to minimise the work involved, records will not normally be acknowledged. The names of all contributors will be included in the Report. It is requested that records of rarities should be reported to the Editor (telephone Norwich 34351) without delay.

Recent Publications: Attention is drawn to the following affecting Norfolk: "Blakeney Point and Scolt Head Island" (*The National Trust*, 1964); "Icelandic Black-tailed Godwits in the British Isles" (*British Birds*, Vol. 56, pp. 233-237); "Further Notes on the spread of the Eider in Gt. Britain" (*British Birds*, Vol. 56, pp. 273-285); "Past and present status of the Wryneck in the British Isles" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 10, pp. 112-132) and "Status of the Kittiwake in the British Isles" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 10, pp. 147-179).

Scroby Sands

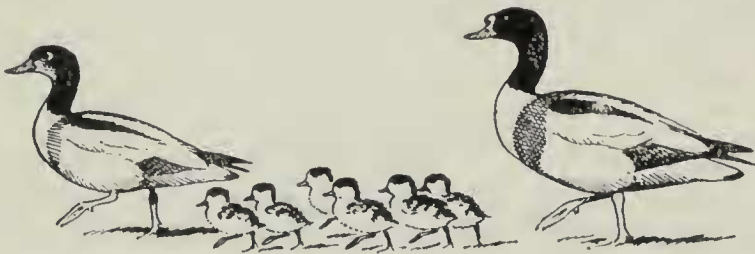
The first landing was made June 9th when 110 Sandwich terns' nests and 180 common terns' nests were counted. A few common terns' eggs had hatched and eleven chicks were ringed. A hundred kittiwakes were present. A second visit June 13th resulted in 51 common and 4 Sandwich tern chicks being ringed. A small colony of 6 little terns' nests was found, but these later disappeared.

Strong north-westerly winds and high tides June 18th caused some damage to both chicks and eggs. Fourteen common tern chicks were found dead on the 27th but the large colony of 160 Sandwich terns' eggs remained intact. A further landing June 30th revealed many fresh clutches of common terns' eggs, while Sandwich terns' nests remained at about 160 although 40 chicks had been ringed. A party of 4 black terns headed south July 4th. On July 14th a number of terns' nests of both species still had eggs; kittiwakes had increased to 300.



A final summer visit was made July 30th when a few common terns' nests still contained eggs. A great many juvenile common and Sandwich terns had, however, reached the free flying stage. Despite a generally wet and cold summer and the set-back June 18th, 1963 was one of the best nesting seasons for the terns since records began in 1947. A total of 304 young was ringed: 185 common and 119 Sandwich terns.

A winter trip discovered quite 200 cormorants resting on the island December 26th.



Breydon Water

January: White-fronted geese reached peak numbers in the first week with 500 on Halvergate marshes, but with such severe weather this company broke up and flocks of between 50 and 100 roamed the frost-scorched marshes. The levels at Halvergate, Berney Arms and Tunstall were particularly favoured. Others fed on recently reclaimed marshes adjoining the lower Bure. 120 white-fronts alighted on the estuary to drink on 12th and on 19th 9 were feeding on a salting by the frozen Bure. Up to 28 pink-footed geese spent the month on their usual Bure marshes where they were joined by 2 brents on 26th.

The bean geese normally wintering higher up the Yare valley roamed far and wide in search of food; 40 at Halvergate on 12th were in company with 250 white-fronts and 19 beans were feeding on barley stubble at Reedham Feb. 9th. A herd of up to 62 mute swans collected in the Yare close to Yarmouth Haven Bridge during the cold spell. They were fed daily.

First casualties amongst the waders were noted on 22nd when several dead redshank were found. By 26th with almost the whole of Breydon sealed under a layer of ice, the following were found dead: 71 redshank, 29 dunlin, 14 knot, 2 curlew, 13 pintail, 7 sheld-duck, mute swan, 4 black-headed gulls, 2 common gulls, herring gull, greater black-backed gull and starling. Many of the surviving waders were pitifully weak and sheld-duck had become completely fearless. Very few live redshank remained by the end of the month.

A herd of 52 Bewick's swans arrived on 5th with 11 on 12th and 18 on 18th. Sawbills included 16 smew (7 drakes), 2 drake goosanders and 9 mergansers all on 12th. More smew appeared on open stretches of the lower Bure: largest party was 14, including 3 drakes, on 27th. 6 goosanders were seen here on 5th. 6-8 smew were at Berney between 13th and 15th. Common scoters were noted whilst 62 scaup on 12th increased to 116 by 29th. Up to 120 tufted duck, 53 pintail, 16 goldeneye, 13 pochard, 400 wigeon, 68 shoveler and 470 sheld-duck were noted. On 27th at dusk 230 pochard headed west high over Wickhampton marshes.

Other interesting records included 245 coot, 5 great crested grebes, 250 snow buntings, odd Lapland buntings, kingfishers till 12th, 2 bearded tits at Berney on 12th with 6 on 15th and 5 hooded crows. Starving dunlin were on the quayside by Yarmouth Town Hall on 23rd.

February: Arctic weather conditions brought more wildfowl. 11 brent geese joined 200 sheld-duck, up to 4 mergansers, 14 goosanders and 3 smew, 138 scaup, 234 tufted, 20 goldeneye, 58 pintail and 1,000 wigeon were recorded. 52 Bewick's swans came in on 17th and 11 Bewick's and 8 whoopers were present on 24th; up to 7 great crested grebes remained. 3 short-eared owls were watched on 24th, up to 13 Lapland buntings and 22 twites were seen.

No redwing remained and only one party of fieldfares was reported. On the lower Bure, on 10th, 12 goosanders and 9 smew including 2 drakes were found and 5 drake goldeneye were there on 17th with 20 (8 drake) goosanders. At Berney on 10th a large flight of 650 snow buntings passed over.

March: With the welcome thaw the white-fronted geese re-united and a gaggle of 450-500 was present till at least the 13th; 200 white-fronts headed seawards on 14th and the last 5 were recorded on 23rd. 19 pink-feet were present till the 8th at Halvergate.

Surprises included glaucous gull at the Bure entrance on 8th, 2 slavonian grebes on the lower Bure on 7th and grey wagtail on 15th.

Wild swans were again in evidence with 11 Bewick's and a whooper on 3rd, 6 Bewick's on 8th and up to 9 whoopers till the 14th. 70 scaup and 80 tufted still remained on 2nd and a drake smew was on the lower Bure on 2nd and 7th, with 10 goosanders and 15 goldeneye there on the latter date. 2 smew and 14 goosanders were on the lower Waveney on 4th. Other wildfowl included 8 common scoters on 3rd, 2 drake mergansers on 7th, 600 wigeon, 48 pintail, 180 teal and the first garganey on 14th. 11 hooded crows were watched on 18th with 2 jack snipe next day, Lapland bunting on 7th and snow bunting on 23rd.

April: Most notable was a buzzard on 3rd, spoonbill on 13th and 2 avocets on 8th. The first 4 whimbrel arrived on 18th with 9 on 27th when 24 bar-tailed godwits came in. Single spotted shank were noted on 13th and 20th, 5 greenshank on 21st, 70-80 golden plover and 21 sanderling on 17th. A water-rail was on Duffel's Rond on 8th, hooded crows stayed till the 8th, first swallows appeared on 13th, with yellow wagtail on 17th and white wagtail on 19th.

May: 20 species of waders passed through including a Kentish plover and 8 black terns on 26th. Bar-tailed godwits were present almost daily till the 18th with 50 on 11th and 53 on 7th. 3 black-tailed godwits stayed briefly on 4th and a little stint was noted on 15th. 42 whimbrel were present on 16th, up to 7 greenshank passed through between 5th and 31st, with single spotted shank on 7th and 18th. Well over 300 ringed plover were seen, with turnstones, 34 sanderlings, 11 grey plover on 26th/27th and wood sandpiper on 31st. Ruffs, rather unusual in May at Breydon, appeared on 6 dates with 3 on 31st.

A Greenland wheatear was seen on 15th, a pair of common scoters on 19th and a drake wigeon lingered till the 26th.

June: 2 spoonbills passed through on 2nd. Easterly winds resulted in a number of late wader records with ruffs and reeves till 15th, black-tailed godwit on 17th, greenshank till 17th, spotted redshank in ones and twos throughout the month, 15 grey plover on 3rd, whimbrel till 5th, 4 bar-tailed godwits on 11th, 2 wood sandpipers on 8th and 4 black terns on 1st.

The first whimbrel and green sandpiper had returned by 28th. Among breeding birds lapwing were well below average. Only a very small number of redshank nested. On the north wall marshes at least 3 pairs of shoveler nested. A gadwall's nest containing 9 eggs on May 18th is the first breeding record for the Breydon area; unfortunately, the eggs were taken. Mallard had a good season with broods 10 or 12 strong. 4 pairs of oystercatchers nested on Breydon marshes, with a fifth pair in barley at Runham.

The first brood of sheld-duck appeared May 26th and on June 8th 40 ducklings of varying ages were being escorted by a single pair of adults. A total of 100 young sheld-duck was counted later. No short-eared owl's nest was found. Barn owls bred successfully in a Tunstall mill. 2 pairs of kestrels nested in old mills near Breydon.

July: Most interesting was a Montagu's harrier heading west on 6th. A black tern passed through on 18th and a pair of wigeon was present till the 8th with the drake staying on till 13th. The bulk of the adult sheld-duck departed on 14th. A common scoter was new on 22nd. As early as the 6th, 32 whimbrel were present with a peak of over 50 between 12th and 18th. 6 black-tailed godwits arrived on 8th with red curlew-sandpiper on 24th, an early grey plover on 27th and 3 (later 5) greenshank from the 6th. Little terns assembled as usual peaking at 34 on 18th.

August: Interesting events included a fulmar heading east on 13th, 2 spoonbills which stayed from 5th to 11th, an avocet on 26th and another Montagu's harrier next day. A wood sandpiper arrived on 10th but the only green sandpipers were 2 on 31st. Largest wader numbers included 17 common sandpipers and 150 curlew on 31st, 35 oystercatchers on 24th, 38 whimbrel on 3rd, only 5 bar-tailed godwits, 100 golden plover on 31st, spotted shank in ones and twos, 6 greenshank, 5 ruffs, 8 curlew-sandpipers on 25th, 3 little stints on 29th and 4 black-tailed godwits on 6th.

A sacred ibis put in an appearance on 19th. This undoubted escape was reported earlier in Hunts, Leics and Northants. At the end of Aug. it returned to Northants before moving to Wisbech S.F. on 30th. Early wigeon returned on 10th, with a kittiwake on 13th and short-eared owl on 31st.

September: Highlights were roseate tern on 13th and Leach's petrel on 21st. Also notable were 2 marsh harriers on 7th/8th when an influx of kestrels was noted, black tern on 7th with 3 next day and 2 common scoters on 22nd. Whimbrel were recorded once only: 19 passing through on 15th. Up to 15 bar-tailed godwits (but no black-tails), 2-3 spotted shank and 5 greenshank were reported; a little stint was identified on 8th.

Curlew-sandpipers were present in some numbers and on the evening of the 13th their calls could be heard for minutes on end; next day a party of 18 was watched. Other waders included 8 ruffs and 22 grey plovers. Unusual numbers of gadwall were on the marshes early in the month. The first Lapland bunting was noted on 22nd. 36 pink-footed geese stayed a week from the 28th.

A spectacular movement of hirundines was observed on 5th for 45 minutes. They streamed south almost at ground level passing at the rate of at least 350 a minute. The majority were swallows, with some sand martins and a few house martins.

October: The first 4 sheld-duck returned from moult migration on 6th when twites, jack snipe and snow buntings all arrived. A

spotted shank was recorded on 12th, with 10 greenshank next day and 5 greenshank and a late whimbrel on 20th. 89 grey plover had assembled at high water on 22nd. Late curlew-sandpiper and greenshank were recorded on 26th. A further 12 pink-feet came in on 24th.

November: Wildfowl counts included 240 wigeon, 29 pintail, 18 shoveler, 20 gadwall and 12 scaup. A single brent arrived on 2nd with 14 pink-feet on 17th when 3 Bewick's swans were on the Bure near Stokesby. Single greenshank were seen on 5 dates including the 30th. A spotted shank was noted on 2nd and 45 grey plover and green sandpiper next day. 10 Bewick's swans were new on 23rd. Woodcock arrived at dawn on 24th. Redshank remained very scarce, but lapwing numbers were impressive. 3 short-eared owls were hunting over the Bure marshes on 3rd. 25,000 black-headed gulls were estimated roosting on the estuary on 9th. 2 Lapland buntings and 40 twites were seen on 3rd.

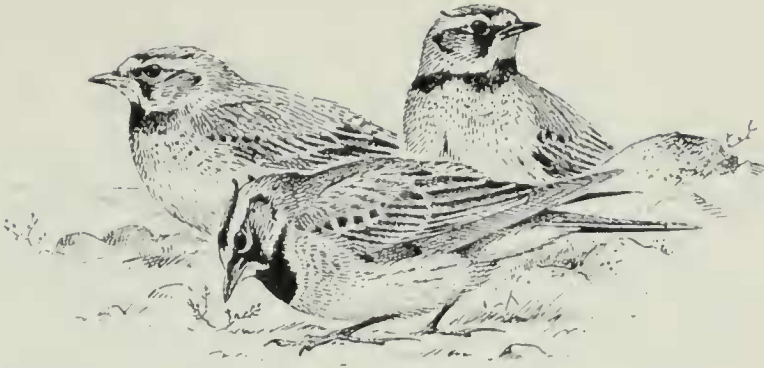
December: Surprises included an avocet from 7th to 15th, merlin on 8th and peregrine from 15th to 27th. Up to 4 short-eared owls could be seen together, a hen harrier appeared on 1st and a barn owl was on Lock-gate farmhouse on 8th.

The 21st was notable for a Bewick's swan movement: a total of 106 crossed Breydon all heading north-westerly, the largest herd totalled 55 birds. All were presumably heading for the Fenland Washes. 3 Bewick's were present next day with the remarkably high total of 152 mute swans. 543 sheld-duck had collected towards the end of the month with over 1,300 wigeon (the largest gathering for several years), 29 scaup, 4 goldeneye, 38 pintail and 130 mallard. Single smew and merganser appeared on 15th with 5 geese on 8th (when 2 drakes on Bure near Stokesby) and 6 more on 27th. Among the waders were 45 grey plover, 80 golden plover, greenshank on 5th and ruff on 27th. Hooded crows were seen only in ones and twos, 90 snow buntings arrived on 8th, Lapland buntings increased to 17 on 22nd and the first 12 white-fronted geese came on 7th. 252 white-fronts were at Halvergate by the 27th with 11 pink-feet. 5 brents were noted on 29th, when a red-throated diver first seen on 21st was found dead. Another red-throated diver was at Berney on 30th.

Cley and Salthouse

(Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

January: Many knot were passing west during the first cold week and a whooper, 4 Bewick's swans and 21 white-fronted geese were on the marsh. An Iceland gull arrived on 2nd with 3 smew, the latter increasing to 8 by 6th. An immature glaucous gull was seen on 8th with 27 Bewick's swans again next day, 3 mergansers and a



merlin. On 13th 9 woodcock were noted, with bramblings, a smew, 10 mergansers and a collared dove. Fieldfares suffered appalling casualties at this time. On 19th 32 Bewick's swans and 14 whoopers settled on the marsh.

Merlin and peregrine were noted on 21st with 8 shore-larks, these staying until the 28th. Casualties at this period included many oiled auks and gulls. A water pipit was recorded. A great grey shrike appeared on the heath on 23rd and by 27th many hungry wigeon had arrived, with 2 pink-footed geese.

February: 7 pink-feet were present by 3rd and 6 smew (3 adult drakes) arrived on 6th. An adult glaucous gull and hen harrier featured on 9th, with 2 hen harriers on 13th and a male on 28th. Shore-larks peaked at 33 on 21st, while the 24th heralded the first lapwings. The great grey shrike was still on the heath. At the end of the month 2 whoopers, a Bewick's swan and an Iceland gull were to be seen. The large colony of bearded tits present towards the end of 1962 was much reduced and only 6 pairs were present at the beginning of the breeding season.

March: Easterly movements included 7 red-throated divers on 1st, black-headed gulls on 2nd and skylarks till the 4th. 2 whooper swans stayed till the 7th and 6 departed north-westward on 31st. The great grey shrike remained throughout the month. 30 shore-larks were recorded on 2nd with 16 at the end of the month. Ducks increased with milder weather and included 1,000 wigeon, 600 teal, 500 mallard and smaller numbers of gadwall, shoveler and pintail. 37 Bewick's swans were present on 8th; brent geese were departing east next day when a sparrow-hawk was on the heath. A further 33 Bewick's headed east on 13th with a further 49 on 23rd.

The first wheatear arrived on 13th. Chiffchaffs were singing on 17th and the first garganey arrived on 19th. Westward travellers on 24th included 3 hooded crows. The first Sandwich tern arrived on 26th with 5 on 31st.

April: A short-eared owl on 1st was joined by 2 more on 16th. A drake scaup appeared on 3rd and the great grey shrike remained on

the heath till 14th. A spotted redshank stayed 5th-26th when 2 others were noted. 9 crossbills and 20 siskins were at Walsey Hills on 7th. An immature glaucous gull was new on 9th with another on 13th/16th. Migrants on 10th included 6 ruffs, yellow wagtails, swallows, buzzard and kite. House and sand martins were both new on 11th, with 2 ring ouzels, a corn-crake and 6 whoopers next day.

A male Kentish plover stayed 13th-18th. Also on 13th were male redstart, male marsh harrier, common and little terns. The first nightingale was singing on 14th when 100 Sandwich terns present. A male black-tailed godwit was in display-flight on 15th when 3 black-necked grebes were observed, 2 staying till 18th. First willow and sedge warblers arrived on 16th and male blue-headed wagtails were seen on this date and on 20th. A sparrowhawk was watched on 16th and next day common terns numbered 50 and a rough-legged buzzard was seen. The first swifts and 2 green sandpipers, also an Arctic skua, were new on 18th. Spotted redshank, 2 black-tailed godwits and 5 garganey were present on 19th. A little ringed plover stayed 19th-21st with a goosander next day. First lesser whitethroat on 21st was followed next day by the first whitethroat. A pair of hen harriers appeared on 23rd with a black tern; 2 more black terns came on 24th. 3 ring ouzels were recorded on 24th with a whimbrel while 25th brought 2 spotted redshanks and the first Greenland wheatears by which time 200 Sandwich terns had assembled. The first turtle doves and reed warblers arrived on 27th. 34 bar-tailed godwits appeared on 28th, 3 wood sandpipers on 29th and 10 fieldfares on 30th.

May: Displaying ruffs and reeves were a feature of the month with peak numbers between 7th and 10th. 7 ruffs and 4 reeves put on an exciting show during the second week displaying in full plumage a short distance from the coast road almost every day of their stay. Some remained throughout June. Garganey had increased to 9 by 4th with 3 black-tailed godwits; 20 whinchats arrived on 5th with a west-bound marsh harrier and another little ringed plover. Greenland wheatears were conspicuous 6th-7th with a heavy westerly passage of hirundines. Waders included 2 wood sandpipers, 2 greenshank, 8 whimbrel, a little gull and 2 marsh harriers were new on 8th, the harriers remaining till 21st. On 9th an immature peregrine was preying on waders and next day 2 spotted redshank and 2-3 greenshank were observed. A buzzard was reported on 11th.

Garden warbler and black redstart came on 12th. Next day a variety of birds included 50 Arctic ringed plovers, grey wagtail, spotted flycatcher and 20 turtle doves heading west. A first summer Mediterranean gull stayed 15th-16th and the first nightjar was heard on 17th. Interesting on 19th were avocet and little gull while a sparrowhawk was seen next day. Between 22nd-24th Greenland wheatears were still present while Scandinavian wheat-

ears were evidence of drift migration. A pied flycatcher was seen on 25th; 10 wood sandpipers on 26th and 18 next day. 10 green-shank passed east on 29th with 2 black terns on 31st.

June: 10 black terns appeared on 1st, a little gull on 2nd and an avocet on 3rd. Waders on 15th included 2 spotted redshanks and a wood sandpiper. On 21st stock and turtle doves were heading west. On 24th a spotted redshank was seen in summer plumage and an osprey arrived next day. Wildfowl nesting on the marsh included shelduck, mallard, shoveler, teal, gadwall and garganey. Nesting yellow wagtails, little terns, ringed plovers and redshank were all below normal. 7 pairs of common terns nested.

July: 5 ruffs (including a black one) and 2 wood sandpipers were noted on 2nd; the osprey reappeared on 3rd when a brood of 7 young wigeon was seen. A hobby was noted on 6th-7th, a summer plumaged grey phalarope in Blakeney harbour on 13th and a black redstart on 17th. A crossbill was westbound on 20th with an immature Mediterranean gull and an Alpine swift next day. The first juvenile lapwing headed west on 30th when another little gull appeared. 7 garganey and 20 turnstones were noted on 31st.

August: On 2nd Arctic skuas and a black tern were present; the latter were recorded singly on several dates. Next day 50 bar-tailed godwits, 4 ruffs and the first pied flycatchers appeared; crossbills featured on this and subsequent dates during the month with 30 on 29th. Northern waders on 4th/5th included little stint, spotted redshank, wood and green sandpipers and 2 adult curlew-sandpipers; 3 juvenile little gulls came with wheatears on 7th. 5 kestrels arrived on 9th with 7 on 16th. 20 wood sandpipers and 15 green sandpipers were on view on 12th and 3 spotted redshanks with 2 little stints on 16th. Kittiwakes headed east on 18th; also a great skua. An influx at the Point on 19th included wryneck, wood warbler, willow warblers, redstart, pied and spotted flycatchers. By 22nd there were 2 wrynecks and a dotterel moved east on 24th. Next day 10 spotted redshank headed west. 2 ortolans were at The Hood on 28th with pied flycatchers and garden warblers; also 3 little gulls.

One wryneck remained on 29th when 20 fieldfares were noted at Weybourne and on 30th, 50 pied flycatchers were on the Point with another ortolan. At Cley there was another little gull. 2 *Hippolais* warblers on the Point on 22nd and 31st were almost certainly icterine arriving as they did with other Scandinavian migrants.

September: On 1st came the heaviest fall of Scandinavian warblers, chats and flycatchers since 1958 with 100 garden warblers, over 50 pied flycatchers and 2 wrynecks one staying till 6th. New arrivals on 2nd included 2 black redstarts, 2 barred warblers, 4 little gulls,

black guillemot and 30 swifts. A red-necked grebe stayed 3rd–8th; also on 3rd 130 bar-tailed godwits headed west with 160 on 7th. A barred warbler was at Cley 5th–8th and 2 more little gulls on 6th.

The first pomarine skua came on 7th with 25 curlew-sandpipers next day and a peregrine on 9th. On 10th bluethroat, wryneck and ortolan bunting were new, with barred warbler, hoopoe and red-breasted flycatcher next day—all at Blakeney Point. Teal increased to 400 by 10th. Skuas and gannets were conspicuous on 15th when a corncrake was on the Heath and the first Lapland bunting, jack snipe and little ringed plover came in with an influx of blue tits. The first twite was noted next day with a collared dove on 17th and the first 3 snow buntings and another corncrake on 18th. A Leach's petrel was at sea. Highlights next day were 2–3 Manx shearwaters and Leach's petrel with another red-breasted flycatcher on the Point. The first brambling was noted on 20th. Walsey Hills had 2 red-breasted flycatchers on 21st when a long-tailed skua, another Leach's petrel and a hen harrier appeared. Next day an avocet was in Blakeney harbour. A party of 24 bearded tits was round the Big Pool on 22nd.

The first rock pipit arrived on 23rd with 4–5 mergansers and a hobby at Salthouse (a juvenile hobby was dead at High Kelling 2 days later). A late little tern was noted on 24th with many hirundines. Next day a marsh harrier quartered the marsh.

On 25th the first bittern was seen since the severe winter when 2 were found dead. Another bittern with an injured wing during Jan. and Feb. was cared for and later released on the marsh but none was present during the breeding season. The Sept. bird remained till end of the year.

Sea-watching was good on 27th with Leach's petrel, 11 great skuas, 2 sooty and 2 Manx shearwaters, with a pomarine skua, 2 purple sandpipers and 19 pink-feet on 28th. Next day 2 great and a long-tailed skua were seen with another pomarine on 30th.

October: 39 pink-feet moved west on 1st and many lapwings and starlings likewise from 8th onwards with skylarks. A great grey shrike and grey phalarope were new on 8th and a spotted redshank next day. Common terns were westbound 11th–14th. Chaffinches from 11th onwards. By 12th 30 snow buntings were in and the next 3 days saw large movements including 15 great skuas, 8 Arctic skuas, 2 Manx shearwaters, many auks and 2–3 Sandwich terns on 13th; all 4 skuas on 14th including 15 pomarines and 15 great; also grey phalarope, 6 Bewick's swans and a purple sandpiper. There were large movements of thrushes on 15th when 2 barnacle geese appeared and the first woodcock.

Six Continental coal tits arrived on 16th. Wood sandpiper and short-eared owl were new on 19th with a black redstart on the Point. An Arctic warbler appeared on 20th with a willow warbler



Copyright

H. A. Hems

Over 1,900 pairs of Common Terns nested in Norfolk in 1963. The largest colony was at Blakeney Point (1,150 nests), with 550 pairs at Scott Head and almost 200 on Scroby Sands. Small numbers bred at three Broads and odd pairs on certain more isolated beaches. As many as 4,400 pairs were estimated in Norfolk in 1938, 3,860 pairs in 1940 and 3,750 pairs in 1952. The terneries at Wells and Wolferton mentioned in *Birds of Norfolk* (1930) have long been deserted.



Copyright

Only a very few breeding Sparrow-Hawks were reported in 1963. This successful nest was situated in a Broadland carr. Despite full official protection since December 1962 a Sparrow-Hawk was found shot at Foulden; another was on the tide-line at Holkham September 21st.

R. Jones

and 2 little gulls and on 22nd a ruff was seen. A long-tailed duck on 23rd stayed till 27th. Bramblings and fieldfares joined west-bound birds on 24th with sparrowhawk and 3 shore-larks and next day a black redstart was still on the Point. New on 26th was a red-breasted flycatcher, 7 common terns, a red-necked grebe, long-eared owl and 2 Arctic skuas, while next day included 2 little gulls and Lapland bunting. Shore-larks increased to 11 by 28th. Falls of birds on the Point included 500 redpolls on 29th and blackbirds next day while on 31st there was a long-eared owl and a woodlark.

November: Exceptionally late records included sand martin and 3 house martins on 30th, and a swallow on 2nd when a barred warbler, Sandwich tern and wheatear were also seen, late common/Arctic terns on 4th (with a straggler on 29th) and the last white-throat and 2 blackcaps on 24th. 22 little gulls passed through on 1st with 4 more on 3rd. A long-tailed duck stayed till 3rd when 2 red-necked grebes were noted. 30 very pale redpolls were noted on 3rd, also 3 Lapland buntings, 150 snow buntings, 2 ring ouzels and a hen harrier which stayed the remainder of the month. Another ring ouzel came on 13th.

Blackbirds were arriving on 15th-18th and on 28th, with a greenshank on 17th, a grey phalarope 21st-25th and a drake merganser till 23rd. Snow buntings peaked 300 by the end of the month when a water pipit was on Snipe's Marsh. By 30th 220 brent geese were at Morston, a little gull was at Cley and shore-larks increased to 26.

December: A very late Sandwich tern on 1st was followed next day by the last sand martin; on 17th-21st an avocet was watched. Little auk was off-shore on 19th; next day 69 shore-larks were counted at Salthouse when 14 feeding 3 miles inland. A hen harrier seen on this date stayed the rest of the month and also a rough-legged buzzard. On 21st-26th Bewick's swans were passing through with 92 heading west on last date. 8 scaup on 22nd were followed on 23rd by 3 white-fronted geese and on 24th by 3 smew when over 1,000 wigeon on Cley marsh. On 31st, shore-larks peaked at 85.



Blakeney Point

(The National Trust)

During the great freeze wading birds in particular suffered terrible losses. Redshank were hardest hit; only 4 pairs breeding compared with 60 nests in 1962. Oystercatcher numbers were maintained, but dozens of ringed plovers were found dead in *suaeda* bushes.

By the first week of Feb. Blakeney harbour had assumed an Arctic appearance and ice made it impossible to cross to the Point except on foot at low water. Lapwings returned in large numbers at the beginning of March after an absence of many weeks. By the end of March brent geese had declined to 800; a dead brent was found carrying a Danish ring.

A summary of nests appears below. 500 common terns reached the free flying stage and 350 were ringed. In addition, reed bunting and hedge sparrow (single pairs), skylarks, meadow pipits and linnets bred. A cuckoo was reared in a skylark's nest. No Sandwich terns nested at the Point:

Sheld-Duck	..	..	30	Redshank	..	..	..	4
Red-legged Partridge	..	..	2	Common Tern	..	..	..	1150
Partridge	..	..	..	1	Little Tern	..	..	83
Oystercatcher	..	..	70	Black-headed Gull	..	..	..	27
Ringed Plover	..	..	54	Swallow	..	..	..	2



Scolt Head Island

(The Nature Conservancy)

The Breeding Season

Details of breeding birds appear below, and of the 21 species only gadwall was unsuccessful. A roseate tern stayed in the ternery the whole summer. Several species showed a decrease, particularly redshank and ringed plover.

Predation was serious in the terneries and a stoat (destroyed May 31st) accounted in ten days for 53 brooding common terns and 8 Sandwich terns and 100 common terns' nests were destroyed or deserted. Five rats were killed in the area; also 2 carrion crows. Two pairs of oystercatchers destroyed at least 20 clutches of common terns' eggs. Unlike 1962, black-headed gulls were little trouble. A short eared owl caused damage among day-old common tern chicks in early July.

Little terns showed a welcome come-back and although the weather was wet and cold, mortality of all the terns was unexpectedly low. Many common terns were able to re-lay and rear chicks after the predation was under control and human disturbance was kept to a minimum throughout the season.

It is estimated 300 young common and over 600 young Sandwich terns reached the free-flying stage. Other nesting birds included numerous skylarks and meadow pipits, together with linnets, reed buntings and hedge-sparrows. A cuckoo's egg was found in a meadow pipit's nest.

	<i>Number of nests</i>		<i>Number of nests</i>
Mallard	25	Ringed Plover	100
Gadwall	1	Redshank	20
Canada Goose	5	Black-headed Gull ..	100
Red-legged Partridge ..	7	Common Tern	550
Partridge	5	Arctic Tern	2
Oystercatcher	110	Little Tern	50
Lapwing	1	Sandwich Tern	850

Between 150 and 200 pairs of sheld-duck summered on the Island, but only 35-40 young were reared successfully.

The Year

January: Towards the end of the month the whole of the saltings were frozen, but no heavy mortality was recorded as in 1947. Duck numbers increased steadily with worsening weather and small birds on 14th included 41 bramblings, a few twites, 150 linnets and redwings and song thrushes. Snow buntings did not exceed 60; birds of prey included a merlin on 1st, a hen harrier all month and 2-3 short-eared owls likewise. Wildfowl included velvet scoters from 25th-29th, a smew on 4th with 2 on 25th, and goosander at sea on 29th. 6 redshank were found dead on 29th.

February: Brent goose numbers stayed constant at 500. The hen harrier and 2 short-eared owls remained all month, but a maximum of only 4 snow buntings was seen, 1-3 velvet scoters were recorded from 6th to 15th.

March: Movements of many birds began with a marked weather improvement after 5th, including a westerly passage of lapwings until 18th, and golden plovers in small numbers. Ringed plovers began returning on 5th with redshank next day while blackbirds increased daily from 14th. A black redstart was of interest on 22nd with the first chiffchaff next day. 300 brent geese still remained at the end of the month.

April: The last 4 brents departed on 10th, the first wheatears having arrived the previous day. Curlew decreased steadily but whimbrel were noticeable after the 22nd. All 3 hirundines were new on 17th and next day a marsh harrier was seen. Little, common and Sandwich terns were all present by the 16th.

May: 80 sanderling were on the Far Point on 15th and grey plover peaked at 60 on this date. Hirundines and swifts headed westward in numbers; gannets and fulmars were at sea on several occasions and other birds included a merlin on 10th, a roseate tern from 19th and a black-necked grebe next day, while the 22nd brought in black tern and male red-headed bunting. An Arctic tern appeared 2 days later. Late winter ducks included 2 scaup on 18th and a golden-eye on 23rd.

June: An interesting black tern passage took place with 12 on 1st and 4th, 4 on 5th, 12 on 6th, 6 on 7th and singles on 9th, 11th, 29th and 30th, mostly moving east. Curlew travelled west all month. 2 spoonbills stayed briefly on 25th. Lapwing were moving west after the 14th with 700 on 24th.

July: Lapwings travelled westward in large numbers all month and other waders building up numbers included curlew, redshank, oystercatchers and knot, while 200 moulting ringed plovers had gathered on 26th. The first Arctic skua appeared on 9th; bar-tailed godwits and whimbrel were moving west from then onwards. All the local sheld-duck had left by 27th and 29 east-bound on 30th was evidence of moult migration. Terns peaked at 4,000 common and 5,000 Sandwich on 20th; also notable were black tern on 3rd and hobby on 6th. 300 kittiwakes had assembled on the Far Point by 20th increasing to 500 by 31st.

August: 500 kittiwakes on 1st declined to 200 by 8th and to 150 by 13th. Westerly lapwing movement decreased, grey and golden plovers began to pass through with increasing numbers of knot and dunlin. 8 kestrels were noted on 16th and a Temminck's stint passed through on 22nd. A fall of passerines on 30th/31st included 11 wheatears, 8 whinchats and 15 pied flycatchers.

September: 1st-3rd saw more passerines with 40 wheatears, 30 pied flycatchers, 20 whinchats, 8 redstarts, 5 tree pipits, 20 whitethroats, 18 lesser whitethroats and a wryneck. An early fieldfare also arrived on 1st and the first Lapland bunting came on 3rd. A red-breasted flycatcher arrived on 18th and remained until 20th. 12 greenshank passed through on 1st and oystercatchers peaked at 1,500 on 7th, Manx shearwaters were recorded singly on 14th with 3 on 20th.

October: The first brents arrived on 24th. Lapwing again featured in westerly passage and from 15th Continental "thrushes" were arriving in force, especially blackbirds; the most noticeable arrival was on 30th when 80 fieldfares, 150 song thrushes, 200 redwings and 80 blackbirds were recorded. An interesting movement of over 100 tree sparrows took place on 15th/16th, a hen harrier was present from 15th, a puffin on 10th and the first brambling, snow bunting and shore-larks on 7th, 24th and 27th respectively.

November: Song thrushes and redwings were still present till 5th and up to 6 short-eared owls were seen regularly. Mild weather favoured large numbers of waders with 20,000 knot—the largest number recorded at Scolt for many years. 20 snow buntings had come in by the 30th; 2 woodcock and 4 purple sandpipers were new on 28th. Also of interest was a long-tailed duck 19th-25th and a great skua on 19th-20th.

December: Generally uninteresting, but numbers of knot remained high at 18,000. The 16th was good with a spotted redshank, 8 short-eared owls and 14 Lapland buntings. 137 species were recorded during the year and well over 1,500 people visited the Island.

SCOLT HEAD ISLAND SELECTED DUCK TABLE

(Monthly Maxima)

	Mallard	Teal	Wigeon	Scaup	Golden-eye	Scoter	Eider	Sheld-duck
Jan.	300	600	1,500	100	100	15	60	600
Feb.	250	4	1,000	80	106	12	12	500
March	40	12	80	9	30	3	7	400
April	14	6	3	—	9	400	22	260
May	B	9	1	7	1	400	60	B
June	B	—	—	—	—	400	45	B
July	B	—	—	—	—	250	76	B
Aug.	41	30	—	—	—	—	40	70
Sept.	60	150	3	—	—	200	2	43
Oct.	70	30	100	—	—	130	70	40
Nov.	120	200	550	—	20	16	17	130
Dec.	200	150	500	—	48	500	180	150

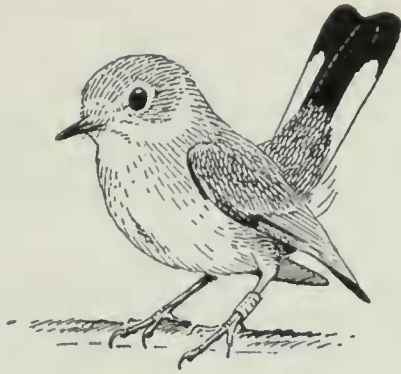
NOTE: B indicates a breeding population

SCOLT HEAD ISLAND SELECTED WADER TABLE

(Monthly Maxima)

	Oyster-catcher	Grey Plover	Turnstone	Curlew	Whimbrel	Bar-tailed Godwit	Spotted Redshank	Knot	Dunlin	Sanderling
Jan. ..	400	30	—	300	—	30	1	2,000	400	6
Feb. ..	350	15	—	150	—	80	—	500	400	30
March ..	250	14	150	400	—	90	—	200	500	20
April ..	150	17	120	80	12	38	1	15	150	6
May ..	B	60	100	30	30	28	—	500	180	80
June ..	B	6	380	180	1	4	1	60	23	15
July ..	B	5	180	520	16	14	—	26	200	30
Aug. ..	400	20	200	500	60	40	1	150	1,300	36
Sept. ..	1,500	30	150	800	20	100	—	400	500	50
Oct. ..	500	40	170	600	2	80	—	600	500	20
Nov. ..	2,000	40	200	500	—	120	—	20,000	800	20
Dec. ..	520	16	—	500	—	20	1	18,000	800	16

NOTE: B indicates a breeding population



Cley Bird Observatory

R. A. Richardson retired from his post as honorary warden of Cley Bird Observatory at the end of 1963, after fourteen years of continuous service. Most unfortunately, this means the dissolution of the observatory, a short history of which appears below.

The empty military observation tower and derelict gun emplacements immediately behind Cley beach seemed ideal for a headquarters and a site for the first Heligoland ringing trap. The Norfolk Naturalists Trust agreed to sponsor a bird observatory there and on 1st October 1949 began the fourteen-year programme of ringing and migration recording, the first brief annual report appearing in the N.N.T's *Wild Bird Protection in Norfolk* for that year.

At the end of September 1950 the Observatory was "at home" to the Bird Observatory Committee of the B.T.O. which granted Cley official recognition as the ninth British Bird Observatory. A second full-sized Heligoland trap was built in the blackthorn thicket by Walsey Hills on the Salthouse boundary in 1951 and a small "satellite" trap was constructed at the beach site.

The great gale and disastrous sea flood of 31st January/1st February 1953 demolished the gun emplacements and the three traps and undermined the lookout tower. Walsey Hills trap was choked with marsh debris and battered by floating baulks of timber. Fortunately, none of the rings, library or record books was lost.

With the loss of the original site on the beach, Walsey Hills thicket became the centre of activity and the trap which in its weakened condition finally collapsed under the weight of snow was completely reconstructed in an adjacent position. The old watch-tower, though condemned, continued to be used for sea-watching during 1954. The National Trust then granted permission for a hut and two small traps to be erected at The Hood with exclusive rights over the non-breeding species. Ringing totals were augmented by

successful torchlight netting expeditions to the huge roost of finches and thrushes on Salthouse Heath.

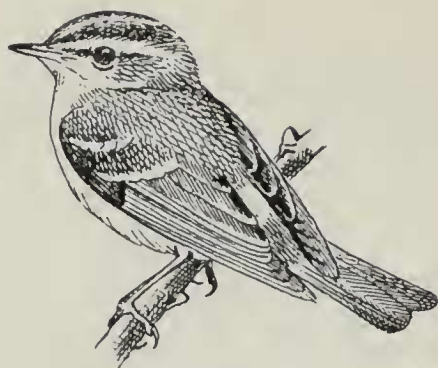
The old look-out was eventually blown-up in 1955; next year a ringing hut was presented for use at Walsey Hills when a second Heligoland trap was built. Mist nets were used for the first time. In 1957 The Hood hut was demolished in a severe gale and the traps there were subsequently dismantled.

The Observatory became independent in 1959 and the first Annual Report was published. 1963 began with the repair and renovation of Walsey Hills trap. Ringing, though again well below average, showed a slight increase with 318 birds of 44 species marked (247 trapped and 71 nestlings). The Ringing Progress table appears on page 137.

Cley Observatory has played an important part in reviving interest in Norfolk ornithology: in the two previous decades the fortunes of the everyday, hum-drum, species apparently interested but few. Never before in the county has so much data been collected with such regularity over a similar period of time. This has always been made available to the *Norfolk Bird Report* and, together with other published information, enabled the Observatory to produce the *Check-List of the Birds of Cley*. 17,554 birds of 154 species have been ringed and over 220 recoveries recorded. The Observatory has also added the following to the Norfolk avifauna: semi-palmated sandpiper, melodious warbler (both records), sub-alpine warbler (all three records), Radde's warbler and ashy-headed wagtail.

The assistance and encouragement Mr. Richardson has given to so many—particularly younger bird-watchers—will be gratefully remembered. All the Observatory record books are deposited with him for safe keeping.

Species	1963	Total since 1949	Total Recoveries	Species	1963	Total since 1949	Total Recoveries
Red-throated Diver	1	1	Collared Dove ..	..	4	1
Little Grebe	3	18	Cuckoo ..	..	18	7
Manx Shearwater	1	26	Barn-Owl ..	..	26	186
Fulmar ..	2	62	8	Little Owl ..	..	8	9
Heron	43	7	Tawny Owl ..	..	28	3
Bittern	4	1	Long-eared Owl ..	..	6	6
Mallard ..	1	22	6	Short-eared Owl ..	..	10	2
Teal	2	7	Nightjar ..	..	10	3
Wigeon	3	1	Swift ..	..	29	2
Scaup	8	2	Kingfisher ..	..	2	68
Eider	1	..	Green Woodpecker ..	..	2	11
Sheld-Duck	14	3	Great Spotted Woodpecker ..	..	3	1
Brent Goose	1	..	Wryneck ..	..	5	196
Canada Goose	11	..	Wood-Lark ..	..	16	3
Mute Swan	9	2	Sky-Lark ..	..	196	85
Sparrowhawk	1	..	Shorelark ..	..	1	16
Montagu's Harrier	2	2	Swallow ..	..	583	5
Kestrel	21	88	House-Martin ..	..	134	676
Red-legged Partridge	3	1	Sand-Martin ..	..	4	379
Partridge	1	6	Carriion-Crow ..	..	23	25
Water-Rail	1	1	Rook ..	..	60	8
Spotted Crane	1	1	Jackdaw ..	..	12	74
Corncrake	16	..	Magpie ..	..	17	4
Moorhen	34	1	Jay ..	..	262	139
Oyster-catcher	35	1	Blue Tit ..	..	600	2
Lapwing ..	18	37	5	Coal-Tit ..	..	43	4
Ringed Plover	2	..	Marsh-Tit ..	..	18	2
Little Ringed Plover	2	..	Willow-Tit ..	..	26	1
Turnstone	29	2	Long-tailed Tit ..	..	107	1
Sparrow	2	..	Bearded Tit ..	..	6	..
Jack-Snipe	3	1	Nuthatch ..	..	27	..
Woodcock	6	..	Tree-creeper ..	..	176	2
Wood-Sandpiper	6	..	Wren ..	..	1	..
Common Sandpiper	49	1	Black-bellied Dipper ..	..	49	..
Redshank	3	..	Mistle-Thrush ..	..	12	..
Knot	4	..	Fieldfare ..	..	849	10
Purple Sandpiper	10	..	Song-Thrush ..	..	47	1
Little Stint	20	1	Redwing ..	..	7	..
Dunlin	10	1	Ring Ouzel ..	..	1,321	23
Grey Phalarope	2	..	Blackbird ..	..	147	1
Stone-Curlew ..	2	12	..	Whatear ..	..	54	2
Common Gull	1	..	Stonchat ..	..	184	..
Black-headed Gull	265	8	Whinchat ..	..	30	..
Common Tern ..	5	121	1	Redstart ..	..	152	7
Little Tern	28	..	Black Redstart ..	..	11	..
Sandwich Tern	791	8	Nightingale ..	..	820	3
Razorbill	4	..	Bluethroat ..	..	15	..
Little Auk	2	..	Robin ..	..	196	..
Gullinot	5	..	Grasshopper-Warbler ..	..	178	1
Stock-Dove	34	2	Sedge-Warbler ..	..	5	..
Wood-Pigeon	137	3	Aquatic Warbler ..	..	4	..
Turtle-Dove ..	52	16	6	..	..	1	..
GRAND TOTALS ..	318	17,554	222	..	..	..	..



Holme Bird Observatory

A total of 703 birds of 55 species was ringed at Holme Observatory in 1963, including 2 water-rails, turnstone, 13 knot, black redstart, icterine warbler, 2 barred warblers, single wood, yellow-browed and Pallas's warblers, firecrest, waxwing, 3 crossbills and 52 bramblings.

The following monthly summaries are taken from the Observatory Annual Report, obtainable from The Director, Holme Bird Observatory, The Firs, Holme-next-Sea, near King's Lynn.

January: Intense frost and bitter winds gave wild life no respite and towards the end of the month even the sea froze, packing the shore with ice floes up to five feet in depth. On 1st there was a continuous easterly movement of great black-backed, herring, common and black-headed gulls. An adult whooper arrived on 3rd and stayed all month. A spectacular westerly movement of skylarks took place on 5th with up to 50 passing per minute. At sea on 9th were 50 scaup, 100 eiders, velvet scoter and great northern diver. Four black-tailed godwits were in a flock of 500 bar-tails on 13th and 16 Bewick's swans headed east. 2 goosanders were new next day. 60 eiders on 15th had increased to 350 on 17th when 6 short-eared owls were noted. Six Bewick's swans passed west on 18th, 2 hen harriers on 20th and 67 pink-feet on the marsh on 21st. An exhausted drake velvet scoter found on 26th soon died.

February: A great grey shrike was seen on 3 occasions. 9 short-eared owls were present on 17th, with a stonechat, 100 bar-tailed godwits and 300 brents on 23rd and 5 drake long-tailed ducks next day. On 28th there were 500 scaup at sea near Old Hunstanton; also golden-eye, mergansers and velvet scoters.

March: The first lapwings to be seen for many weeks were moving west on 4th when 2 Bewick's swans and a stonechat appeared. The Broad Water still half frozen on 5th cleared overnight. 2 bearded tits in the reeds on 10th; also a hen harrier. A great grey shrike was noted on many occasions. A crossbill singing on 13th left to the

south and 4 stonechats were noted on 15th. The first chiffchaff arrived on 30th when a merlin was mobbed by a short-eared owl. Whooper and ring ouzel were recorded on 31st.

April: 2 wheatears came on 2nd, black redstart on 9th; also tree pipit and house martin next day. Yellow wagtail came on 11th. The great grey shrike and whooper both stayed till 12th when 2 garganey and 5 swallows were seen. The first cuckoo was heard on 13th and at sea next day were 8 great crested grebes, a red-necked grebe, 6 pintail, 6 scaup, 12 golden-eye, 6 eiders, 2 little terns and a Sandwich tern. Other migrants included 3 whimbrel, sand martin and white wagtail. 3 ring ouzels were present on 17th, with green sandpiper on 18th, redstarts on 19th, whitethroat and common tern on 22nd and nightingale and whinchat both on 23rd. The 26th brought an adult little gull and another ring ouzel, with 3 spotted redshank next day, greenshank on 28th and 2 red-backed shrikes on 29th.

May: The first swift arrived on 3rd with a Montagu's harrier on 6th, 3 white wagtails on 7th, and reed warbler, spotted redshank and 3 greenshank on 8th. A hoopoe was new on 9th as was a marsh harrier. Waders at this time included green sandpiper on 14th, little stint on 16th and Kentish plover on 19th. A cock Montagu's harrier headed east on 21st with 2 spotted flycatchers next day. A pied flycatcher and 4 Northern golden plover were noted on 24th with 400 sanderling next day when 8 turtle doves headed west and 2 greenshank and 2 spotted redshank were recorded. A black tern and another marsh harrier appeared on 26th and 31st saw a black tern, 8 common sandpipers, 4 greenshank, spotted redshank and reeve.

June: An avocet arrived on 1st with 4 black terns over the Broad and 11 more heading east, 9 greenshank, 12 common sandpipers, reeve, wood sandpiper, pied flycatcher and 3 velvet scoters. A wood warbler was ringed next day when 3 wood sandpipers arrived. The avocet left on 3rd when 5 black terns and 11 greenshanks were present. The day's highlight was an icterine warbler which was caught and ringed. Both icterine and wood warblers were present on 4th when 6 black terns headed east. Next day 12 greenshank passed through and a very late redwing was in the firs with a ring ouzel. Another highlight at this time was a firecrest which was first seen on 8th staying till the 12th. A little stint was new on 9th with a spotted redshank next day. 200 scoters were off-shore on 16th when another spotted redshank appeared and a roseate tern headed west on 22nd. On 30th 3 spotted redshank and 2 crossbills were recorded.

July: Waders included 2 greenshank at the beginning of the month with a wood sandpiper on 4th, little ringed plover on 12th and 8 curlew-sandpipers on 29th.

August: There were 2 crossbills on 2nd and the first pied flycatcher on 3rd/4th. Arctic and great skuas were at sea on 17th. Next day, with a northerly gale, hundreds of terns ("comic" and Sandwich) were moving east over the sea and marsh, with 26 Arctic skuas, single long-tailed and pomarine skuas and 60 kittiwakes. A red-backed shrike arrived on 19th while on 22nd towards dusk hundreds of swifts and swallows were moving eastwards. A black redstart appeared at the house on 23rd with another red-backed shrike on 27th. 16 crossbills arrived from the north on 29th and 3 black terns moved east on 30th.

September: The first 2 days brought a big fall of migrants. Most numerous were garden warblers, pied flycatchers and redstarts and scores of each passed through the bushes. Also present were single Northern willow warbler, wryneck and barred warbler; together with spotted flycatchers, tree pipits and a collared dove. Next day 2 wrynecks and a crossbill were new. A wryneck remained 3rd-5th when a red-backed shrike was present. A Montagu's harrier and 10 whinchats were recorded on 10th with a barred warbler on 12th.

Increasing numbers of migrants on 19th included 8 redstarts, 30 wheatears, the first goldcrests, pied and spotted flycatchers and a snow bunting. A great grey shrike on 20th stayed 2 days. A Manx shearwater was at sea on 20th, Lapland bunting on 22nd, an adult Iceland gull on 24th and 2 late little terns next day.

Waders included up to 4,000 oystercatchers, 120 grey plover, parties of 9 (16th) and 20 (18th) black-tailed godwits, 150 bar-tails (18th), single spotted redshank and little stint, up to 5 greenshank, 8,000 knot, parties of 12 (6th) and 19 (9th) curlew-sandpipers and 8 ruffs.

October: 40 brent geese arrived on 1st, with rock pipits on 3rd and bramblings on 7th. Starlings and chaffinches were heading west all day on 12th, together with greenfinches, goldfinches, meadow pipits, skylarks, linnets and swallows; other visitors included the first shore-lark, a marsh harrier, a late yellow wagtail and 100 twites. At sea were 12 ciders, black-throated and red-throated divers and great crested grebe.

Sea-watching was profitable on 13th, too, with 20 great skuas, 15 Arctic skuas, pomarine skua, 50 gannets, 290 kittiwakes, 4 great crested grebes, Manx shearwater, and 3 red-breasted mergansers; a late whinchat was also reported. A vast influx was noted on 15th with starlings heading west at 2-3,000 birds per hour, flocks of up to 100 redwings, numerous blackbirds and fieldfares, flocks of 50-100 bramblings and chaffinches and also single blackcap, goldcrest and house martin. The movement continued next day. A hen harrier arrived on 17th and a great grey shrike next day; both remaining till the end of the year. 7,000 starlings moved west on 20th, with 90 bramblings; 5-600 blackbirds arrived also 3 bearded

tits. Most exciting was a yellow-browed warbler which was ringed and stayed till 22nd.

Bearded tits increased to 9 by 21st. Skylarks were travelling west all day on 26th, also a flock of over 1,000 redwings; a common tern was noted, also merlin, and 6 bearded tits.

A Pallas's warbler was caught and ringed on 27th and stayed till 30th frequenting the same willow as the yellow-browed warbler a week ago. 3 shore-larks were present on 28th. Many blackbirds arrived on 31st when woodlark, blackcap, black redstart, long-eared and short-eared owls were also noted.

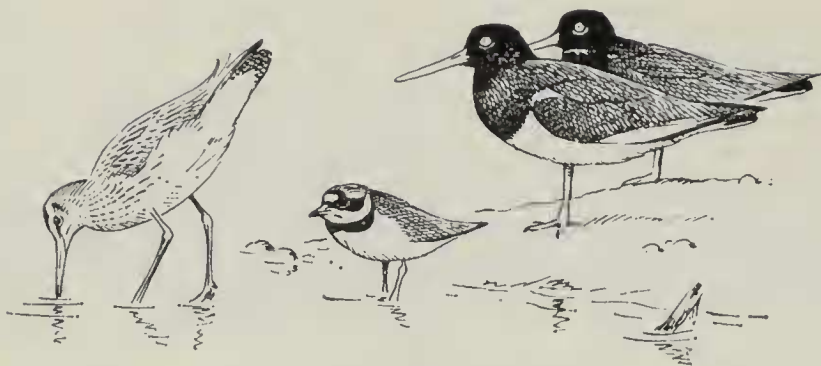
November: Late blackcap and swallow were recorded on 2nd, with 4 waxwings on 3rd and a chiffchaff (which was ringed at Holme Aug. 3rd). Next day 4-500 blackbirds, 100 fieldfares, 50 redwings and 20 song thrushes passed through; 5 waxwings arrived and blackcap and 6 bullfinches were present. 2 more waxwings came on 5th, 9 on 10th and one on 19th. 3 long-tailed ducks, a great skua and a little gull were at sea on 10th. A very late swift appeared on 14th and 4 shore-larks arrived on 16th, staying till 30th. 3 Bewick's swans arrived on 22nd.

December: A slavonian grebe was new on 1st, with long-tailed duck, 2 hen harriers, 80 snow buntings and 80 twites. The 3 Bewick's swans increased to 10 on 10th and to 12 on 14th. 8 velvet scoters passed on 2nd. Another waxwing appeared on 4th, with 4 on 7th, one on 12th, another (ringed) on 15th, and singles on 22nd and 24th. 28 long-tailed ducks and 16 slavonian grebes were at sea on 8th, with an Iceland gull on 9th. 17 more Bewick's swans arrived on 15th making a total of 29; only 3 remained by 18th. Great grey shrike and hen harrier were both noted on 21st and 16 Bewick's swans were on the partly frozen broad on 23rd; 10 more Bewick's arrived on 24th when 2 bearded tits were seen and 28 sheld-duck headed west. 30 Bewick's swans were at sea on 26th and 21 on the shore on 29th when a whooper arrived on the marsh.

The Wash

The early months of 1963 will be remembered for the severe cold spell and as early as Jan. 23rd many waders were obviously weak and reluctant to fly. The worst affected was the redshank and numbers were low throughout the year. However, there is evidence of greenshank wintering on the Wash as individuals were seen Feb. 24th and again in Dec. 30,000 knot, 5,000 oystercatchers and 3,000 bar-tailed godwits headed north off Hunstanton on Feb. 24th.

Numbers of wildfowl at this time were good, with maxima of 350-400 brent geese, 500 eiders, 43 mergansers, 2,000 mallard,



5,000 wigeon, 1,200 common scoters, 18 long-tailed duck and up to 70 goldeneye. Counts of over 2,500 scaup in late Feb. and early March were exceptional after the low numbers of recent winters; 300 scaup still remained on April 7th. Of the duck that more frequently appear inland, pintail and smew were recorded between North Wootton and Snettisham on one or two occasions. Up to 4 red-necked grebes were seen in Feb. and March, with 3 black-necked grebes in Jan. but only one slavonian grebe. A black-throated diver was found dead at Hunstanton Feb. 3rd and there were live records at the same place twice in March.

White-fronted geese and pink-feet were recorded on Feb. 24th. A snow goose that may have been an escape appeared in the Fens at West Winch in late Feb. and was seen also on March 16th at Wolferton. Numbers of whooper swans on the sea at Hunstanton reached 20 on Jan. 12th and herds of as many as 23 Bewick's swans were present in Jan. and March.

Single hen harriers were seen at various places from late Jan. until April 13th. 3 Lapland buntings were at Snettisham Jan. 13th with 6 siskins there Feb. 16th. Up to 12 purple sandpipers were present at Hunstanton; but hooded crows remained scarce.

A chiffchaff at Snettisham March 9th heralded the spring migration. A spotted flycatcher was seen to venture out to sea from Hunstanton May 31st only to return soon afterwards. On April 28th a ring ouzel was at Heacham and there was a hoopoe at Hunstanton gold course on May 9th where a female Montagu's harrier had been seen on 4th. Single male Montagu's were seen at Snettisham and Wolferton in late April and again in late May. A passage of black terns lasted for a week from May 26th.

Small numbers of whimbrel and greenshank were on passage from April 27th and apart from a three-week period in June and July, the latter species was present until Nov. 3rd. Dunlin and knot were still present in their thousands in May and June, and 600 sanderling and 6-700 ringed plover were seen in late May at Snettisham and Terrington respectively. Over 2,000 bar-tailed godwits were at Snettisham May 26th. Wheatears bred at Sandringham Warren.

Wader passage was already in evidence again by late July and a little ringed plover was at Snettisham July 13th. As already mentioned redshank were scarce and fewer common and green sandpipers than usual were reported. Rarities are seldom identified on the saltings and creeks, but Wisbech S.F. only five miles inland had its full share this autumn and details appear in the Fenland report.

A notable feature of autumn migration in the Wash is the passage of skuas. On Aug. 12th the first Arctic skuas were seen and numbers reached a maximum of over 100 on the 18th when, in addition, 4 pomarines flew north past Hunstanton. Totals almost as large were seen again in late Sept. and in mid-Oct. These were accompanied by as many as 13 pomarines. 2 long-tailed skuas and 33 great skuas passed south at Hunstanton Oct. 14th and a late great skua was recorded on Nov. 22nd.

Other August movements included a little gull and 10 little terns at Lynn Point on 18th, a day when 162 fulmars and nearly 300 kittiwakes were counted as they passed north at Hunstanton. Later, kittiwake numbers were to top the 1,000 mark on Oct. 13th. A Manx shearwater was noted Aug. 18th to be followed by others on Sept. 29th and Oct. 13th when 3 sooty shearwaters flew into the Wash at Hunstanton. Black terns, first noted on Aug. 9th were present until mid-Sept. with a peak of 30 at Lynn Point on Aug. 18th. Early Sept. produced a few records of black-tailed godwits (up to 6 together) and spotted redshank in ones and twos, but very few passerines. Wader counts at this time included 7,000 oystercatchers, 750 grey plover, 300 turnstones, 1,000 curlew (much lower than normal), 60 whimbrel (Aug. 12th) and 500 bar-tailed godwits. A grey wagtail on Hunstanton cliffs Sept. 17th is worthy of note.

Winter visitors were soon to arrive: snow buntings on Sept. 22nd with numbers building up to 130 in Dec. and a single shore-lark Oct. 12th to be followed by 3 others at the end of Oct. and in Nov. Wildfowl began arriving during Sept., and of the less common species, scaup, goldeneye and velvet scoter had all been recorded by the end of the month. The maximum number of velvet scoters for the year was only 15, on Oct. 7th.

Oct. produced a count of 350 gannets on 14th at Hunstanton, and a single marsh harrier at Terrington on 31st. Single hen harriers were reported throughout Nov. and Dec. from various parts of the coast. A kingfisher was at Snettisham Nov. 2nd and a rough-legged buzzard was there on 9th.

Late summer visitors attract attention and November reports include a whimbrel near Hunstanton on 3rd, an Arctic tern and a Sandwich tern on 2nd, a swallow on 3rd and 3 house martins on 17th, all at Hunstanton.

As the year drew to a close, apart from a waxwing at Snettisham Nov. 10th and 2 slavonian and 3 black-necked grebes, sea duck

became the attraction once again. These included 110 mergansers on Dec. 8th and 30 long-tailed ducks on 22nd.



Hickling

(Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

Hickling Broad became frozen in mid-December 1962 and remained ice-covered until March 6th. During this long period of severe weather there were many casualties among coot, bitterns, great crested grebes and water-rails. Large numbers of ducks, coots and mute swans were fed with corn daily by the Wardens.

Despite the severe winter a considerable number of bearded tits survived; they were often following the reed-cutters for food. 35 to 40 pairs are estimated to have nested at Hickling, Whiteslea and Heigham Sounds. Over thirty nests were found, the first on May 3rd. In September a gathering of 50 bearded tits was at Whiteslea.

The first bittern began booming March 9th at Heigham Corner, but there were only two pairs on the Reserve. Again no marsh harriers bred although single birds were seen on many occasions during the summer. A hen marsh harrier appeared Feb. 28th. No Montagu's harriers were recorded.

Swallows arrived April 18th, followed by cuckoos next day and sedge and grasshopper warblers on 22nd when an avocet was on Rush Hills. During the spring up to 3 drake garganey fed on the wader grounds with numerous shoveler and gadwall. A ruff complete with black ruff and ear-tufts passed through April 25th. Spotted redshank and greenshank appeared on several dates in May, whilst turnstone, spotted redshank and ruff, together with 3 wigeon, were all noted June 7th. A flight of 18 drake shoveler was noted June 8th. An osprey and 3 black terns passed through June 5th with another osprey on 24th. Two reeves appeared July 1st.

Five pairs of common terns nested including 3 pairs on Rush Hills. Other breeding birds included 8 pairs of great crested grebes, 6 pairs of herons, 2 pairs of feral grey-lag geese and a pair of Canada geese. Breeding lapwing and redshank were much reduced in numbers. Some 400 mute swans spent the summer at Hickling; 15 pairs nested. A pair of sheld-duck regularly visited Rush Hills in spring, but did not nest.

Many waders frequented Rush Hills during August. On 5th they included 3 spotted redshank; wood, green and common sandpipers and 5 greenshank. On 14th there were 4 spotted redshank, 3 greenshank, 3 ruffs, dunlin and little stint. Single greenshank and spotted redshank with 2 little stints were noted Sept. 7th. The first wigeon arrived Sept. 14th with golden-eye Oct. 20th.

A late greenshank was on Deary's marsh Dec. 17th and a hen harrier arrived on 29th. At this time some 5,000 duck had assembled on the Broad; the majority mallard with many teal, 200 wigeon, 400 tufted, 400 pochard and 50-70 golden-eye.



Horsey

(Mr. John Buxton)

Horsey Mere remained frozen from the beginning of the year until March 7th. During this bitterly cold spell many birds died including redwing, woodcock and water-rails. Three half-starved bitterns were cared for in pens and fed mainly on sprats. They had become reasonably tame by the time they could be released. One dying mute swan was killed by a fox. Wrens suffered greatly and parties of 4-5 were found dead in outbuildings.

In George Crees' garden some 4 cwt. of apples were devoured by hungry blackbirds, song thrushes, fieldfares, redwings, bramblings, chaffinches and tits during this period. A pair of hen harriers appeared Jan. 6th, a common scoter was found on the coast road on 20th, 3 barnacle geese were at Horsey Gap on 22nd when 8 Bewick's swans were noted with 4 hooded crows on 26th. 27 white-fronted geese passed through on March 3rd, with 10 whoopers on 15th, 3 red-throated divers on the Mere on 17th, a black-tailed godwit on 23rd, great grey shrike on the Warren on 27th and well over 1,000 golden plover in early April when 30 gadwall were on the Mere.

Interesting migrants included ring ouzel April 19th/20th, female Montagu's harrier on 14th and 28th, short-eared owl on 19th, male pied flycatcher and grasshopper warbler on 21st, reed warbler, little tern and a pair of garganey all on 26th, turtle dove on 27th, 29 fieldfares on 30th, collared dove May 3rd, redstart on 5th, male ring ouzel on 9th, male red-spotted bluethroat on 24th and hawfinch next day.

The two surviving bitterns began booming March 28th and one pair bred successfully rearing 4 young. A few bearded tits remained throughout Jan. and Feb. and the first nest with 6 eggs was found April 26th; some 20 pairs nested round the Mere. An adult male marsh harrier headed north-east Feb. 21st and wandering birds were seen from time to time including 3 on May 16th, but none nested. A water-rail's nest was found, but no stonechats, short-eared owls or sparrowhawks bred. Little owls and kestrels have become scarce. A pair of red-backed shrikes and 3 pairs of bullfinches bred; the latter began breeding at Horsey in 1960. 2 pairs of great crested grebes appeared in spring, but did not breed.

Autumn records include a passage of pied flycatchers and redstarts; grey phalarope Oct. 3rd and great grey shrike on 31st for 3 days. Nov. 16th was particularly interesting with 2 hen harriers, a merlin and a very late reed warbler.



Breckland

Hoopoes again appeared in Breckland one being seen at Lang Mere April 21st and another at Santon Aug. 18th. A bittern was seen at Sturston in Jan., 2 at Stanford Water March 13th and one at Mickle Mere Dec. 15th. A male black redstart was seen in Stanford village May 23rd and 26th. A great grey shrike was noted

Nov. 11th at Gooderstone Warren and another at Diddlington Nov. 30th. A grey wagtail at Stanford Water Oct. 12th was the only one recorded for the year. Two male bearded tits were at Thompson Water Dec. 22nd and 2 at Mickle Mere 24th-27th, with one at Cockley Cley Nov. 17th. A pair of smew was seen at Buckenham Tofts Feb. 3rd with another on the Little Ouse near Two-mile Bottom two weeks later. A drake garganey was at Fowl Mere April 7th with 2 at Thompson Aug. 25th. A kite was flying west at East Wretham on June 25th.

Other visiting predators included a male Montagu's harrier near the Little Ouse June 30th, an osprey fishing at Rush Mere and Hill Mere on Sept. 18th and a merlin on Gooderstone Warren Dec. 4th. Hen harriers were seen at Brettenham Heath and Wretham on March 7th and 9th respectively and on Weeting Heath between March 31st and April 5th. A pair of sparrowhawks was present at Black Rabbit Warren Feb. 18th and singles were at Wretham March 9th and at Stanford on Oct. 13th. Kestrels were seen occasionally; a short-eared owl visited Lang Mere March 30th and a pair of little owls was recorded at East Wretham Nov. 7th. A flock of 50 mistle thrushes was at Fowl Mere Aug. 24th.

Occasional green sandpipers were recorded with a maximum of 3 at West Mere on Oct. 12th. Other passage waders included jack snipe at Stanford Jan. 12th, a ruff in full plumage with chestnut and white ruff and ear-tufts at Lang Mere May 19th, wood sandpiper at Ring Mere June 2nd and greenshanks at Lang Mere at the end of Aug.

Terns also visited the Meres, 2 little terns were at Stanford Water April 26th, and single common terns there Aug. 11th and 24th; also single black terns at Stanford and Thompson April 24th and May 4th with a maximum of 6 black terns at Stanford June 2nd and 6 at Fowl Mere on 3rd.

Curlews were present in small numbers during the summer with a party of 20 between Tottington and Frog Hill March 16th; a brood of young was found near the Little Ouse June 30th. The first stone-curlew arrived March 30th and small numbers were reported throughout the area; the largest party was 21 at Gooderstone Oct. 21st. Two pairs of ringed plover bred at Tottington and woodcock were seen in a number of localities with breeding confirmed at Merton. Lapwing, redshank and snipe were also recorded, a party of 35 snipe being seen around a small area of open water at Stanford Jan. 12th. A common sandpiper's nest containing 4 eggs at Thompson Water May 26th is the first evidence of breeding in the Norfolk Breck.

At Weeting Heath where 40 acres containing a population of wild rabbits has been enclosed, stone-curlew, curlew, lapwing and wheatears all nested within the enclosure. At both Weeting Heath and Thetford Heath on the Suffolk border, empty ammunition

boxes sunk into the ground have proved acceptable as nesting sites for wheatears.

An early chiffchaff appeared at Two Mile bottom on March 10th with one singing at Buckenham Tofts on 15th, the first wheatear was recorded on 23rd and willow warblers had reached Narford on 31st. A pair of stonechats appeared at Brettenham Heath again, but breeding was not proved; whinchats were reported in the Frog Hill area during the breeding season with a single pair at Brettenham Heath. Redstarts were seen in 9 Breckland villages, but nightjars were reported in only three areas. Woodlarks were recorded at Foxhole Heath, Tottington and Thompson and small parties of crossbills in a number of localities, the largest being 26 at Lang Mere April 28th. 3 pairs of yellow wagtails were at Bodney Warren and a corn bunting was singing at East Wretham May 13th. Grass-hopper warblers were noted at Stanford, Brandon Decoy and Didlington.

Hérons occupied 5 nests at Thompson and 3 nests at Didlington, while 2 pairs reared 4 young at a new heronry at Eastmoor. A total of 20 adult great crested grebes was reported on 9 lakes; 8 pairs of tufted duck reared broods and pochard raised 5 broods at 3 sites. Red-backed shrikes were reported at 6 sites although breeding success is unknown. Four pairs of Canada geese raised a total of 28 young at West Mere and it was estimated that about 200 were present in the Little Cressingham, Bodney, Stanford, Tottington and Thompson areas with 50 at Shadwell April 28th. At Merton a late nesting moorhen had young Oct. 4th.

Collared doves had 3 nests again at Little Cressingham with a maximum of 22 birds there Sept. 10th. At least 2 pairs of collared doves also nested at Brandon and singles were reported in the West Harling/Bridgham area. A flock of 130 turtle doves was noted at Thompson July 29th feeding with ducks. Redpolls were recorded in most districts; the largest flock being 50 at Wretham May 2nd. A pair of hawfinches was seen at Shadwell April 3rd and in Aug. another pair was frequently seen in a Thetford garden; a single bird occurred at Watton in Nov./Dec. with 6 at Didlington towards the end of the year. No siskin breeding records were received, but at St. Helen's Well a pair was present May 26th with a male June 2nd and 9th; at Two Mile Bottom a male was displaying May 26th.

Wildfowl counts included 500 mallard at Mickle Mere Sept. 13th; 80 teal at Foulton Nov. 17th; 130 gadwall at Stanford Aug. 25th, 100 there on Nov. 3rd and 50 at Didlington Nov. 17th. The largest parties of shovelers numbered 50 at Stanford Aug. 11th and 40 at Mickle Mere Dec. 15th; single wigeon were recorded at Fowl Mere, Didlington and Shadwell (Aug. 25th). Of the diving ducks, 60 tufted were at Fowl Mere in March and the pochard maximum was 80 at Mickle Mere Dec. 15th. Golden-eye were reported in small numbers at Narborough G.P., Stanford (10, Dec. 27th), Mickle

Mere and Fowl Mere (6, Nov. 23rd). Drake pintail appeared at Mickle Mere, Shadwell Park and Ring Mere March 16th and at Fowl Mere on 31st. 38 goosanders were at Narford March 17th, 13 at Didlington on 26th, 2 at Stanford in Jan. and March and one again in Nov./Dec., and another at Mickle Mere and Fowl Mere Dec. 1st. Sheld-duck were occasionally reported early in the year with 4 at Stanford Feb. 2nd.

A party of 13 white-fronted geese was in a barley field near Croxton Dec. 29th. Up to 3 whooper swans were at Thompson and Stanford Waters between Feb. 10th and March 31st; and were reported again from Nov. 10th onwards at Thompson, West Mere and Mickle Mere. Bewick's swans were recorded in some numbers early in the year with a maximum of 23 on March 10th at Thompson and 7 were still at Stanford April 5th. In the autumn 4 Bewick's were at Stanford Nov. 23rd, 11 at Thompson Dec. 1st, 14 there on 14th, 13 at Mickle Mere on 15th and 18 at Stanford on 27th.

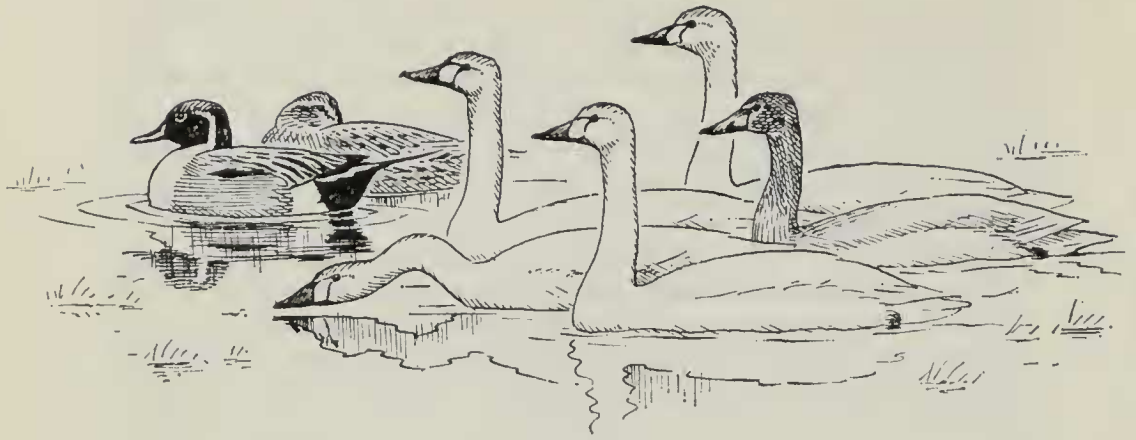
As usual Mickle Mere was used by roosting gulls. On Dec. 14th 400 great black-backed, 200 herring and 1500 black-headed were estimated. Other winter visitors included siskins with flocks of 250-300 at Stanford in Jan./Feb. and at Didlington March 3rd. Bramblings were present with a maximum of 200 at Kilverstone in Jan./Feb., while 20 were still at Weeting April 15th and a male was in full song at Ring Mere on 23rd. Waxwings appeared in Nov. and were seen at Ickburgh (one), Stanford (6) on 10th and at Weeting (15) on 16th. No hooded crows were reported. Kingfishers suffered severely as a result of the very hard winter and singles at Buckenham Tofts Feb. 17th and at Stanford Water on 23rd were the only records. Wrens were only occasionally seen in Breckland.

Fenland

Fenland Washes

Wildfowl counts for the complete length of the Ouse Washes, extending from Denver Sluice to Earith appear in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1963.

During Jan. up to 10 goldeneye, 3 scaup, 16 goosanders, 8 red-breasted mergansers and 16 smew were recorded, mainly near Denver. A total of 13 cormorants was counted on Jan. 13th on the Washes. Geese included 81 pink-feet during Feb. at West Winch, a grey-lag there Feb. 24th and at Welney late in March, 8 white-fronts March 12th and 3 brents March 2nd-3rd. A snow goose reported at West Winch Feb. 24th to March 3rd also turned up on the coast on 16th. Mergansers and goosanders in the Fens at Denver, Welney and on the Ouse reached totals of 16 and 25 respectively about this time. Mergansers stayed until March 3rd and goosanders till the 24th. At South Lynn smew totalled 28 on Feb. 24th and 18 on March 3rd.



Bewick's swans were again present in good numbers with 110 still at Welney as late as April 7th. Between 40 and 50 ruffs spent the early and closing months on the Washes and 40 twites were roosting at Hilgay March 31st. A hen harrier was reported at Welney Feb. 17th. The first wheatear reached Hilgay Fen March 8th.

Garganey reached a peak of 10 in late April, and between April 24th and May 5th a pair of gadwall stayed at Welney while another female was at Hilgay. Waders in March included a knot on 24th and spotted redshank on 17th. Up to 5 of the latter were counted in April. A visit to Welney June 1st produced a Temminck's stint and 9 black terns with 14 more black terns at King's Lynn B.F. Between 4 and 8 pairs of tufted duck bred at Runcton Holme G.P. and 3 pairs at Wiggshall. A pair of little ringed plover summered at King's Lynn B.F. At least 3 pairs of collared doves were present at Downham Market.

In August at West Walton 200 golden plover arrived on 9th and 2 early pink-feet on 11th. Up to 10 black terns stayed at King's Lynn B.F. between Sept. 2nd and 8th. 4 knot and 500 teal were at Wisington B.F. Sept. 11th. A late turtle dove was at West Walton Nov. 1st.

In Nov. 4 Bewick's swans arrived on 24th increasing to 8 by Dec. 7th. A waxwing was at West Walton Nov. 13th, an immature glaucous gull at Welney Dec. 15th and a party of 12 goosanders headed south-west at Hilgay on 26th.

Wisbech Sewage Farm

Visits during the early months produced 10 goldeneye on Jan. 16th, 2 gadwall on March 10th and 3 whoopers next day. In April a spotted shank was present on 15th with 2 short-eared owls next day and over 200 golden plover on 26th.

Waders noted in May included odd oystercatchers, spotted shank and turnstones. Black terns appeared on 31st and 6 were

seen again June 1st. This day saw many arrivals: 3 wood sandpipers, 2 greenshank, single little stint, curlew-sandpiper, grey plover and oystercatcher as well as a few common sandpipers, turnstones, 5 reeves and 2 ruffs in breeding plumage.

Green sandpipers returned July 7th. The first of the autumn rarities was noted as early as July 19th when a stilt-sandpiper was trapped and ringed. This remained until Aug. 7th. Little ringed plovers passed through between July 7th and Sept. 18th reaching a maximum of 11 on Aug. 6th. Ruffs increased from 50 at the end of July to 60 in mid-Aug. and to over 100 between late Sept. and mid-Oct. The first golden plover arrived July 28th—a week before any were noted on the coast. Wood sandpipers were recorded from July 11th, numbers building up to 25 on Aug. 6th and to 17 on 17th; a few remained till the end of Sept.

Black terns returned Aug. 3rd and passage continued with up to 6 together, until Sept. 17th. Aug. also saw 200 shovelers on 3rd, as many as 80 common and 10 wood sandpipers on 6th, 9 whimbrel on 9th, grey plover next day, turnstone on 12th and bar-tailed godwit on 30th.

Curlew-sandpipers arrived on Aug. 3rd and reached a maxima of 40 between Sept. 6th and 9th with 30 on 15th and were last recorded Oct. 20th. 5 little stints arrived Aug. 24th with 15 on Sept. 3rd and again on 9th, 12 on 27th and the last one Oct. 20th. Spotted redshank, seen from July 28th until Oct. 11th, reached a peak of 22 on Oct. 2nd; fewer than last year. Greenshank were recorded from mid-July until Oct. 12th, but the maximum was only 4.

The movement evident on the coast Aug. 18th was reflected inland with a knot, 3 Arctic skuas and 2 kittiwakes. 2 more Arctic skuas appeared on Oct. 13th. On Aug. 30th a pectoral sandpiper was identified and this remained until Sept. 8th. Jack snipe arrived Sept. 20th and 75 common snipe were present two days later. 3 late common sandpipers passed through on Nov. 5th.

The trio of rare waders was completed by a dowitcher, seen from Sept. 28th until Oct. 6th. A single grey plover arrived Sept. 28th and up to 4 were seen in mid-Oct. Birds of prey included a marsh harrier heading south on Sept. 15th and a merlin on Oct. 27th. Among the wildfowl were 7 garganey in Aug.

Selected Light-Vessel Notes

Heron: Newarp, two Sept. 24th and one, Oct. 1st; Haisboro', one, Oct. 22nd.

Mallard: Newarp, a drake, Oct. 28th. Inner Dowsing, 2 on sea, Dec. 25th "keeping well out of reach" (!).

Sparrowhawk: Smith's Knoll, one, Sept. 20th.

Osprey: Smith's Knoll, one resting then mobbed by gulls as it left, Sept. 21st.

Merlin: Inner Dowsing, one killing small birds on board between Oct. 30th and Nov. 1st. It ate a goldcrest just before leaving.

Water-Rail: Haisboro', a juvenile dead, Aug. 15th and 3 dead, Oct. 21st.

Moorhen: Inner and Outer Dowsing and Haisboro' had moorhens between Oct. 21st-26th and Corton had one flying west, Nov. 17th.

Lapwing: Main autumn passage westward, Oct. 20th-Nov. 3rd. Dudgeon had a few Aug. 21st and Smith's Knoll, Sept. 20th/21st.

Golden Plover: Newarp, one, Sept. 1st.

Curlew: Newarp, several, Aug. 3rd and 5th; Outer Dowsing and Haisboro' had a few, Aug. 17th/18th with more at the former station during last half of Oct. Newarp had a few Dec. 1st and Haisboro' on Dec. 25th.

Green Sandpiper: Newarp, two on board all day, Aug. 5th.

Knot: Smith's Knoll, several, Sept. 20th/21st; Dudgeon, 2, Oct. 30th.

Collared Dove: Inner Dowsing had one on Sept. 18th (a newly arrived bird was on Cley beach on 17th).

Cuckoo: Dudgeon, one, June 15th.

Owls: Between Oct. 28th and Nov. 1st, long-eared owls appeared on the light-vessels and preyed upon small birds as follows: Inner Dowsing, one, Oct. 28th/29th, two, Oct. 31st/Nov. 1st, 2 more, Nov. 1st "all 4 leaving 30 minutes after sundown". Dudgeon, one, Oct. 26th/29th, 2, Oct. 30th/Nov. 1st, also "an owl" Dec. 9th. Haisboro', "an owl", Oct. 23rd/24th; a "tawny owl" preying on skylarks before departing westward on Oct. 28th and a "short-eared owl" there Nov. 30th. Newarp had a "tawny" which left at dawn, Sept. 28th; 3 owls, almost

certainly long-eared, were at the lantern Nov. 1st and another unidentified owl was present Dec. 1st. These dates may be compared with arrivals on the Norfolk coast.

Skylark: Main autumn passage, Oct. 20th–31st.

Hooded Crow: Smith's Knoll, 3, Nov. 18th.

Rook: Haisboro', small westward movement, Oct. 22nd/23rd.

Wren: Dudgeon, 2, Oct. 24th and 2 more on 29th.

Fieldfare: Main passage Oct. 15th–29th, with a few more Dec. 7th.

Song-Thrush: A few Oct. 24th–28th. At Cross Sands one rescued from the sea departed north-west after being dried and rested.

Redwing: Several recorded Oct. 23rd–Nov. 15th.

Blackbird: Main passage during latter half of Oct. with further movements noted at the Haisboro' Nov. 13th and 16th and Dec. 7th.

Black Redstart: Haisboro', one dead on deck, Oct. 21st.

Robin: A few occurred, Oct. 23rd–29th.

Goldcrest: Dudgeon, one, Oct. 29th; Inner Dowsing, one, Nov. 1st. Clearly this species has not yet recovered from the severe winter of 1962/3.

Meadow Pipit: Dudgeon, 2, Aug. 29th; Inner Dowsing, 2 dead, Nov. 5th.

Red-backed Shrike: Cross Sands, a male on the evening of Aug. 14th.

Starling: All stations report many thousands on the peak nights of Oct. 19th/20th, 24th/25th, 28th/29th and Nov. 26th.

Greenfinch: Haisboro', 20, Oct. 8th.

Goldfinch: Corton, flocks westward, Oct. 15th.

Crossbill: Dudgeon, a party of 10, Aug. 24th. Newarp, one, Aug. 29th. Corton, a male reported as being quite tame was caught and examined in the hand on Aug. 29th and was considered to be a parrot-crossbill.

Chaffinch: Main autumn passage, Oct. 15th–31st.

Brambling: Haisboro', 2 picked up dead, Oct. 23rd.

Snow-Bunting: Haisboro', one, Oct. 15th.

Classified Notes

The Wash and Fen records have been largely selected from the files of the Cambridge Bird Club. Important records from Wisbech Sewage Farm, part of which is on the Lincolnshire side of the county boundary, have also been included. Fuller details may be found in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1963.

The number preceding the name of each bird refers to the *B.O.U. Check-List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* (1952) where the scientific name may be found. All records refer to 1963, unless otherwise stated. Where no initials appear after a record, details have been supplied by many observers. No detailed descriptions are given of rarities accepted by the Rare Birds Committee of *British Birds*.

2 Great Northern Diver: North: Cley, up to 7 inshore during last week of Dec., an unusual number.

6 Red-necked Grebe: Broads: Rockland, one, Feb. 17th–March 10th (MJS). North: Sheringham, one, Jan. 12th (DVB). Singles dead at West Runton, Feb. 5th (PT) and at Cley on 10th. Salhouse, one, March 25th (JF), Blakeney, juveniles Aug. 28th–Sept. 2nd (HH) and Cley, singles Sept. 3rd and 8th and Oct. 25th/26th. Wash: Holme–Heacham, 4 on Feb. 9th; 2 on March 3rd (CBC) and one on April 11th.

7 Slavonian Grebe: Broads area: Rockland Broad, one, March 9th–13th (MJS, JF), Bure near Breydon, 2, March 7th (PRA, FEP). North: Ones and twos in winter at Cley, Wells, and Holkham with 16 at sea off Holme Dec. 8th. Wash: Hunstanton, only 2 records: one, March 29th and 2, Dec. 22nd (CBC).

8 Black-necked Grebe: North: Cley, 3, April 15th–18th. Singles at Wells, Feb. 13th (RGT) and Overy harbour, May 20th (RC). Inland: Wensum at Guist, one, Feb. 9th (HR). Wash: Heacham–Hunstanton, 3 in Jan. and again in Dec. (CBC).

12 Leach's Petrel: East: Breydon, one, Sept. 21st (PRA, RWC). Cley, five records of singles inshore Sept. 18th–Oct. 2nd.

16 Manx Shearwater: East: Winterton, one, Sept. 19th (GRS). North: Cley, small passage of up to 10 Sept. 19th–28th with 2, Oct. 13th. Scolt, one, Sept. 14th and 3 on 20th (RC). Holme, one, Sept. 20th, 6 on 30th and one, Oct. 13th. Wash: Hunstanton, 1–2, Aug. 18th, Sept. 29th and Oct. 13th (CBC).

21 Sooty Shearwater: North: Cley, at least 2, Sept. 27th. Wash: Hunstanton, 3, Oct. 13th (CBC).

26 Fulmar Petrel: North: Cromer, maximum of 46, April 23rd. Not very successful breeding season, but records include 7 young at

Cromer, 5 at East Runton and 6 at Beeston (PT). 6 had returned to Cromer, Nov. 20th (CDR). Wash: Maximum of 162 heading north off Hunstanton, Aug. 18th (CBC).

29 Shag: Inland: 1-2 on Wensum in centre of Norwich March 7th-21st (EH, GMW) and one on Yare at Thorpe, April 7th (PA).

30 Heron: Details of heronries as follows:

Borders of Wash: Snettisham, 7 nests. *Fens:* Islington, 23 and Denver Sluice, 16 (AEV). *Breck:* Thompson Water, 5 (AWK); Didlington, 3 and Eastmoor, 2 (CRK). *Mid-Norfolk:* Kimberley Park, 3 (PRB) and Lyng Easthaugh, one (JCC). *Broads area:* Gen. McHardy's wood, 2; Whiteslea wood, 2; Heigham Sounds wood, 2 (EP); America wood, Earsham, 3 (JWM); Fishley carr, Acle, one (WPM); Upton, 2 (HH); Wickhampton, 23 (ETD, MJS); Buckenham, 27; Mautby, 4 and Ranworth, 20 (MJS); Ranworth marshes (Horning Hall), 7 (RB); Heron carr, Barton Broad, 4 (DS); Belaugh Broad, 4 (*per* RECD); Wheatfen, 6 (EAE). *North:* Melton Constable, 2 (RPB-O); Holkham Park (Obelisk wood), 5; Gunton Park (The Grove), 2 (*per* MJS); Wiveton Hall, 2 (RGB) and Cley (Cop Hill plantation), 3 (WFB).

Total: 181 nests at 27 sites. None nested at Salhouse Little Broad or Keswick.

37 Little Bittern: Broads: Barton Staithe, one, Aug. 28th (GEP).

38 Bittern: During the severe weather early in the year singles reported on the Wensum at Guist Jan. 7th (HR) and in a dyke at Yarmouth on 23rd (PRA). None present on Cley reserve during the breeding season. In Broads area, one booming at Surlingham and a pair bred at Wheatfen (EAE), but only 4 booming in the Hickling-Horsey-Martham area.

42 Spoonbill: East: Breydon, an immature, April 13th; 2, June 2nd and 2, Aug. 5th-11th (PRA, RHH, FEP). North: Scolt, 2, June 25th (RC).

47 Garganey: First, Wells, March 15th (ALB) with 2 at Cley on 19th. Breeding season records from Cley (maximum of 7, July 31st), Hardley (3 pairs), Cantley, Hickling (3 pairs), Horsey, Wickhampton and Ouse Washes.

50 Wigeon: North: Cley, a pair bred successfully (WFB).

55 Scaup: Exceptional numbers during cold spell. East: Gorleston, 120 offshore, Jan. 26th; Breydon, up to 116 in Jan. and 138 in Feb. (PRA). Wash: Heacham, over 2500 late Feb./early March (CBC).

56 Tufted Duck: Breeding records only are given. Breck (total of 8 broods): 3 broods, Fowl Mere; singles at Rush Mere and Thompson

Water and 3 at Tottington West Mere. North: One brood Kelling (MRR). West: 2 pairs, Hillington (CBC) and Fens: 4-8 pairs, Runcton Holme and 3 pairs, Wiggenhall (CBC).

57 Pochard: Breeding records only are given. Breck: 2 broods, Tottington West Mere; 2 at Buckenham Tofts and one at Lynford. Broads: Rockland, 3 broods; Cantley, one and Surlingham, one.

61 Long-tailed Duck: North (Holme to Salthouse): 1-7 up to March 6th and from Sept. 30th with 5 drakes off Holme, Feb. 24th and 28 there, Dec. 8th. Wash (Heacham to Hunstanton): recorded up to March 2nd and from Oct. 14th with 18, Jan. 20th and 30, Dec. 22nd (CBC).

62 Velvet Scoter: North/East coasts: Apart from 30 at Wells, no party exceeded 17. Wash: Maximum of 15, Oct. 7th (CBC).

64 Common Scoter: Yare at Surlingham, 2, Jan. 1st (NL); Rollesby Broad, drake, April 12th (ORM) and Seamere, 4, Sept. 24th (CG). Wash: Maximum of 1200, Feb. 17th (CBC).

67 Eider-Duck: Larger counts include: East: Horsey, 5, Sept. 27th (CBH); Winterton, 10, Nov. 3rd (MJS) and Yarmouth, 20, Dec. 4th (PRA). North: Scolt Head (see table) maxima 60-80 in Jan., May, July and Oct. with 180 in Dec. (RC). Holkham-Burnham, 100, Nov. 17th (HR). Holme, 350, Jan. 17th (HO). Cley, largest numbers in Oct. with 13 on 12th. Wells, 48, March 6th (HH). Wash: Hunstanton, 500, Jan. 12th (CBC).

69 Red-breasted Merganser: North/East coasts: A great many records during cold spell with maxima of 49 at Wells on March 6th (HH). Broads: Rockland, a drake, March 9th-13th (MJS). Wash: Snettisham, 43, Jan. 1st and a late bird May 5th and June 22nd; maximum of 110 at Hunstanton, Dec. 8th (CBC). Fens: Present on Denver to King's Lynn Relief channel till March 3rd with maximum of 16; also a few on Ouse Washes (Welney to Hilgay) during this time (CBC).

70 Goosander: As in 1962 more records than usual. Maxima include: East: Lower Bure near Breydon, 12 on Feb. 10th and 20 on 17th (RHH) and lower Waveney, 14 on March 4th (FEP). Breck: Narford, 38, March 17th and Didlington, 13 on 26th (CBC). Other inland records from North Elmham where maximum of 4 on Wensum throughout Jan. (JF). Fens: River Ouse, Stow Bardolph to Denver, 16 on Jan. 3rd and 25 on March 2nd. Ouse Washes, 16 on March 24th (CBC).

A drake at Rockland Broad, June 10th (EAE—see 1962 Report p. 80). Dead goosanders found on Yarmouth beach Jan. 17th (FEP) and below Hunstanton cliffs on 20th (CBC).

71 Smew: The first quarter of the year provided numerous records and the larger numbers are listed: East: River Bure between three-

mile and four-mile houses, 14 (3 drakes) Jan. 27th and 9 (2 drakes) Feb. 10th (RHH). Breydon, 16 (7 drakes), Jan. 12th and 6-8 (3 drakes) there, 13th-15th. Rockland Broad, present Feb. 16th to March 9th with 31 (16 drakes) Feb. 16th, 22 (13 drakes) on 17th, over 40 (15 drakes) on 26th and 17 (9 drakes), March 2nd (MJS, HR).

Further inland, a drake on Wensum at North Elmham Jan. 6th and 27th (JF); 2 in Breck at Buckenham Tofts, Feb. 3rd (GJ) and 3 drakes at Seamere, March 7th (CG). North: Cley, up to 8 in first half of Jan. Fens: South Lynn, 28, Feb. 24th; 18, March 3rd and 16 on 4th. Stowbridge to Denver, maximum of 16, Jan.-March. Ouse Washes, up to 7 (CBC).

Only one record at end of year: 3 at Cley, Dec. 24th.

73 Sheld-Duck: East: Continues to spread inland and bred successfully at Cantley, Freethorpe and Hardley.

74 Ruddy Sheld-Duck: North: Holkham Park, one, Sept. 15th onwards (CAEK) and 2 in Nov. (RPB-O) had probably escaped from a collection.]

76 White-fronted Goose: East: Breydon area, peak of 500 till March 13th, with 200 on 14th and last 5 on 23rd. First 12 returned Dec. 7th, 150 by 15th and 252 by 27th (RHH, PRA). North: Holkham, 50 on old stubble mid-Feb. (*per* MJS).

77 Lesser White-fronted Goose: East: At least 3 and possibly 4 present Jan.-Feb. In Breydon area an adult, Jan. 11th (RJJ) and an immature, Feb. 25th (DIMW). In Yare valley 2 adults, Jan. 4th, 6th and 26th with one on 27th.

78 Bean-Goose (*A.a. arvensis*): East: Yare valley, 48 in usual area at beginning of year, but they soon began wandering between Halvergate, Berney, Burgh Castle and Postwick in search of food and 19 were on barley stubble at Reedham, Feb. 9th; last 40 noted March 12th. 22 present from Dec. 23rd.

Pink-footed Goose (*A.a. brachyrhynchus*): East: Breydon area, up to 28 till March 8th; 36 on Sept. 28th for a week and up to 17 from Oct. 24th onwards. North: Wells, 40-50, Feb. 19th (RGT). Cley, 19, Sept. 28th and 39 arrived Oct. 1st (CO) with 35 in Morston-Stiffkey area from 18th till end of year (HH).

79 Snow-Goose: North: An adult white phase was filmed at Holkham among Canada geese and pink-feet during Feb. (WE). One, almost certainly the same, was in the Fens at West Winch, Feb. 24th-March 3rd, on the Wash at Wolferton, March 16th (CBC) and on Brancaster fresh-marshes, May 13th (RC). Records may well relate to an escape from captivity in this country or in Europe.

80 Brent Goose: North: Blakeney, maximum of 2500-3000, Jan. 15th-25th; 500 remained March 22nd and 50 on April 5th. First (2) of the autumn Oct. 26th; 200 by end of Nov. and 1200 by Dec. 27th. Brancaster, up to 500 till mid-March, 300 remained at end of March and last 4 departed April 10th. First in autumn Oct. 24th and 350 by mid-Dec. (RC). Wells, remarkable views during cold spell with up to 600 regularly and 1500 on Jan. 23rd; 170 remained March 15th and last one, April 10th. 70 had returned Nov. 1st and 250 there Dec. 5th.

Wash: Hunstanton-Snettisham, maximum of 350-400, Jan.-Feb. (CBC). Fens: Ouse Washes, 3, March 2nd-3rd (CBC). East: Lower Bure marshes, 2, Jan. 26th (JF).

81 Barnacle-Goose: East: Horsey Gap, 3, Jan. 22nd (GC). North: Cromer, 2, Oct. 14th (DVB) and 2 at Cley next day. 11 at Wells during Dec. were most probably the same 11 full-winged barnacles which flew away from a private collection near Hertford at that time.

85 Whooper-Swan: Parties up to 8 (once 16 and once 20) reported in East (Breydon, Wheatfen, Rockland, Surlingham, Buckenham, Hickling and Horsey), in the Breck (Stanford, Thompson, Tottington and Mickle Mere) in the North (Wells, Blakeney, Cley, Gunton Park, Ebridge Mill and Holme) and on Wash (Hunstanton). 6 departing north-west over Cley March 31st were probably the birds which arrived in Gunton Park on 19th (JF). Late spring records include Holme April 7th, 6 at Cley on 12th and 2 till 15th at Surlingham Broad.

86 Bewick's Swan: Larger numbers only are given. East, Breydon, 52 on Jan. 5th and Feb. 17th and a notable movement Dec. 21st when total of 106 headed north-west, the largest herd numbering 55 (PRA). Breck: Noted at Stanford, Thompson, Little Ouse at Santon and Mickle Mere with maximum of 23. North: Holme, 16 on Jan. 9th; 29, Dec. 15th and 30 on 26th. Cley, 27, Jan. 8th/9th included one with flesh-pink feet resembling the bird at Gunton April 2nd-9th, 1956; 39 (4 juveniles) March 8th, 33 eastward (only 2 juveniles) on 13th and 51 east on 23rd. There was an impressive passage at end of Dec. with 38 (8 juveniles) west on 21st; 23 on sea off Weybourne on 25th; 60 west at Runton, 119 south-west at Morston and 146 south-west at North Creake all on 26th. The latter total was comprised of 4 distinct herds and may have included the Runton and Morston birds. It is of interest to note how they cut off the north-west corner of Norfolk on their way across country (CO).

Wash: Hunstanton, 23 on March 24th and Snettisham, 22 on Jan. 5th (CBC). Fens: Ouse Washes, maximum of 110 at Welney as late as April 7th (CBC).

- 91 Buzzard:** 16 records of singles (apart from 2 at Runton May 9th) during periods April 1st–May 19th and July 25th–Oct. 27th.
- 92 Rough-legged Buzzard:** East: Winterton, April 15th (ORM, RCM). North: Gunton Park, Feb. 23rd (IWC); Blakeney Point, March 28th (CBH); Cley, April 17th; Brancaster Common, Oct. 11th (RC) and Cley/Salthouse, Dec. 14th onwards. Wash: Snettisham, Nov. 9th (RVAM, MSJS). All single birds.
- 93 Sparrow-Hawk:** Records from 17 localities, but successful breeding reported at only two sites.
- 95 Kite:** North: Cley, one in from the sea then eastward, April 10th. Breck: East Wretham, one west, June 25th (CPHW).
- 98 Honey-Buzzard:** Central: Great Witchingham, June 15th (RAR). North: Holkham Park, June 12th (CMV) and Hempstead–Selbrigg area, Sept. 10th–Oct. 6th (RPB-O). All singles.
- 99 Marsh-Harrier:** Broads: Again no breeding records although as many as 4 together in Hickling–Horsey area in early May and ones and twos at other Broads. Many coastal records of 1–2 birds between April 13th and Oct. 12th.
- 100 Hen-Harrier:** Records from Broads area (Hickling, Horsey and Berney Arms), North (Cley, Scolt, Holme and Roydon), East (Winterton), South (Lopham Fen), Breck (Weeting and Wretham), Wash area (Snettisham, North Wootton, Terrington and Castle Rising) and Fens (Ouse Washes at Welney). April records include one at Roydon on 21st and a pair at Cley (male passed inland to the south-west and female departed north-east to sea) on 23rd.
- 102 Montagu's Harrier:** None bred, but singles reported as follows: Broads area: Horsey, April 14th and 28th; Surlingham, early May and Breydon, July 6th. Breck: Near Little Ouse June 30th. North: Holme, May 4th. Wash: Snettisham, April 27th and Wolferton, May 31st.
- 103 Osprey:** Broads: Ranworth: May 27th (MJS) and Hickling June 5th and 24th (EP). Breck: Rush Mere and Hill Mere, Sept. 12th (PH). North: Sheringham in from the north-east then westwards along cliffs, June 16th; Cley, June 25th and July 3rd/4th. All singles.
- 104 Hobby:** North: Scolt, July 6th (RC); Cley, July 6th and 12th (CO); Blakeney on 29th and Aug. 18th (HH); Salthouse, Sept. 23rd and Kelling where a dead juvenile on 25th—possibly the Salthouse bird (RPB-O).
- 105 Peregrine Falcon:** Recorded only at Cley (4 dates), lower Waveney, Breydon and Corpusty.

107 Merlin: Records from East (Breydon and Winterton), Broad (Horsey), North (Cley-Stiffkey, Scolt and Holme) and Fens (Wisbech S.F.).

117 Quail: North: Kelling, male calling, June 15th. The only record.

121 Spotted Crake: North: Cley, one on saltings, Nov. 25th (PNK).

125 Corncrake: North: Singly at Cley, April 12th and Sept. 15th and at Morston on 18th.

128 Great Bustard: South Creak, a female found dead at Manor House Farm March 28th had evidently been killed as a result of striking overhead wires. The specimen is preserved in the collection at Norwich Castle Museum. First Norfolk record since 1894 and first in the British Isles since one in Shetland in May 1936 (see *British Birds*, Vol. 57, p. 181).

131 Oystercatcher: Breeding records: North: 70 nests at Blakeney Point and 20 pairs on south side of harbour; 8 pairs at Stiffkey, 8 pairs at Wells, 4 pairs at Burnham Overy; 110 nests at Scolt Head and 18 pairs at Holme. East: 4 nests on Breydon marshes and one nest in barley at Runham.

135 Little Ringed Plover: West: A total of 4 pairs summered at three sites, but only one pair known to have bred. Fens: A pair spent summer at a new site. Largest number on passage was 11 in Fens at Wisbech S.F. Aug. 6th (CBC).

136 Kentish Plover: East: Breydon, one, May 26th (PRA, FEP). North: Cley, one and probably 2 males, April 13th-18th. Holme, one, May 19th.

142 Dotterel: North: Blakeney Point, an adult, Aug. 24th.

144 Dowitcher: Fens: Wisbech S.F., one, Sept. 28th-Oct. 6th (CBC).

150 Curlew: Breck breeding population much reduced and only one brood of young reported.

151 Whimbrel: North: Blakeney, considerable numbers in early Aug. with 80 on 1st, 100 on 3rd and 200 in area on 9th with large evening departure leaving 100 at dusk (HH). Wash: A very late bird at Hunstanton, Nov. 3rd (CBC).

154 Black-tailed Godwit: Usual records April 15th to Sept. 18th when 20 at Holme. Winter records from Cley where a starving bird Jan. 1st/2nd and 2 at Wells, Nov. 1st (HH). At Cley a male in tentative display flight April 15th.

155 Bar-tailed Godwit: Maxima counts: North: Cley, 50 on Aug. 3rd, 130 on Sept. 3rd and 160 on 7th. Wells, 70 on Nov. 1st increasing to 200 by 20th (HH). Holme, 500 during Sept. Wash: Heacham to Hunstanton, 3000, Feb. 24th and Snettisham, 2000, May 26th (CBC).

Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*): Fens: Wisbech S.F. an adult caught and ringed July 19th (CBC) remained for nearly three weeks and was last reported Aug. 7th (RAR). Third British (and first Norfolk) record of this North American species. See *British Birds*, Vol. 57, pp. 125-6.

159 Common Sandpiper: Breck: Nest with 4 eggs at Thompson Water, May 26th (IM). Previous breeding records are given in 1962 Report, p. 84. An unpublished record comes from Hanworth Park where a pair bred successfully in 1928 (MM).

170 Purple Sandpiper: East: Yarmouth, one, Dec. 1st (PRA). North (Scolt, Burnham Overy, Wells, Cley, West Runton and Cromer) recorded Jan., March, May and Aug.-Dec. inclusive with maxima of 4 at Scolt (May 4th and Nov. 28th), 4 at Cley (Sept. 28th) and up to 5 regularly at West Runton from Oct. onwards. Wash: Heacham-Hunstanton, recorded up to March 24th and from Nov. 26th with 12 on Feb. 24th (CBC).

173 Temminck's Stint: East: Cantley, Aug. 19th and call tape-recorded (MJS). North: Brancaster, Aug. 22nd-Sept. 2nd (RC) and Blakeney, Sept. 4th-6th (HH). Fens: Ouse Washes at Welney, June 1st (CBC). All singles.

176 Pectoral Sandpiper: Fens: Wisbech S.F., one Aug. 30th to Sept. 8th (CBC).

185 Avocet: East: Breydon, pair, April 8th (PRA); one, Aug. 26th (RHH) and Dec. 7th-15th (PRA). Broad: Hickling, one, April 22nd (EP). North: Cley, singly May 19th, June 3rd, Sept. 22nd and Dec. 17th-21st. Holme, singly June 1st/2nd.

187 Grey Phalarope: East: Horsey, one, Oct. 3rd (GC). North: Blakeney harbour, a female in red summer plumage, July 13th; Salthouse, one for several days from Oct. 8th and what was probably a different bird flying west along Cley beach on 14th; another at Salthouse 21st-25th. Wells, 2, Nov. 28th (WFB). Hempstead, one, Nov. 16th (RPB-O).

188 Red-necked Phalarope: North: Brancaster, one, Sept. 2nd (RC) and one, perhaps the same, at Burnham Overy next day (RPB-O).

193 Arctic Skua: North/East coasts: Only spring record was of one off Cley April 18th. Customary autumn passage between early Aug. and Nov. 18th with Aug. 18th a peak day when 26 off Holme.

Wash: Holme-Heacham, maximum counts include 101, Aug. 18th; 95, Sept. 30th; 46, Oct. 13th and 90 on 14th. 5 were just inland at Dersingham Aug. 18th (CBC). Fens: Wisbech S.F. 3 heading south, Aug. 18th and 2, Oct. 13th (CBC).

194 Great Skua: North coast (Holme to Cromer): Small autumn movement during last two weeks of Aug. (maximum 3), last week of Sept. (maximum 14 off Cley and 10 off Holme) and Oct. 13th/14th (when 15 each day off Cley, 20 west at Holme and 9 at Scolt). Nov. records from Holme (10th) and Scolt (19th/20th). Wash: Hunstanton, 12 on Oct. 13th and 33 on 14th (CBC).

195 Pomarine Skua: North coast: Cley, singly Sept. 7th, 27th/28th and 30th with 5 on Oct. 14th. Holme, singly Aug. 18th and Oct. 13th. Wash: Hunstanton, 4, Aug. 18th; 2, Sept. 30th; 12 Oct. 13th and 13 on 14th (CBC).

196 Long-tailed Skua: North: Cley, one, Aug. 29th; 6 on Sept. 25th and one on Oct. 14th. Blakeney, 2, Nov. 5th (HH). Holme, one, Aug. 18th. Wash: Hunstanton, 2, Oct. 14th (CBC).

202 Glaucous Gull: North coast (Holme to Cley) and East coast (Breydon and lower Bure): winter records on 13 dates up to April 16th (when 2 at Cley) and 27th (Holme) and from Nov. 8th. Fens: Welney, one, Dec. 15th (CBC).

203 Iceland Gull: North: Cley, Jan. 2nd and Feb. 28th; West Runton, Jan. 6th (DR); Weybourne, Dec. 28th; Holme, Sept. 24th and Dec. 9th. All singles.

205 Mediterranean Black-headed Gull: North: Cley, single first-summer birds May 16th/17th and July 20th (RAR *et al*). Blakeney, an adult still in breeding plumage, Aug. 16th (HH). West Runton, an adult, Dec. 23rd (FF).

207 Little Gull: North coast (Holme, Wells, Blakeney and Cley): 1-4 recorded Jan. and all months April to Nov. inclusive with a total of 22 close inshore at Cley Nov. 1st. East: Yarmouth, one, Feb. 18th (FEP). Broads: Barton, 2, April 29th (RPB-O). Wash: Lynn Point, one, Aug. 18th (CBC).

208 Black-headed Gull: Number of *pairs* at breeding localities include: North: Scolt, 100; Burnham Overy saltings, 11; Morston-Stiffkey greenway, 34; Blakeney-Morston, 32 (HH) and Blakeney Point, 27 (WE). Broads area: Alderfen, 330 (AGH) and Cantley, 150 (CEM). Other stations not counted.

211 Kittiwake: North/East coasts: Summer counts include 300 at Scroby in first half of July (PRA, RHH) and at Scolt 300 July 20th, 350 on 24th, 400 by 29th and peak of 500 Aug. 1st declining to 350 by 6th and 150 by 13th (RC).

212 Black Tern: Early single birds at Cley April 23rd/24th and at Stanford Water on 24th, but only odd birds passed through till May 29th (apart from 8 at Breydon on 26th). Between then and June 6th up to 10 at Cley, 3 at Hickling, 4 at Rockland, 4 at Breydon, 2-3 at Cantley, 12 at Scolt, 6 at Fowl Mere, 6 at Stanford Water, 14 at King's Lynn B.F., 6 at Wisbech S.F., 11 at Holme and 9 on Ouse Washes.

Autumn passage July 18th to Oct. 23rd when one off Cromer; no party exceeded 6 apart from 10 at King's Lynn B.F. and 30 in Wash at Lynn Point.

217 Common Tern: Number of *pairs* at breeding localities: North: Holme, 2; Scolt, 550, Blakeney Point, 1150 and Cley, 7. East: Scroby, 180-200. Broad: Ranworth, 6; Hickling, 5 and Ormesby, 8. Nov. records (common/Arctic) from Cley (4th and 29th), Holme (9th), Wells (3rd) and Yarmouth (9th).

218 Arctic Tern: North: 2 nests at Scolt, but not recorded breeding elsewhere.

219 Roseate Tern: North: None bred, but 1-2 between Scolt and Blakeney Point May 13th-Sept. 20th. East: Breydon, one, Sept. 13th (PRA).

222 Little Tern: Breeding records of *pairs* include: North: Holme, 18; Scolt, 50; Burnham Overy, 4; Wells, 2; Stiffkey, 2; Blakeney Point, 83 and 7 on south side of harbour. East: Scroby, 6.

223 Sandwich Tern: Numbers of pairs at breeding localities: North: Scolt, 850 and Stiffkey Binks, 250. East: Scroby: 180. Late birds at Hunstanton and Cley Nov. 2nd and another at Cley on remarkable date of Dec. 1st.

226 Little Auk: North: Cley, one, Dec. 19th and another, oiled and dead, next day. East: Bacton, one, Jan. 11th (REAL) died and now in Norwich Castle Museum collection.

227 Guillemot: Inland: Diss, one in the town centre, Nov. 25th was later taken to the coast and released (*per* MJs).

229 Black Guillemot: North: Cley, one, Sept. 2nd.

235 Turtle Dove: Larger gatherings include 130 in Breck at Thompson, July 29th (PJG) and 120 near Holme, Sept. 6th (RCM). Single late birds at Sheringham Oct. 29th (co) and in Fens at West Walton, Nov. 1st (HPC).

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): In Yarmouth/Gorleston district at least 30 pairs during breeding season (RHH knew of 19 nests) and parties of 20 frequently seen in Southtown, St. George's Park and in South Parade districts. Two pairs in spring at Winterton, 3 pairs at Filby, a pair at Mautby and 2 pairs at Caister (PRA *et al*). At end of year 30-40 fed daily in a Yarmouth garden.

North: Continues to breed in Sheringham—Overstrand area. Monthly maxima at Broom Hill, East Runton: Jan., 60; Feb., 83; March, 60; April, 66; May, 52; June, 55; July, 74; Aug., 86; Sept., 95; Oct., 104; Nov., 142 and Dec., 130 (GRC). Wells, one pair bred and up to 12 present from Nov. 1st.

Breck: At least 3 nests at Little Cressingham and 22 birds there Sept. 10th; 2 pairs bred at Brandon and others appeared in West Harling—Bridgham area. Other breeding colonies at Hunstanton, King's Lynn, South Wootton and Downham Market (3 pairs) while 3–6 present at Taverham from mid-June. A newly-arrived bird was on Cley beach, Sept. 17th.

248 Long-eared Owl: Only one breeding record received: at Salthouse Heath. Single pairs present in spring at Kelling Heath and Ketteringham (*per* ETD). One dead on Yarmouth beach Jan. 11th (PRA). North: Autumn immigrants on Cley beach on Oct. 26th and 31st, Nov. 1st (3) and 4th (co); also one at Holme, Oct. 31st; 2 at Salthouse, Nov. 1st (MRR) and 6 at Gun Hill, Burnham Overy, on 17th (AEV). See also Light-vessel notes.

249 Short-eared Owl: No breeding records. Winter parties (including 8 at Scolt) at usual localities.

255 Swift: Norwich: evening counts over almost every district of the city July 31st resulted in a total of 1580.

256 Alpine Swift: East: Horsey beach, one, Sept. 8th (CBH). North: Cley, one, July 21st (co).

258 Kingfisher: Arctic weather throughout Jan. and Feb. caused heavy losses and kingfishers were absent from a great many localities in the summer. During early Jan. 5 regularly visited a stream at Norton Subcourse attracted by offal discarded from filleted fish (*per* EAE). A pair bred successfully at Lyng, but only other summer records from Bintry, Brinton and Selbrigg. In the Breck none reported after Feb. 23rd (when one at Stanford). From Sept. onwards coastal records from Cley, Blakeney, Stiffkey, Wells and Snettisham and inland reports from South Creake, Ringland, Lenwade and Haveringland.

261 Hoopoe: North: Saxthorpe, April 22nd (FWJ); Holme, May 9th and Blakeney Point, Sept. 11th. Breck: Lang Mere, April 21st (IH) and Santon, Aug. 18th (HPC). Wash: Hunstanton golf course, May 9th (HPC, CNA). All singles.

265 Wryneck: South: Quidenham, one calling daily May 19th–25th (PJW), but no proof of nesting. North: Total of 8 different birds occurred at Cley, Wiveton and on Blakeney Point, Aug. 19th to Sept. 10th. Also one at Holkham, Aug. 28th; one at Scolt, Sept. 1st when 2 at Holme which stayed till 5th and one on Kelling marshes on 12th.

273 Shore-Lark: North coast: A remarkable year at Cley/Salthouse where up to 8 during Jan. often feeding a mile inland on arable fields, an influx of 33 on Feb. 21st, 30 of which remained on March 2nd. Between 8 and 10 during first half of April and 5 stayed till April 29th. Autumn arrival from Oct. 26th was followed by a steady increase till end of year with 9, Nov. 2nd; 15 on 22nd; 26 on 30th; 38, Dec. 14th; 69 on 20th and 85 by 31st.

At Holme, up to 4 from Oct. 28th staying till end of Nov. when 5 at Scolt, 2 at Thornham and 2 at Wells. Wash: Hunstanton, Heacham and Snettisham, 2-3, Oct. 27th-Nov. 10th (CBC).

274 Swallow: Ten Nov. records with latest at Blakeney on 22nd, Rockland on 24th and Brundall and Wells on 28th.

276 House-Martin: Recorded at 10 localities during Nov. with latest at Whitlingham on 23rd, East Runton on 25th and Cley on 30th. Also one at Sharrington, Dec. 2nd (RFB-O).

277 Sand Martin: Very late birds at Wattlefield Nov. 10th (CBH) and at Cley, Nov. 4th-Dec. 2nd.

295 Bearded Tit: Broads area: Breeding records from Hickling/Heigham Sounds/Horsey/Marham areas (60 pairs estimated) and Waveney valley (at least 3 pairs). Wintering birds remained at Surlingham till at least April 4th. Other Yare valley records include up to 15 at Buckenham/Cantley, Jan.-Feb., with one at Buckenham Dec. 23rd, 6 at Berney Jan. 15th and 7-8 at Hardley in early Jan. Breck: Cockley Cley, one, Nov. 17th; Thompson Water, 2, Dec. 22nd and Mickle Mere, 2, Dec. 24th-27th.

North: Cley, 6 pairs survived to breed successfully. Brancaster, 8-9, Feb. 9th. Holme, 2, March 10th; 3, Oct. 20th; 9 on 21st and 2, Dec. 24th.

300 Black-bellied Dipper (*Cinclus c. cinclus*): Aylsham water-mill, one, Feb. 9th-23rd (DRA *et al*).

302 Fieldfare: 12 late birds at Glandford and 7 at Wiveton during first week of May. 20 were at Weybourne as early as Aug. 29th with singles at Scolt Sept. 1st and Holkham on 2nd.

304 Redwing: Holme, one on remarkable date of June 5th.

307 Ring Ouzel: North (Holme-West Runton): spring passage of 1-5 birds on 15 dates between March 25th and May 9th with a straggler at Holme June 5th. In autumn 1-6 on 13 dates between Sept. 20th and Nov. 16th. East: Horsey, singles April 19th/20th and May 9th (GC, DG); Yarmouth, male, May 3rd (PRA).

311 Wheatear: Early birds at Hilgay Fen March 8th and at Sheringham and on Ouse washes on 10th. A very late one at Blakeney, Dec. 4th (HH).

317 Stonechat: Breck: Pair nested Brettenham Heath (GJ). No other breeding records received. Autumn/winter records from Winterton, Cromer, Sandringham and Dereham and one at Salthouse Heath, May 12th.

318 Whinchat: North: Wiveton Downs, pair bred successfully (HH). No other breeding records reported.

320 Redstart: *Breeding season* records from Swanton Novers and Melton Constable (JF), Holt Hall, Felbrigg, Bayfield, Letheringsett and Glandford.

321 Black Redstart: Norwich: Male singing in city centre from May 2nd, pair present by 12th and a nest containing 4 young found by New Mills May 31st. This was later interfered with and the young disappeared. Yarmouth: A pair nested and laid 5 eggs but these failed to hatch. 2 old nests each containing single eggs were also found in the same ruined building. Male still present Aug. 5th.

Breck: Male in ruined cottage at Stanford, May 23rd-26th (GJ). Usual passage records including 2 in observer's garden at West Runton, Oct. 20th (H. HEMS).

324 Bluethroat: North: Blakeney area, 3, Sept. 4th-16th; Holkham, one, Sept. 8th (RPB-O). East: Horsey, male of the Scandinavian red-spotted race May 24th (GC *et al*).

340 Icterine Warbler: North: Holme, one ringed June 3rd stayed till 4th.

344 Barred Warbler: North: A total of 7 immatures at Cley, Salthouse and Blakeney Point Aug. 30th to Sept. 11th including one at Blakeney, Nov. 2nd (CO); also single immature at Blakeney Sept. 4th-16th (HH). Holme, 1-2, Sept. 1st and one on 11th. Burnham dunes, one, Sept. 8th (RPB-O).

357 Wood-Warbler: North: Holme, one ringed June 2nd remained till 4th. Pair feeding young at Selbrigg in July—the only breeding record (RPB-O).

359 Arctic Warbler: North: Snipe's marsh, Cley, one in an osier bed, Oct. 20th (PDK, RAR *et al*).

360 Yellow-browed Warbler: North: Holme, one ringed Oct. 20th stayed till 22nd. Wells/Holkham, one, Nov. 3rd (HR). Full details received. Ten previous county records.

361 Pallas's Warbler: North: Holme, one ringed Oct. 27th stayed till 30th. The third county record.

365 Firecrest: North: Holme, one, June 8th-12th.

370 Red-breasted Flycatcher: North: A remarkable autumn with a total of 6 at Cley and Blakeney Point Sept. 11th, 12th, 19th and

21st and Oct. 26th; this includes 2 together at Walsey Hills Sept. 21st (co). At Blakeney singly Sept. 4th-12th and 20th (HH), at Scolt, one, Sept. 18th-20th (RC) and at West Runton, two, Oct. 20th (FF). Inland: West Acre, one, Aug. 29th (*per* RAR).

379 Water-Pipit (*A.s. spinoletta*): North: Cley, singly Jan. 22nd and Nov. 28th.

381 Grey Wagtail: Breeding records from Briston and Thornage (RPB-o). Additional 1962 record: Nest with 4 eggs at Letheringsett, June 9th (EJC, WRI).

382 Blue-headed Wagtail (*M.f. flava*): North: Cley, single males, April 16th, 20th and 29th/30th. Blakeney, male, May 6th (HH).

383 Waxwing: A single record at beginning of year when 3 at Glandford, Jan. 19th. A large influx began Nov. 2nd and between then and end of year records from Gorleston, Yarmouth, Cromer, West Runton, Sheringham, Weybourne, Cley, Wells, Holme, Snettisham, King's Lynn, West Walton, Cranworth, Weeting, Gooderstone, Ickburgh, Stanford, Wheatfen, Claxton, Rockland, Strumpshaw, Ludham, Hickling, Thorpe-next-Norwich, Norwich, Sprowston and Corpusty.

Most spectacular numbers at Weybourne where 10 which arrived Nov. 3rd had increased to 75 by 9th and to 100 on 11th; this number dropped to 10 on 17th. Also notable were 27 at Yarmouth, 14 on Mousehold, Norwich, 31 at Rockland and up to 9 in Editor's garden, Thorpe-next-Norwich, Dec. 3rd till end of year.

384 Great Grey Shrike: North: Salthouse Heath, wintering till April 14th and recorded Oct. 16th. Blakeney, till Jan. 5th (HH). Felbrigg, Jan. 18th, Stiffkey, March 17th and Sculthorpe on 31st. Cley beach, Oct. 8th. Holme, wintering till April 12th, recorded Sept. 21st and from Oct. 16th till end of year.

West: Roydon, April 21st (CBC). Breck: Gooderstone Warren, Nov. 11th (CRK). Broad: Wheatfen, March 20th (EAE) and Horsey, March 27th and Oct. 31st to Nov. 2nd (GC, DG). Central: Kirby Bedon, Jan. 8th (EAE), Thorpe-next-Norwich, March 6th (*per* JFWB) and Horsford, Nov. 15th (RPB-o). East: Winterton, Sept. 20th (GRS).

388 Red-backed Shrike: Breeding season distribution: North coast: Total of 12 pairs at 7 localities. Breck: Recorded at 6 sites. Broad: Successful breeding at one site.

391 Hawfinch: Records from Cley, Salthouse Heath, Weybourne, Wiveton, Blakeney, West Runton, Holkham, Thetford, Watton, Cranworth, Beetley, Costessey, Calthorpe Broad, Horsey and Gorleston.

394 Siskin: Outstanding numbers in Breck where several hundreds at Didlington March 3rd (WJ) and 250–300 at Stanford, Jan.–Feb. (GJ) and summer records from St. Helen's Well and Two Mile Bottom.

397 Redpoll: Continues to increase as local breeding species and appears to have regained its status as described in *Birds of Norfolk* (1930).

A spectacular influx of redpolls arrived on coast Oct. 28th when at least 500 were estimated to be arriving between the Marrams and Cley beach road. Considerable numbers remained in the area until Nov. 10th appearing paler, sandier and smarter looking than native lesser redpolls though differing little in size. The impression was of miniature editions of the Greenland race *rostrata* and this was further enhanced by the clear-cut blackish striping on flanks and rich, sandy buff throat and fore-breast (RAR).

401 Bullfinch: Continues to increase and flocks of 40 at Holkham and Watton with 50 on Kelling Heath. At Blakeney, Jan. 25th, remarkable number feeding in a carrot field and 49 picked up dead next day (HH).

404 Crossbill: North: 18 at Holkham, 6 at Blakeney and others on Salhouse Heath on March 3rd, when a pair watched feeding young at High Kelling. At the end of April 30 in Upper Sheringham woods. 24 headed west at West Runton July 10th and one passed west at Cley on 20th and there were 13 at Wells Aug. 2nd with up to 12 tired and hungry birds in Walsey Hills between 3rd and 7th licking greenfly off the foliage; others were eating thistle seeds on Cley marshes. One was on the cliff-top at West Runton Aug. 4th.

Between Aug. 16th–21st small parties flying west, east and south (in from sea) at Cley and others were at Holkham. Heaviest influx took place Aug. 28th when 30 flew south from Cley beach and 40 were at West Runton. 10 on Salhouse Heath Aug. 29th–Sept. 4th were eating seeds from rowan berries. Small numbers were still in Kelling pine-woods at the end of the year.

Other records (apart from Brecks where largest party reported was 26) included 30 at Ridlington Common June 16th and up to 15 at Horsford April 8th–28th when also noted at Sandringham.

408 Brambling: A male in full song at Ring Mere, April 23rd (NL); another male singing at Melton Constable June 17th (JF) was tape-recorded by RAR.

413 Red-headed Bunting: North: Scolt, male in the ternery, May 22nd (RC). Ormesby water-works, female June 27th (EGS) found dead next day and now in collection at Norwich Castle Museum. See 1960 Report, p. 246.

416 Ortolan Bunting: North: Blakeney Point, 1–2 between Aug. 28th and 30th and one there Sept. 10th (CO). Morston, male, Sept. 16th (HH).

422 Lapland Bunting: North coast: Scarcer than in recent years and no observations for early months although a male in breeding plumage at Weybourne May 1st (RPB-O). First autumn record Sept. 15th (Cley). East: Breydon area, up to 7 on Halvergate marshes till Feb. 25th; first in autumn Sept. 22nd and 17 by end of year.

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The following, not mentioned in the Classified Notes, were also recorded in 1963 (*breeding species in italics*): Black-throated Diver, Red-throated Diver, *Great Crested Grebe*, *Little Grebe*, Gannet, Cormorant, *Mallard*, *Teal*, *Gadwall*, Pintail, *Shoveler*, Golden-eye, Grey lag Goose, *Canada Goose*, *Mute Swan*, *Kestrel*, *Red-legged Partridge*, *Partridge*, *Pheasant*, *Water-rail*, *Moorhen*, Coot, *Lapwing*, *Ringed Plover*, Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Turnstone, *Common Snipe*, Jack Snipe, *Woodcock*, Green Sandpiper, Wood-Sandpiper, *Redshank*, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Knot, Little Stint, Dunlin, Curlew-Sandpiper, Sanderling, Ruff, *Stone-Curlew*, Greater Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring-Gull, Common Gull, Razorbill, Puffin, *Stock-Dove*, *Wood-Pigeon*, Cuckoo, *Barn-Owl*, *Little Owl*, *Tawny Owl*, *Nightjar*, *Green Woodpecker*, *Greater Spotted Woodpecker*, *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*, *Woodlark*, *Skylark*, *Carrion-Crow*, Hooded Crow, *Rook*, *Jackdaw*, *Magpie*, *Jay*, *Great Tit*, *Blue Tit*, *Coal-Tit*, *Marsh-Tit*, *Willow-Tit*, *Long-tailed Tit*, *Nuthatch*, *Tree-creeper*, *Wren*, *Mistle-Thrush*, *Song-Thrush*, *Blackbird*, *Nightingale*, *Robin*, *Grasshopper-Warbler*, *Reed-Warbler*, *Sedge-Warbler*, *Blackcap*, *Garden-Warbler*, *White-throat*, *Lesser Whitethroat*, *Willow-Warbler*, *Chiffchaff*, *Goldcrest*, *Spotted Flycatcher*, *Pied Flycatcher*, *Hedge-Sparrow*, *Meadow-Pipit*, *Tree-Pipit*, *Rock-Pipit*, *Pied Wagtail*, *White Wagtail*, *Yellow Wagtail*, *Starling*, *Greenfinch*, *Goldfinch*, *Linnet*, *Twite*, *Chaffinch*, *Yellowhammer*, *Corn-Bunting* and *Reed-Bunting*.

Selected Ringing Recoveries

(Notified in 1963)

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
Cormorant	Puffin Is. (Anglesey). 30.6.62.	Scolt. 1.1.63.
Mallard	How Hill. 14.2.56.	Hojer (Jutland) Denmark June 1961.
Mallard	How Hill. 27.2.56.	Hedensted (Jutland) Denmark. 15.8.63.
Mallard	How Hill. 4.1.62.	Near Malbork (Gdansk), Poland. 30.9.63.
Mallard (2 birds)	How Hill. 5.1.62.	Bellinge, Tommerup (Fyn), Denmark. 23.10.63 and Marais de Basse Seine (Seine Maritime), France. Jan. 1963.
Mallard	How Hill. 7.1.62.	Riether Werder, near Rieth (Mecklenburg), Germany. 1.9.63.
Mallard	How Hill. 17.1.63.	Randvere, Kingissepa (Saaremaa), Estonian S.S.R. 14.10.63.
Mallard	How Hill. 19.1.63.	Naarden (Noord Holland), Netherlands. 17.8.63 where released and shot Presadded, Bodedern, Anglesey. Sept. 1963.
Mallard	Nakskov, Denmark. 22.8.62.	Reedham. 7.1.63.
Teal	Piaam (Friesland), Netherlands and released at Osteldijk, Flevoland, IJsselmeer. 6.9.60.	Bure marshes near Yarmouth. Nov. 1962.
Wigeon	Wisbech S.F. 1.4.61.	Haafavesi, Finland. 7.10.62.
Pintail	Texel, Netherlands. 17.1.62.	Gooderstone. 26.1.63.
Pochard	Okiski Reserve (Ryazan), U.S.S.R. 30.8.61.	East Somerton. 23.1.62.
Sheld-Duck	Mellum, North Sea, Germany. 15.8.61.	Scolt Head. 23.12.61.
Brent Goose	Jordsand, Hjerpsted (Jutland) Denmark. 22.4.62	Blakeney Harbour. 23.1.63
Mute Swan	Fairburn, Castleford, Yorks. 29.12.61 (as juv.).	Holme. 9.3.63.
Hen-Harrier	Brasschaat (Antwerp), Belgium. 11.11.61.	Wretham. 5.2.62.
Moorhen	Reeuwijk (Zuid Holland), Netherlands. 5.8.61.	Whissington. 18.11.61.
Ringed Plover	Nordre Ronner, Kattegat, Denmark. 9.6.57.	Near Sheringham. 2.2.58.
Ringed Plover	Wisbech S.F. 21.8.58.	Severomorsk (Murmansk), U.S.S.R. 15.7.62.
Ringed Plover	Heligoland, Germany. 7.6.56 and 13.7.61.	Scolt. 19.5.63.
Snipe	Wisbech S.F. 12.8.61.	Oporto, Portugal. 22.12.61.
Snipe	Wisbech S.F. 13.8.61.	Montour de Bretagne, France. 22.12.61.
Snipe	Wisbech S.F. 23.8.61.	Ribadesella, Spain. 29.11.62.
Snipe	Wisbech S.F. 13.10.62.	Behobie (Basses Pyrenees), France. 31.12.62.
Curlew	Tjock, Finland. 14.6.61 (as young).	North Wootton. 31.1.62.

Curlew	Near Kristinestad, Finland. 2.6.61 (as young).	North Wootton. Dec. 1962.
Redshank	Scolt. 26.6.61.	Fouesnant (Finistere), France. Jan. 1963.
Knot	Tory Island. 9.9.60.	Wells. 27.5.62.
Dunlin	Terrington. 18.8.59.	Plouneour, Fin, France. 31.7.62.
Dunlin	Gt. Ainov Isles, U.S.S.R. 10.6.61.	Terrington. 17.8.62.
Dunlin	Ottenby, Sweden. 4.8.62.	Terrington. 16.8.62.
Dunlin	Revtangen, Norway. 18.9.60.	Terrington. 17.8.62.
Dunlin	Amager, near Copenhagen, Denmark. 6.8.62.	Brancaster. 1.2.63.
Dunlin	Falsterbo (Skane), Sweden. 28.7.60.	Terrington. 16.8.62.
Dunlin	Torhamn (Blekinge), Sweden. 18.8.62.	Caister-on-Sea. 26.1.63.
Dunlin	Amager, Copenhagen, Denmark. 20.9.62 (as juvenile).	Breydon. 26.1.63.
Dunlin	Ottenby (Oland), Sweden. 4.8.62.	Breydon. 23.1.63.
Ruff	Wisbech S.F. 5.9.60.	Manfredonia (Foggia) Italy. 25.3.62.
Ruff	Wisbech S.F. 23.8.61.	San Alberto (Ferrara), Italy. 7.4.62.
Ruff	Wisbech S.F. 14.10.61.	St. Vigor (Seine-Maritime), France. 14.7.62.
Common Gull	Aspskar, off Lovisa (Uusimaa), Finland. 24.6.62 (as young).	Breydon. 9.2.63.
Common Gull	Kaapsalu, Estonian S.S.R. 12.6.62 (as young).	Breydon. 27.4.63.
Common Gull	Brand, Goteburg Archipelago. 3.7.62 (as young).	Breydon. 24.11.63.
Black-headed Gull	Pohtola, Teisko (Hame), Finland. 25.6.61 (as young).	Hunstanton. 20.1.63.
Black-headed Gull	Rade (Ostfold), Norway. 3.6.61.	Gooderstone. 8.2.63.
Black-headed Gull	Alderfen Broad. 14.6.57 (as young).	Plymstock, Devon (released again). 16.1.63.
Black-headed Gull	Adholm, Espoo (Uusimaa), Finland. 10.6.62 (as young).	Docking (killed by ploughing). 20.11.63.
Black-headed Gull	Matsalu, Estonian S.S.R. 28.6.62 (as young).	Scoulton. 8.2.63.
Black-headed Gull	Lake Emure, Latvian S.S.R. 29.5.60.	Breydon. 5.1.63.
Black-headed Gull	Aby gard, Orebro (Närke), Sweden. 12.10.62 (as young).	Norwich. 6.3.63.
Black-headed Gull	Babite Lake, Latvian S.S.R. 9.6.61 (as young).	Norwich, where released. 7.12.62.
Common Tern	Scolt. 2.7.63 (as young).	Infiesto (Oviedo), Spain. 13.9.63.
Common Tern	Scolt. 7.7.63 (as young).	La Coruna, Spain. 14.9.63.
Sandwich Tern	Farne Isles. 13.7.63.	Caught and released on Cross Sands light-vessel. 20.8.63.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt. 21.6.62 (as young).	Near St. Louis, Senegal. 17.1.63.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt. 24.6.63. (as young).	Prestonpans, E. Lothian. 8.8.63.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt. 21.6.62 (as young).	Porto Alexandre (Mocamedes), Angola. 6.7.63.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt. 21.6.62 (as young).	Bortianor, 14 miles from Accra, Ghana. 9.9.63.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt. 29.6.62.	Winneba, Ghana. 4.1.63.
Sandwich Tern	Scroby Sands. 14.7.59 (as young).	Seasalter, Whitstable, Kent 17.6.63.

Sandwich Tern	Stiffkey. 16.6.62 (as young).	Benguela, Angola, W. Africa. 1963.
Guillemot	Farne Isles. 24.6.61 (as young).	Happisburgh. 30.12.62.
Puffin	Near Luroy (Nordland), Norway between 1952-57.	Sheringham. 25.2.62 (inscription almost completely worn away).
Swallow	De Blankaart, Woumen (West Flanders), Belgium. 14.5.63.	Swardeston. 20.5.63.
Sand Martin	Wolferton. 9.6.60 (re-trapped there 23.7.61).	St. Philbert (Loire-Atlantique), France. 27.4.62.
Long-tailed Tit	E. Tilbury, Essex. 5.11.61. <i>The longest movement so far recorded for this species.</i>	Thorpe-next-Norwich. 9.3.63. Re-trapped there 4.11.63.
Song-Thrush	Scolt. 19.4.62.	Greville-Hague, near Beaumont-Hague (Manche), France. 25.1.63.
Blackbird	Wangeroog, E. Frisian Isles, Germany. 5.4.60.	Wendling, E. Dereham. 22.2.63.
Blackbird	Cley. 10.10.59.	Skibby, Sjaelland, Denmark. Dec. 1963.
Reed-Warbler	Cley. 16.6.62 (as young).	Mealhada, Beira, Portugal. 17.9.63.
Whitethroat	Cley. 4.5.59.	Nested where ringed, 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1963.
Willow-Warbler	Stibbard. 10.6.62.	Cantanhede (Beira Litoral), Portugal. 4.9.62.
Chiffchaff	Holme. 3.8.63.	Re-trapped Holme. 2.11.63.
Starling	Mattila, Saaksmaki (Hame), Finland. 24.5.62 (as young).	Cley. 16.2.63.
Starling	Vilsandi (Saaremaa), Estonian S.S.R. 30.5.62.	Outer Dowsing light-vessel. 23.10.62.
Starling	Saaksmaki, Finland 2.6.61.	Near Dereham. Jan. 1962.
Starling	Wassenaar, Zuid, Netherlands. 23.10.59	Aylmerton. 3.1.63.
Goldfinch (2 birds)	Wisbech S.F. 12.8.61.	Moorslede, Belgium. 4.10.61 and Tolavan (Caceres), Spain. 5.1.62.
Linnet	Armentieres (Nord), France. 13.3.62.	Winterton. 26.7.62.
Lesser Redpoll	Salthouse. 10.7.59.	Comines, W. Flanders, Belgium. 10.10.63.
Chaffinch	Olsene (East Flanders), Belgium. 10.10.60.	Denver. 18.2.62.
Reed Bunting	Benacre, Suffolk. 4.9.59.	Scolt. 19.1.62.

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Norfolk Mammal Report

1963

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present to members the tenth annual report on Norfolk mammals. The long winter brought severe hardship to small mammals, but there is now sufficient evidence to show that most species came through the hard weather remarkably well. Their survival may indeed have been safeguarded, since their movement beneath the snow was not easily detected by predators. Breeding continued without hindrance and voles, for example, built up substantially increased populations.

The larger mammals were compelled to forage more widely for food. Many of the carnivores found an unusual source of supply in the carcasses of dead or dying birds. Foxes certainly benefited in this way, and they are now thought to be more numerous than for many years. Stoats also had a more successful year and their status improved. The coypu, however, suffered intensely from the prolonged cold, and the inclement weather materially aided the Coypu Extermination Campaign, which during this year has almost completely reduced the population in western and mid-Norfolk. The insectivores appear to have suffered reduction also, though not necessarily as a consequence of weather or control. Shrews and hedgehogs are reported in considerably decreased numbers by many observers. The mole, on the other hand, has made a remarkable increase. This may be due to difficulties in control during the earlier part of the year. Almost without exception reports speak of intense burrowing activities on a scale not known for many years. Rats have continued their increase which has been going on for several years. It is related to a high breeding rate in a wet summer coupled with the relative ease in obtaining food from sugar beet hales, corpses of woodpigeons and coypus, and rubbish on estuary shores.

Red and fallow deer survived the winter remarkably well. Their wanderings were more noticeable, sometimes long distances from their normal haunts. They managed to find a variety of evergreen food, and those shot later in the year were usually in good condition. Roe deer were less successful, and quite a number were found dead in Forestry Commission woodlands. Their wanderings also made them much more vulnerable on roads. A far greater number was killed by road traffic than ever before. On the other hand, the very remarkable reduction in road casualties among hedgehogs suggests that the peak population that must have been reached in the preceding four or five years has now declined. How far it can

be attributed to winter conditions entirely is not easy to decide, but it is significant that hedgehogs were conspicuously absent as corpses on roads from April onwards.

It should be noted that our observers are drawn from every part of the county. When it is found that their reports agree strikingly with regard to the abundance or scarcity of a species, a reasonably reliable conclusion can be drawn as to the status of that species. The classified notes are a synthesis of these reports. In general it is impossible to give any numerical estimate, but trapping records are helpful in providing a fairly accurate idea of the relative abundance of the smaller mammals.

We thank all who contribute regularly to this report, and welcome new contributors. We are grateful to H. A. Hems for valuable help with photographs.

Classified Notes

INSECTIVORA

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

With the possible exception of the coastal belt from Wells to Cromer and the extreme south-east of the county around Bungay, the trend in decline of population which commenced in 1961 has continued almost disastrously. One estimate is that the general reduction is at least 50 per cent. Those who make regular counts of road casualties report that it became an unusual thing to encounter a dead hedgehog, and no longer was it the animal most frequently killed.

Four small specimens were seen on the coast road between Blakeney and Wells on March 19th. They had probably been encouraged to emerge prematurely in the first mild spell of the year and may have been progeny born in the delayed autumn of 1962 (EAE). The heaviest mortality in north Norfolk was, however, in October, this single month accounting for 2½ times as many deaths as the next most fatal month, June (RPB-o). Many of these animals were less than three months old, suggesting that the peak breeding period is in August and September. A family—a female and four young, was found under a hen house at Brinton in early March.

Hedgehogs suffer very severely from the control imposed by gamekeepers, and it is surprising that they succeed in holding their own as they do, particularly as in many places toxic sprays must have reduced or contaminated their food supplies.

At Ketteringham, for example, the following figures show the numbers killed annually over five years:—

1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
58	64	30	38	19

It may be significant that among those killed in 1962, only two were females (ETD).

This year the keeper at Oxburgh Hall killed about 100 on the estate of 500 acres (ETD), while at Elveden on the south-western border, the comparative figures are

1960	1961	1962	1963	
176	176	255	332	(VAH).

Eggs eaten by hedgehogs are said to appear as if crushed in the hand.

It is hardly surprising that with such heavy toll being levied in the country, hedgehogs have found a precarious yet apparently safer sanctuary within the bounds of Norwich. One observer records that they are commonly seen in St. Alban's Churchyard (ECH).

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus*)

This species appears to have survived the hard winter only in relatively small numbers. It now seems to be scarce in many places, though at Cley individuals are often heard squeaking in the long grass on East bank, and they are common as road casualties (RAR). Records have come from Surlingham (EAE) where one was seen feeding in reed litter under the snow at night in early February, from the Bungay area (ws), Great Snoring (FRW), Kimberley (LJH), Kelling (RCT), Mousehold Heath (JG) and Upper Stoke (JB).

During the whole of December, 2 were taken at Bawdeswell in a Longworth-type trap, using cheese as bait (RAS). None was taken in traps at Attlebridge, but road casualties were noted there and at Taverham (MES). They are rare or absent at Thetford Heath (JMS). They also appear to be scarce in most woods around Holt, where a study of the contents of Owl pellets has revealed a very low percentage indeed of shrew bones. Two were, however, picked up in the woodlands at Gresham's School in October (GS).

Pigmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

The owl pellet analysis referred to above produced no remains of pigmy shrew (GS). 4 were trapped at Bawdeswell in December (RAS). This species does occur at Thetford Heath and also at Cavenham Heath (JMS). We know relatively little about the general distribution in the county.

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens bicolor*)

When the marshes were frozen in January one was taken in a mousetrap in an apple store at Surlingham (EAE). Two records of dead specimens come from Cley (RAR) and one from near the source of the Waveney at Lopham Fen (JMS). One was also watched for several minutes in a stream at Brinton (RPB-O) another in the Little Ouse, two miles N.W. of Thetford (JMS) and one in a dyke at Whitlingham (JB) (JG). Barn Owl pellets collected at Brinton contained the remains of three (GS).



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H. A. Hems

Remarkable numbers of Brown Rats appeared during 1963. They did not confine their activities to crops and stacks, but foraged on the shore and in reed-beds. At one time the remains of 63 rats were noted along the five mile stretch of road between Yarmouth and Stracey Arms. An albino was reported at North Creak.



H. A. Hems

Water Voles are fairly common in Norfolk rivers, lakes and Broads and suffered little from the hard winter.

Copyright

Our knowledge of the distribution of the Water shrew is increasing. Wherever water-cress beds exist this species may be hoped for.

Mole (*Talpa europaea*)

Almost without exception, observers comment upon the quite phenomenal increase in the mole population. There was some evidence of this in 1962, and it continued almost unabated throughout 1963. Despite frozen soil, fresh workings were noted at Great Moulton, at Ellingham, Gunton, Attleborough, Bingham, Little Dunham and very many other places. River meadows and marshy areas, even reed beds, were much frequented. Throughout hard frosts, fresh hillocks were thrown up on the grazing marshes of river valleys.

Three fortresses were constructed in a field at Bawdeswell in January where molehills were shown by actual count to be about 25 to the acre (RAS). In the permanent pastures on either side of Attleborough, the molehills were so numerous as to call for special comment (PB).

Sudden large-scale movements noted in north Norfolk last year were more apparent than ever in the autumn. They took the form of a mass evacuation from low-lying damp land as it became waterlogged in November, an invasion of the drier uplands and woodlands, and a return to the water meadows again the following February.

Some explanation of the increase in mole populations may be found in the long-delayed control due to the prolonged winter. A succession of damp summers may also have produced abundant earthworms. It is also noticeable that in many places the old mole-catchers are no longer employed (ATP). Even where trapping and poisoning have been systematically used, the number of moles remains unusually large.

Colour variations have again been reported. A sandy-cream variety was taken at Stanhoe (EDP); an orange-coloured one at Costessey in late May (NCM), and several with orange markings on chest and abdomen were caught in the Bawdeswell area (RAS). One very large one measured 15.5 cm. from nose to tail tip.

A light buff specimen was caught in Swanton Novers churchyard, the third in three years, and a silver-grey variety was seen above ground in Bodham woods (RPB-O).

CHIROPTERA

This year has not been a very productive one for records of bats. Apart from churches there are relatively few places where

bats can find shelter. The Bat Unit did, however, investigate an underground emplacement in the cliffs at Happisburgh and had some success. Many more members are needed to devote a little time to the study of bats; a scheme for preparing distribution maps of bats has just been launched by the Mammal Society of the British Isles.

The Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) seems to have maintained its status throughout the cold period, being observed in daylight on three occasions during the bitter weather of January and February (RPB-O). The first evening flight was observed at Attlebridge on March 7th and this species was regularly noted until October (MES). It is common in Cley village, where there are records of evening flight until December (RAR).

Nearly 200 were counted in Swannington Church on June 21st, and over 80 on August 22nd. These are higher figures than those of last year (MES). A large colony (number unspecified) was recorded at Great Walsingham (ERR). During August netting experiments over the River Wensum yielded 12 and 29, and in September totals of 2, 4 and 20 (MES). Small numbers were also recorded at Great Moulton (HR), Caister (DAJB), and Wheatfen (EAE). At Corpusty it is said to be very common (JL).

At Happisburgh, the Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*) was discovered, together with Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentoni*) and Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*). The emplacement there appears to be a winter roost only (RMB) (MJW). Long-eared bats were also observed in Snettisham and Heacham churches and at Holme (PRC). A few were reported at Caister (DAJB), and for some unaccountable reason one was found swimming in the boat dyke at Rockland Broad. Since this species does not normally hunt over water it appears to have been the victim of some misfortune (EAE).

Daubenton's Bat was identified again in the chalk caves at Eaton (CNS) where a few still roost in winter. One was caught at Gresham's school in a butterfly net where it was taking moths from the surface of an illuminated sheet set up by entomologists (Gs).

Natterer's Bat was observed regularly over Hempstead Mill and Selbrigg ponds as well as along the River Glaven at Hunworth (RPB-O).

The Noctule Bat (*Nyctalus noctula*) is the only other species to have been noted and the general impression from those sending in reports is that numbers seem to have declined. Only five, compared with two dozen seen last year, were recorded at Attlebridge (MES). They are in reduced numbers in north Norfolk (RPB-O) and although a few can be seen regularly over Cley Marsh in summer, no known roost exists (RAR). The report from Wheatfen also mentions the scarcity of the species (EAE). 3-4 were observed hawking with swallows over Cantley Reservoir (MJS).

LAGOMORPHA

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

It certainly appears that the hopes expressed by some that myxomatosis would be the means of complete extermination of the rabbit are not to be fulfilled. Considerable increases are taking place almost everywhere, although inroads on the rising population continue to be made. Rabbit Clearance Societies virtually wiped out the colonies that remained after myxomatosis, but pockets of apparently immune individuals have successfully re-populated many areas and control has failed to cope with the problem. The Society at Acle, for example, cleared 30,000 rabbits since its inception. In the first three months of 1963 it accounts for 3,800. Yet the rabbit is still holding its own (EDP). One explanation of this comes from north Norfolk, where in June the litters were phenomenally large. Normally litters of four to five are to be expected. Three dug out at Wells had nine each, and none during any part of the year was known to have been less than seven. This is in accordance with the research carried out several years ago on the resorption of embryos. Only 40 per cent of litters conceived are ever born. In times of stress, however, gland systems cease to control this, and makes possible an upsurge of population which undoubtedly restores the original population status.

One sign of the "return of the rabbit" is the increasing number of road fatalities. Many reports refer to outbreaks of myxomatosis in the autumn, when populations built-up during the summer were often severely reduced. The exact cause of the autumnal epidemics is not clear but may possibly be related to an increase in burrowing at the return of night frosts and a more rapid dispersal of the virus-carrying flea.

Reports on the rabbit are far too numerous to be given individual reference, but it is significant that 1963 records of the species far outnumber those of any other Norfolk mammal. Two observers refer to a very noticeable shortening of body in their area (Great Moulton—HR), (Ellingham—HBLs). Two white rabbits, a rare variety in Breckland, were seen at Weeting (JMS) and another at Binham (RRS). A black specimen was reported at Holme Bird Observatory (PRC).

Hare (*Lepus europaeus occidentalis*)

The decline in numbers noted in 1962 in many areas appears to have become noticeable in an increasing number of places. This does not seem attributable to the severe winter, for hares in general came through very successfully. Considerable numbers sought the shelter of woodlands and bark of young trees was eaten at drift level (HR).

Road casualties in the Watton area fell from 78 in 1962 to 26 in 1963 (GJ). At a shoot at Basham 490 fell to the guns compared with 700 last year (FRW). Shooting records from Merton show a reduction from 123 to 53 in the corresponding periods (RDG). A fairly large population, however, has built up in Breckland, where there is less control and hares still remain more common than rabbits (JMS). The Elveden control figures for 1962 are 3,051; and for 1963, 3,754 (VAH).

Increases were noted at Breydon Marshes (RHH), and at Ellingham (HBLs), while numbers are said to be about the same at Attlebridge (MES). About half the road casualties here were young animals. At least twenty reports speak of reduced numbers, though some still refer to the fact that hares remain plentiful and that control is essential.

A white hare (not a true albino since it lacked pink eyes) was caught by a dog after a mile and a half chase at Middle Drove, Marshland St. James in early October (EDP). An unusual grey coloured specimen with dark flanks was shot at Downland Farm, Wymondham (HFA).

RODENTIA

Bank Vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*)

This is undoubtedly a common Norfolk mammal, the presence of which is frequently unsuspected. It is quite frequently an inhabitant of garden shrubberies where it feeds on bulbs and crocus corms. Ten break-back traps put down each night over a period of a week in early April at the edge of a crocus bed took 22 small mammals. Of these 14 were bank voles (RPB-O).

Wherever they have been watched for or trapped they are plentiful. At Attlebridge many were caught in hedge and grassland and even alongside river banks. They were also taken at Taverham and Drayton (MES). 27 were caught in an apple store between mid-October and December 2nd at Watton (GJ). Many were seen in the garden, wood, marshes and riverside at Wheatfen (EAE).

Field Vole (*Microtus agrestis*)

Winter conditions made little difference to the activities of this species and indeed gave its status a boost since its survival beneath snow was safeguarded. Rough meadows almost everywhere showed the dead grass under the melted snow to be honeycombed with runs. Many in the river valleys including the Yare came to higher ground during the thaw. In the coastal marshes they did not do so well and short-eared owls have been scarce (RAR).

Inland, Barn Owl pellets showed a very high proportion of Field Vole remains. A mild autumn encouraged a late breeding season. Normally breeding ends in September, but reed cutters at

Surlingham on December 10th found two newly born young. They were both dead, killed by the frost of the preceding night (EAE).

Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius amphibius*)

The general impression given by observers is that the status of the Water Vole is improving. It certainly suffered little from the hard winter. Although never really numerous, in some areas it can be described as common. This is true for the River Bure above Corpusty (JL), and the coastal marshes and brackish dykes at Cley (RAR). It was frequently seen in the River Wensum at Attlebridge (MES).

Many of the dark variety occur at Bawdeswell (RAS). One was seen in the mill pond at Gressenhall (SCP) and one in Kelling beck (RCT). The proportion of black to brown is thought to have become lower in north Norfolk (RPB-O).

Long-tailed Field Mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

As with the voles, the severe winter appears to have had little effect on the numbers of field mice, and may indeed have helped a build-up, since for long periods these small mammals moved about under a protective blanket of snow safe from predators. They do, however, use the surface during foraging, and regularly used tracks were found leading to burrows in Lynford Forest (FJTP).

Apodemus is, however, not as common as are the voles, if trapping experiments are any guide. None was taken at Attlebridge (MES). A few were taken at Bawdeswell (RAS) and Watton (GJ). They were commonly seen at Ellingham (HBLs), Wheatfen (EAE) and Binham (JMS), and investigations of owl pellets showed that the proportion of remains in Barn and Tawny Owl pellets was very high. The conclusion was reached that it was the commonest mammal taken by these predators (Gs). A sudden invasion of out-houses and farm buildings occurred in January and February in many places. Forest margins and Breckland heaths, hedgerows and small woodlands, hay-stacks, railway embankments even in Norwich (ETD), and shrubberies of private gardens always yield a few.

Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*)

Rarely nowadays are nests of harvest mice found in cornfields and no records came from this source, but many were found in temporary reed stacks in late November and December (EAE). A nest was observed in a dahlia bed at Mickleborough House, Kelling (RCT), and others have been found in coarse vegetation in Walsey Hills, Cley during the past four years (RAR).

The species was absent from owl pellets in the Brinton area although about 1952 it occurred regularly. Formerly it was plentiful in this area, but only a few are reported by threshers of corn stacks during November and December in the Holt-Melton Constable area (RPB-O).

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

Local infestations occur periodically. The species does not normally occur so commonly in houses as formerly, but during cold weather it seeks shelter and becomes very noticeable as it did at Brinton where 31 were trapped in 8 days (RPB-O). Local increases were noted also at Ingham (CG), Corpusty (JL) and Cranworth (ALB). They are often associated with the presence of aviaries. 4 were taken together in a Longworth trap at Attlebridge (MES). Haystacks harbour colonies but even here their occurrence is gradually being controlled. Nests are sometimes turned up by the plough. One such nest turned up at Binham, was attacked by black-headed gulls (RRS).

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

This has been one of the worst years for rats for a long time. Increases were noticed in 1961 and 1962 but this year those responsible for pest control report that numbers are staggering. There are probably many reasons for this. Control during the hard winter was less efficient, conditions drove rats to shelter more frequently indoors and breeding increased, the bodies of coypus and woodpigeons were too often left unburied, and considerable quantities of food were put out for birds. The spread of caravan camps and broiler houses also had an effect. Farming organisations and Public Health Committees issued special instructions and a county-wide campaign was launched. This was essential in view of the damage done to crops and the danger of Weil's disease.

Rats did not confine their activities to crops and stacks, but foraged on the seashore and in reed beds. Some even took to eating the putty in newly erected window-frames at Long Stratton. The attraction appeared to be linseed oil (EAE).

A very good indicator of increasing populations has been the phenomenal increase in rats killed on the road. For example 63 were noted at one time on the 5 miles of road from Yarmouth to Stracey Arms (RHH). They were moving in vast numbers on the first cold nights in November and road casualty records then rose noticeably (MES). Another albino rat appeared, this time at North Creak (AE, NCM).

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris leucurus*)

Very many parts of the county report the presence of red squirrels, and it remains one of the most widespread of our mammals. Thetford Chase is one of the strongholds of the species in England and the estimated population there and in Swaffham Forest is 100 per 1,000 acres, yielding a total of several thousand individuals (EDP). Increases have been reported at Wheatfen (EAE), Sparham (DJS), and Garboldisham (RMC) but they are less frequent at Bawdeswell (RAS), Hethersett (HWP) and Holkham (AN). In the Breckland area they are fairly common road casualties (GJ).

The charm of the squirrel is somewhat dispelled by the information from north Norfolk that dreys containing young always appear to be infested with fleas. One containing three recently born young was so infested that no part of their naked bodies was free of bites. A young squirrel disinfested at Gunton in August carried over 150 fleas (RPB-O).

Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

For some years now there has been a likelihood of the American Grey Squirrel gaining a foothold in Norfolk, and its appearance, though but temporary, has led to a stir of activity to bring about its extermination. A good breeding season was undoubtedly responsible for an outward dispersal from the south or south-west where grey squirrels are well-established. It is known that they travel in pairs for considerable distances through hedgerows.

This is exactly what occurred. A pair was seen on Tuddenham Heath in early September, another at Chippenham Fen in the middle of the same month, and a third pair was on the Elveden estate in early October. These were identified by experienced gamekeepers and the Warden at Tuddenham Heath (JMS). 5 were also seen in a walnut tree in Chippenham village, Cambridgeshire. One was also found in a dead elm on the Fen and another in King's Forest, in west Suffolk. All these were on our boundaries.

But early in November a pair was seen by at least seven observers in Surlingham travelling from Bramerton along the hedgerows. One was shot in the wood at Wheatfen. Another sight record was made at the Rockland end of the wood in December. A further report was made from a wooded estate near Beccles. Since grey squirrels are regarded as a major agricultural and forestry pest, and since in some way they influence the occurrence of the native red squirrel, in addition to destroying the eggs of wild birds, further spread must inevitably be serious.

Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*)

Everywhere in the county the coypu population has been much reduced. The work of the East Anglian campaign and the severe winter have almost rid the countryside of a pest that threatened to become a menace. The figure for known kills is approaching 100,000, but this is probably vastly exceeded since many went unrecorded. The Ministry of Agriculture estimated that up to 90 per cent of the remaining animals succumbed to the winter. The young died through eating frozen food, but the adults eventually became frost bitten and incapable of finding food, though they managed to survive for a time by digging down to rhizomes and tree roots in the mud of tidal rivers and swampy marshlands.

With all dykes frozen from the end of December until the beginning of March the animals were cut off from their only retreat

and they fell easy prey to man and dog. In the Trust area at Cley the warden has killed over 2,600 since these animals made their first appearance there. Of these 800 were killed in the latter months of 1962 and the early months of 1963. The Ministry of Agriculture officials set traps in April and caught only 7 more. The last live coypu in Breydon marshes was seen February 20th (RHH), but a few are known to have escaped the control of the marshmen. One was shot in September, 4 in October and 2 in November.

The campaign is gradually extending the areas of clearance towards the Broads. The western half of the county and south up to a line parallel with Harleston is stated to be clear (RMN).

CARNIVORA

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

There is now no doubt that foxes are even more widespread in the county than in 1962. Around Elmham, for example, the population is said to be as great as at any time in the last fifty years (QEG). They came through the 1963 winter better than most mammals, making use of the considerable amount of carrion then available.

Since that time there have been widespread reports of raids on poultry and ornamental birds. At Hethersett Hall several valuable birds were lost (HWB). Duck farmers in the Mundford, Ickburgh and Weeting areas have had to wage continuous battle against foxes from Forestry Commission woodlands. Gamekeepers and farmers have shot far more than usual. 7 were reported from Great Moulton including a dog fox of almost 20 lb. weight and a vixen of 22 lb. weight. Two shot near Holt weighed 19 lb. and 21 lb. respectively. Rabbit Clearance Society trappers accounted for 40 in the same area (RPB-O). A vixen and three cubs were destroyed at Selbrigg in June (GH). Organised fox drives have been held, but numbers still remain high. At Guestwick, a ploughman watched three cubs playing in freshly turned furrows; up to six were seen each morning in early autumn returning to a belt of woodland in the same area (EJP).

The West Norfolk Fox Hunt has also done a good deal of control. All kills have been foxes in good condition, although one had shot pellets in its front pad (TB). At least one fox came into Norwich. It was found dead in Prince of Wales Road April 3rd (EDP).

Badger (*Meles meles*)

Our hopes of the re-establishment of the badger on a stronger footing in Norfolk received a setback this year. At least four became road casualties: a female and a male on the King's Lynn-Fakenham road 2½ miles E. of Hillington (MEFG), a female weighing 29½ lb. was picked up at Upper Sheringham October 6th (HFA)

(NCM) and a second one on the Cromer side of Holt in December (RAS). Just on the border at Elveden another was killed on the A11 (JMS).

In addition a large set was gassed in mid-Norfolk, and at least two individuals were shot for no good reason. One, at Heydon, was a female carrying young (GJ), and another met a similar death in a wood on the Gillingham estate in south-east Norfolk. Unconfirmed reports of the existence of badgers have come from places as far apart as Acle (FJTP), Kelling (RAR) and Northrepps (CRG). A definite report of a wanderer at Surlingham (EAE) may be linked with the Acle report, and the frequent occurrence of badgers in the Kelling area is probably linked with the existence of a sett in Weybourne wood, where cubs were produced this year. Holes forced through the fence in Selbrigg woods in the same area were, from the evidence of tracks and hairs, known to have been made by a badger, but no sett has been found (GM). In the Northrepps area, poison laid for foxes was probably taken by the badgers living in the sett behind Northrepps Cottage, and the tremendous workings there went out of use. Despite this, it does appear that badgers are still active in that area (FJTP).

Fortunately a few carefully safeguarded setts still remain. One of these has extended workings this year.

Representations have been made by the Society to gamekeepers and landowners, in an endeavour to provide safeguards for the remaining setts, but while pheasants appear to be the only form of life permitted in woodlands, the status of mammals remains in the balance.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Ten years ago otters were relatively common; now they are relatively rare. There has, however, been an undoubted improvement in the status of the otter recently, even though the pollution of rivers could make their survival problematical. The upper reaches of the Wensum and its tributaries, the river Glaven, the dykes and coastal marshes of north Norfolk westward to Holme, the Yare marshes and some of the Breckland meres still remain their sanctuaries.

The winter snow revealed a wider dispersal than had been suspected. Otters returned to Horsey Mere, where tracks were seen on the south side (AB). In February tracks were noticed at Stanfield Hall (RHA), near the Wensum, at Bittering (DM) and at Gressenhall (SCP). Tracks and spraints were also observed in several places along the Glaven between Hunworth and Selbrigg pond.

Otters bred among the rhododendron thickets round Hempstead Mill pond, and cubs were watched there on several occasions playing in the water (GM). One or two hunted regularly through Brinton Lake and remains of meals of moorhen and pike were found

(RPB-O). An adult was picked up in the lights of a car at Glandford. There was also a report of one from Great Snoring (FRW), and one was killed by otter hounds at Sparham (DJS).

In early February, tracks and a slide were found on the west bank at Cley. A pair bred in Cley Marsh, and two cubs were seen at play in June (WFB). Later in the year, tracks of three otters were found in the mud at Arnold's Marsh (RAR), and one was watched while it fished for eels in a dyke at Salthouse (RPB-O). Two more were in Overy marshes in the summer (AN), and at least one was watched regularly in Broad Water at Holme, from April to November (PRC). One was senselessly shot at Thornham in November.

Otters have visited the marshes at Wheatfen, and a large male 3 ft. 9 in. in length and weighing 30 lb. was found dead on the Acle New Road. Another was watched, where the Yare enters Breydon Water, at the time of the break-up of the ice on March 8th (RHH).

In the west the most extraordinary report was from King's Lynn where an otter was observed emerging from a small stream near the town centre. It was carrying a fish which it ate in the light of a street lamp. A fine specimen also became a road casualty at Hardwick Bridge on the main King's Lynn-Norwich road. In the Breck area, otters are known to exist at Thompson Water (RDG), and at Stanford Water where tracks and spraints have been seen (GJ).

Stoat (*Mustela erminea stabilis*)

The forecast last year that the number of stoats would continue to increase seems to have been justified. Although observers reported the stoat as rare in the following areas: Seamere, Ellingham, Sparham, Wheatfen—where none was seen after May, Horsford, Salthouse, Bungay and Wells—increasingly frequent observations were made at Garboldisham, Poringland and Swardeston, Ketteringham, Corpusty—where one was actually caught by a cat! and Watton. Single reports came from Oxburgh, Alderford, Garveston, the lower Yare marshes, Thetford, Hoveton, Erpingham and Thompson. As the widespread re-appearance of the rabbit continues, this improvement in status may be expected. Indeed, the killing of stoats, which are the natural predators of the rabbit and the rat, should be discouraged.

All over the county, following the hard winter of 1963, stoats in ermine were very much more frequently observed. One was seen at Attlebridge on January 18th, and others were reported from Thetford Chase on 21st and at Aylsham on 22nd. In February, one was shot at Wramplingham, another at Swannington, and one was hunting rats near Haddiscoe station (EAE). An almost completely white one, save for brown markings on the head and along the mid dorsal line was brought in from Erpingham on February 25th (NCM)

and two others in full ermine on the 27th. Similar reports came from Watton (GJ) and Bungay (ws). The number of these reports is quite exceptional.

Later in the year a stoat at Thornage was observed in the early morning "dancing" inside a ring of blackbirds, thrushes and redwings (JF). A pack of four was observed crossing the road at Craymere near Brinton (RPB-O).

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

Though its numbers much exceed those of the stoat, if anything the weasel has not been so successful this year. It had a setback during the hard winter from which it only recovered late in the year.

Road deaths showed a decrease on those of 1962 at Watton (GJ) and fewer casualties than for some years past were reported from other parts of the county. A good breeding season seems to have restored the earlier setback, and numbers were reported increasing again. On the gibbet at Foxley Wood the ratio of weasels to stoats appears to be about 8 to 1 (DA), but at Ketteringham it varies between 2 and 3 to one over the past few years (ETD).

There seems little doubt that the weasel can quite well maintain substantial numbers despite a temporary decline.

Mink (*Mustela vison*)

In recent years there has been a considerable expansion of mink farming in the county. There are at least seven registered farms carrying about 6,000 animals. Strict regulations with regard to the erection of safety fences imposed by the Ministry of Agriculture have not apparently prevented some escapes. Six were taken in the Thetford-Brandon area and three in the Shadwell-Brettenham area. Some are still known to be at large (JDN).

Feral Domestic Cat (*Felis domesticus*)

It is worth recording that the winter conditions this year almost completely wiped out the population of "wild" cats. The severe weather and foxes probably accounted for their demise (DM, MES).

Seals

The seal population on Scroby remains more or less static and approximately 400 were counted at the end of 1962 (pgr). Numbers of the Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) fluctuated during the summer, the peak number being approximately 200 on June 30th. The first pup, a dead one, was found June 9th. The first week in July was again the peak pupping period and 17 were found, with ages ranging from a few hours to a few days on July 14th. The mortality rate was again very high and six dead ones were found on July 30th

(RHH). This probably helps to maintain a steady population and the avoidance of a fisheries problem. Along the East coast from Lincolnshire to Caister the total population is estimated at 5,000. The majority live in the Wash where some control has to occur (EDP). Any stranded pups are, however, cared for. More than 20 were picked up during the season, fed on a mixture of whale oil, cow's milk and cod liver oil for three weeks, and then returned to the sea. Others were similarly catered for at Yarmouth (EDP).

Small groups of between 10 and 20 Grey Atlantic Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) were seen at Scroby during the summer; they were usually separated from the Common Seals. Several attempts were made during early December to visit Scroby, but unfortunately they were prevented by bad weather (RHH). A visit on December 27th, however, showed that there were 7 live pups and 2 dead ones. Some of these were already in moult (PJT, WJW). A pup was found stranded on the shore at Waxham January 19th (CNS).

ARTIODACTYLA

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*)

Recently the Forestry Commission has progressively changed its attitude towards deer in its woodlands. It is now recognised that the Commission has a responsibility in the maintenance of stocks of wild life. Consistent with economy, deer are to be given adequate protection and maintained under a system of selective control. The passing of the Deer Act 1963 affords deer close seasons as follows:—

Red Deer

Stags 1st May to 31st July inclusive

Hinds 1st March to 31st October inclusive.

Fallow Bucks and Does and Roe Does are also protected by the same seasons but the Roe Buck has not been properly dealt with by the Act.

Ten red stags and 4 hinds were shot or found dead during the period May, 1963 to February, 1964. Of these ten, six were poor specimens with practically no growth of antlers (FC). On the whole the preceding winter had a beneficial effect since the fittest and most vigorous survived and the calves of the season were healthy stock.

There are signs that red deer are spreading out widely over the county. The main concentrations in the south-west are at Harling and Roudham, at Kilverstone, and south of the Little Ouse at Knettishall Heath. The stags seem to move west through the Chase in winter and return eastwards again after casting their antlers. One was killed by a train between Thetford and Roudham November 26th and another was hit by a car on the Swaffham road

May 3rd. One was seen between Mundford and Hillborough (DM) and two almost grown calves between Wretham and Hockham late in the year (PB). A young stag was also found grazing with cattle at Kirkstead in November.

One hind, almost certainly an escape from Melton Constable park was seen on several occasions at Wood Norton (RPB-O).

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*)

A concentration of these deer was noticed at Felthorpe during the severe weather of January and February. They were feeding on moss which they obtained by scraping through the snow (PRP). A few still exist at Horsford (FED-B). A buck which had become entangled in wire fencing and was held by its antlers had to be shot by the range warden in December (RPB-O). Another December record was sent in from Sedgefield road where one was seen on the 1st (ECH). Two were seen on several occasions at Weybourne woods (AN, RPB-O) and one at Bodham woods (AH).

Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

During the past few years roe have increased rapidly in Thetford Chase. Control there has involved the taking of 94 bucks and 91 does (FC). Visitors to Grimes' Graves might now see roe there in the evening. During the rut it is possible that a wandering buck might turn up almost anywhere in the county, even within the Norwich boundaries. One such wanderer crossed the Eaton Golf Course on July 20th and was there for about an hour. It was judged to be about four or five years old, and was identified by R. G. Sturman who had hunted roe in Germany (EDP). Two does found dying at Thetford were suspected of having eaten plants sprayed with toxic chemicals (PW).

Muntjac Deer (*Muntiacus reevesi*)

The spread of this small Asiatic deer has continued despite a disastrous set-back in the winter when many died. A buck whose barking was mistaken for that of a fox, was shot in the Deighton Hills near Attlebridge October 19th (FML), and its skull is now in Norwich Castle Museum. A doe was also seen, and this suggests that for the first time muntjac may be establishing themselves on a breeding basis as they have done recently in Huntingdonshire and nearby counties. Unconfirmed reports came in from Merton (GJ), Great Snoring (FRW) and Gunton Park (JL). Over the past ten years, muntjacs have been seen at twenty localities in the county.

CETACEA

Common Porpoise (*Phocaena phocaena*)

Very few strandings indeed occurred this year. The British Museum reported one at Winterton January 10th. It measured

4 ft. 11 in. Remains were found at West Runton in August (HAH) and at Holme in January (PRC).

White-beaked Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*)

The hind part of a small one was washed ashore during January gales at Runton. It was thought to have been damaged by a ship's propellor (HAH).

Members are requested to keep a special watch for strandings as offshore cetaceans are much fewer nowadays.

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Norfolk Naturalists Trust

Properties

<i>Date</i>				<i>Acreege</i>	<i>How</i>
<i>Acquired</i>					<i>Acquired</i>
<i>On the Coast</i>					
1926	Cley Marshes	..	..	435	Gift
1937	Duchess's Pightle, Burnham Overy			1	Gift
1937	Great and Little Eye, Salthouse	..		10	Purchased
1945	East End of Scolt Island	..	..	76	Purchased
1955	The Eye Salthouse		..	21	Purchased
<i>Broadland</i>					
1928	Starch Grass Martham	..	..	26	Purchased
1930	Alderfen Broad	..	..	72	Purchased
1945	Hickling: Whiteslea	..	..	715	Purchased
1945	Hickling: Whiteslea	..	..	500	Leased
1945 & 1952	Barton Broad	..	..	347	Half Gift and Half Purchased
1948	Surlingham Broad	..	..	253	Purchased
1949	Ranworth Broad	..	..	124	Gift
1949	Cockshoot Broad	..	..	12	Gift
<i>Breckland</i>					
1938	East Wretham Heath	..	..	362	Purchased
1942	Weeting Heath	..	..	343	Gift
1949	Thetford Heath	..	..	225	Gift
<i>Other Areas</i>					
1929	'Blo Norton Wood	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	Gift
1929	Dial House and allotment, Brancaster			1	Gift
1957	Woods at Thursford	..	..	25	Gift
1960	Hethel Old Thorn	..	..	$\frac{1}{8}$	Gift
1961	Scarning Fen	..	..	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gift
1962	Hockham Fen	..	..	20	Purchased
1963	Roydon Common	..	..	140	Purchased
1964	Firs Marsh, Burgh St. Peter	..		2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leased

The Trust also shares with the National Trust in the management of coastal reserves at Blakeney Point (1,335 acres), Scolt Head Island (1,821 acres) and Arnold's Marsh, Cley (29 acres).

By agreement with Nature Conservancy, Scolt Head Island, Ranworth Broad, Hickling Broad and the Breckland Heaths have been declared National Nature Reserves.



18 OCT 1964
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