

Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2006



Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society

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The county's senior natural history society. It has for its principal objectives the practical study of natural science, the conservation of wildlife, the publication of papers on natural history, especially those relating to the county of Norfolk, arranging lectures and meetings and the promotion of active field work. Specialist groups cover most aspects of the county's flora and fauna.

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Back cover photograph: Weasel at Salthouse (*Julian Bhalerao*)

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Editor: Giles Dunmore

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NORFOLK BIRD REPORT - 2006

Editorial

On behalf of the Society I am pleased to present the annual report on the Birds of Norfolk. Whilst the major part of the publication comprises the Systematic List there are several other features which hopefully will be in interest. I would particularly draw attention to the Ringing Report and the fact that over 7000 less birds were caught compared with 2005 - "the birds were just not there to be caught". The articles include a fascinating study of the corvid roost at Buckenham, together with breeding details of both gulls and terns at Yarmouth, and Ringed Plovers on Scolt Head Island. Others include an unusual Pied Flycatcher on Blakeney Point and a new bird for the county, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Lastly an up-to-date Norfolk list is included, setting out the status of each species.

Acknowledgements

As always the Report continues to be very much a team effort and my special thanks go to:

- Neil Lawton - co-recorder,
- Julian Bhalerao - co-ordinating photographs,
- Justin Lansdell - commenting on and proof-reading several of the articles,
- Peter Lindsley - for his major role in the actual production of the Report.

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

- the inputters of the monthly records into the computerised recording system - Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Judy Dunmore, Vince Hanlon, Neil Lawton, Christine Stean and Pat Wileman;
- those who drafted sections of the Systematic List – Greg Bond, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Andy Brown, Pete Clement, Keith Dye, Gary Elton, Mick Fiszer, John and Judy Geeson, Vince Hanlon, Phil Heath, Gary Hibberd, Justin Lansdell, Neil Lawton, Ben Murphy, Peter Morrison, Ashley Saunders, Mick Saunt, Christine Stean, Andy Stoddart and Peter Wilson;
- John Williamson who, until this year, has compiled the heron and birds of prey sections for many years;
- members of the County Records Committee - Dave Bridges, Mick Fiszer, Justin Lansdell, Richard Millington and Andy Stoddart;
- authors of the articles in the Report, in particular Peter Allard, Mark Cocker, Keith Dye, Neil Lawton and Andy Stoddart;
- Dave and Jacquie Bridges for compiling the Review of the Year;
- the artists and photographers who have made their work freely available;
- The Sarnia Charitable Trust for its continued assistance towards the cost of colour photographs;
- Moss Taylor for supplying the details of the Norfolk Bird Atlas which he hopes to publish in 2008;
- Steve Wakeham for the meteorological information;
- all the many individual contributors and clubs/societies, and in particular Birdline East Anglia and Rare Bird Alert, who have contributed records;
- Pat Wileman for her continued help and support in the computerisation process;

- finally my wife Judy without whose help, support and patience the whole process would never happen.

Welney

Some readers may find some of the breeding counts for Welney considerably lower than previous years – this is as a result of revised survey techniques adopted by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust.

Editorial Material

Articles for consideration, artwork, photographs and transparencies relating to 2007 should continue to be submitted to me at 49 Nelson Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8DA or by e-mail to giles.dunmore@tiscali.co.uk

Change of County Recorder

As from 1st January 2008 Dave and Jacquie Bridges are taking on the role as joint County Recorders (with Neil Lawton). All records relating to 2008 sightings should be sent to them at 27 Swann Grove, Hempstead Road, Holt NR25 6DP or by e-mail to dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com However records for 2007 should continue to be sent to me as detailed above.

Submission of Records

All contributors are requested **to submit records monthly** or, if this is not possible, then at least on a 3-monthly basis. I cannot emphasis enough the extent to which this cuts down the enormous workload experienced in recording without which there would be no Report.

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

With regard to the submission of **national rarities**, the British Birds Rarities Committee wishes to deal with all records in an electronic format. Ideally, where possible, descriptions should be submitted using a form downloaded from the BBRC website, with any accompanying photographs or sketches as *separate jpeg attachments*.

Giles Dunmore

Updating the County Rarity List

Andy Stoddart, on behalf of the County Records Committee.

Introduction

The 2005 Norfolk Bird Report announced a revised list of county rarities following the 'demotion' by British Birds Rarity Committee (BBRC) of 17 species for local assessment. This move will allow BBRC to focus its resources on those species which are genuinely rare in Britain.

'*British Birds*' 99: 619-645 announced the next stage of this strategy through which, from 2007, BBRC will seek to document (or at least receive 'informal submissions' of) records of a number of bird forms thought to be rare in Britain.

This welcome step will place the national recording of some forms on a much more secure footing than has so far been the case, will help us keep up with taxonomic developments and will enable a greater understanding of the appearance or 'diagnosability' of a number of more subtle or clinal forms. A consequence of this development is the need to review once more the county rarity list.

Required Amendments

Three categories of amendment are required:-

Elevation to BBRC consideration

Three forms/groupings currently on the county rarity list will now be considered by BBRC and are, therefore, deleted from the county rarity list:-

- Vagrant Canada Geese. Since the recent taxonomic rearrangement, this will mean all records of putative vagrant Greater Canada Geese *canadensis* ('Atlantic Canada Goose'), *interior* ('Todd's Canada Goose') and *parvipes* ('Intermediate Canada Goose') and Lesser Canada Geese *hutchinsii* ('Richardson's Canada Goose'), *minima* ('Cackling Canada Goose') and *taverneri* ('Taverner's Canada Goose')
- Barn Owl *guttata* ('Dark-breasted Barn Owl')
- Yellow Wagtail forms other than *flavissima* ('British Yellow Wagtail'), *flava* ('Blue-headed Wagtail') and *thunbergi* ('Grey-headed Wagtail')

Differentiation between nationally and locally-assessed forms

Some of the 17 species now devolved for county assessment have even rarer forms which will still require consideration by BBRC. Such rare forms already on the British List or with claims currently under BBRC consideration are:-

- Cory's Shearwater *diomedea* ('Scopoli's Shearwater')
- Great White Egret *egretta* ('American Great White Egret')
- Black Kite *lineatus* ('Black-eared Kite')
- Subalpine Warbler *albistriata* ('Eastern Subalpine Warbler')
- Greenish Warbler *plumbeitarsus* ('Two-barred Greenish Warbler')
- Greenish Warbler *nitidus* ('Green Warbler')
- Woodchat Shrike *badius* ('Balearic Woodchat Shrike')
- Woodchat Shrike *niloticus* ('Eastern Woodchat Shrike')
- Arctic Redpoll *hornemanni* ('Hornemann's Arctic Redpoll')

Addition of some locally rare forms

Some forms which are not nationally rare but which are rare locally and which are in many instances identifiable in the field have not previously been assessed. The following are therefore added to the county rarity list:-

- Iceland Gull '*kumlieni*'-type
- Dipper *gularis* ('British Dipper')
- Coal Tit *ater* ('Continental Coal Tit')
- Jackdaw *monedula* ('Nordic Jackdaw')
- Common Redpoll *islandica/rostrata* ('Northwest Redpoll')
- Bullfinch *pyrrhula* ('Northern Bullfinch')

Other Forms

The status in the county of a number of other forms is not well known. These are forms known not to be nationally rare but which locally might be anything from extremely rare to common. Unfortunately they are normally not safely identifiable in the field. A few may well, however, be identifiable from biometrics (in the case of trapped birds or birds found dead), ringing recoveries or, in exceptional cases, from good photographs. Given BBRC's increasing interest in nationally rare forms, it now seems appropriate at a county level to seek more concrete evidence of the status of some other forms which may be locally rare. The committee would therefore welcome claims from ringers, corpse-finders or photographers, supported by hard evidence, of the following:-

- Merlin *subaeson* ('Icelandic Merlin')
- Common Guillemot *hyperborea* ('Arctic Guillemot')
- Razorbill *torda* ('Arctic Razorbill')
- Little Auk *polaris* ('Franz Josef Land Little Auk')
- Great Spotted Woodpecker *major* ('Northern Great Spotted Woodpecker')
- Redwing *coburni* ('Icelandic Redwing')
- Great Tit *major* ('Continental Great Tit')
- Eurasian Treecreeper *familiaris* ('Northern Treecreeper')
- Eurasian Jay *glandarius* ('Continental Jay')

County Rarity List

The updated county rarity list from 2008 is now as follows:-

Taiga Bean Goose (away from Yare Valley)	Bee-eater
American Wigeon	Short-toed Lark
Ring-necked Duck	Red-rumped Swallow
Ferruginous Duck	Tawny Pipit
Surf Scoter	Red-throated Pipit
Black-necked Grebe (at sea)	Dipper (' <i>gularis</i> ')
Cory's Shearwater	Bluethroat
Great Shearwater	Aquatic Warbler
Balearic Shearwater	Marsh Warbler
Wilson's Petrel	Melodious Warbler
Storm Petrel	Subalpine Warbler

Night Heron
Great White Egret
Purple Heron
White Stork
Black Kite
Red-footed Falcon
Spotted Crake
Corncrake
American Golden Plover
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper

'Kumlien's' Iceland Gull
Sabine's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
White-winged Black Tern
Rose-ringed Parakeet
Alpine Swift

Greenish Warbler
Radde's Warbler
Dusky Warbler
Chiffchaff ('*tristis*')
Coal Tit ('*ater*')
Woodchat Shrike
Jackdaw ('*monedula*')
Raven
Rose-coloured Starling
Serin
Common Redpoll
('*islandica/rostrata*')
Arctic Redpoll
Bullfinch ('*pyrrhula*')
Common Rosefinch
Ortolan Bunting
Rustic Bunting
Little Bunting

Written descriptions should consist of a brief note of the circumstances of the observation (weather, distance from bird, any other observers, etc), a description of the actual bird(s) and details of any other species nearby for comparison as well as stating clearly how the bird was identified. Details of previous experience of the species should be given and, if relevant, a brief outline of how any confusable species were eliminated. Copies of field sketches (however poor artistically) are often invaluable together with written field notes and photographs if available.



Woodchat Shrike (*Steve Cale*)

Review of the Year

Dave and Jacquie Bridges

(with weather details by Steve Wakeman)

January began with a depression over the North Sea but a ridge of high pressure introduced cold east to south-easterly winds for 5 days from the 4th with occasional sleet or snow showers. Atlantic fronts brought in mild south or south-westerly winds until the 12th followed by mild southerlies until the 16th. Winds from the west or north-west then prevailed until the 20th when high pressure once again brought in cold south-easterlies, resulting in temperatures dropping to -6°C overnight on the 24th followed by wintry showers the next day. Cool dry east to north-east winds then continued until the end of the month.

The new year got off to a flying start with the Ross's Gull still present followed by the discovery of a Hume's Warbler in Holkham Park. Amazingly another of these Siberian waifs was found at Horsey later in the month. The first fortnight also produced Lesser Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, an unseasonal Quail, two Black-necked Grebes and Black Guillemot. Several birds remained from 2005 including two Rough-legged Buzzards, two Dartford Warblers, Great Grey Shrike and Little Bunting. The month produced some impressive counts with 90,000 Pink-footed Geese at Holkham, 20,000 Wigeon at Breydon/Berney, 5000 Common Scoter at Titchwell, 28,000 Golden Plover at Breydon, 6000 Herring Gulls on Scolt Head, 700 Snow Buntings at Caister and 250 Corn Buntings at Choseley. Mediterranean Gull numbers in the Yarmouth area peaked at 73 and the Broads' Crane total reached 31. Hawfinches were more widespread than usual following the influx of the previous autumn but there were fewer records of Waxwing than in recent years. Numbers of both Bewick's and Whooper Swans were down and there were few Tundra Bean Geese.

Cold weather continued through the first week of **February** with temperatures remaining below freezing on the 2nd. Strong north to north-west winds then introduced wintry showers from the 8th, these being most frequent in the east. High pressure then became established until the 14th when Atlantic fronts moved in resulting in unsettled weather until the 20th. Another high pressure brought strong cold east to north-east winds with outbreaks of rain, sleet or snow until the 23rd. A depression moving south-east from Iceland from the 26th turned the winds northerly, resulting in further wintry showers during the last 2 days.

The first week produced the second Black Guillemot of the year and the year's only dark-breasted Barn Owl, unfortunately found dead. The Dartford Warblers wintering on the north coast remained throughout and the Little Bunting was last seen mid-month. The 4th produced two unseasonal birds in the shape of Little Stint and Whimbrel while both Pomarine and Arctic Skuas were seen during the month; the Black-necked Grebe influx continued with six being reported. In the east the main Broads' Marsh Harrier roost reached a new high of 72 and at Breydon the Lapwing count topped 25,000, while in the west the count of 15 Lapland Bunting at Choseley was the peak for the year. Rarest bird of the month was an Arctic Redpoll found in the company of Mealy Redpolls in the Glaven Valley.

The opening days of **March** remained cold with a light covering of snow in many places and temperatures fell to -8°C on the 3rd. Wet and milder conditions from the 7th were short-lived and within 4 days high pressure over Scandinavia reintroduced colder weather which lasted until the 22nd. Winds from the south-west then brought milder unsettled conditions which lasted through to the end of the month.

The two over-wintering Dartford Warblers were last seen on the 4th, the same day as the first Iceland Gull of the year, while the Arctic Redpoll remained until the 9th. The 8th

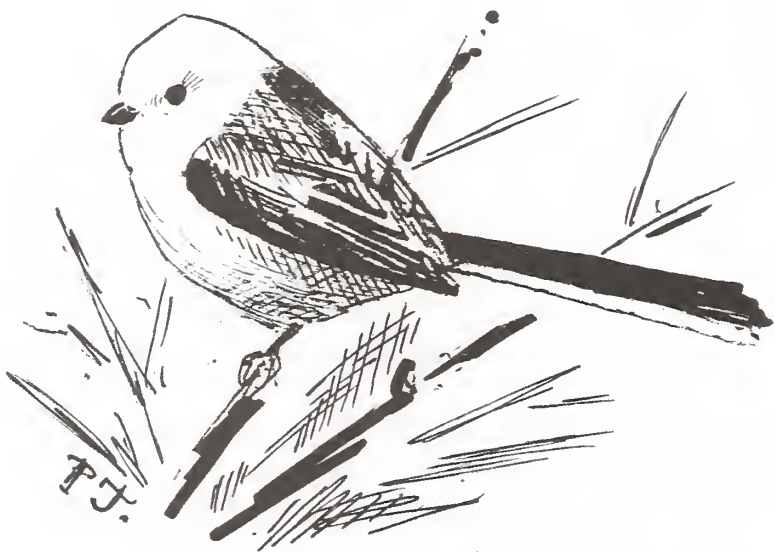


Killdeer (*Gary Wright*)

produced a new county record in the shape of five Caspian Gulls at Aldeby Tip. The first summer migrant, a Little Ringed Plover, arrived on the 9th closely followed next day by a Garganey, but the majority of 'firsts' turned up in the last week with Whimbrel, Common Tern, all three hirundines, Yellow Wagtail, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel and Willow Warbler all putting in appearances. Also at this time there was a notable count of 380 Red-throated Divers on the sea off Overstrand and a rarely reported sighting of four Bitterns migrating out to sea on the 25th, with another two on the 27th.

The unsettled theme continued into **April** but from the 2nd cool north-west winds moved in resulting in wintry showers on the 4th and temperatures down to -2°C the following night. A slow moving depression moving into southern Scandinavia introduced cold north-easterlies with temperatures on the 11th reaching only 8°C . A spell of milder south-west winds followed until the 15th when a depression moving along the English Channel gave a brief spell of south-easterlies. Westerlies on the 19th gave way to warm southerlies the following day after which a high pressure gave us light and variable winds until the 24th. Winds strengthened from the west then swung north to north-west under the influence of a high pressure. Despite this mild conditions prevailed and temperatures reached 16°C on the 27th after which light and variable winds continued.

The first 3 days produced some interesting birds with the first Osprey of the spring, the year's second Iceland Gull, an Alpine Swift and the year's only Serin. A very early Swift on the 6th was followed next day by the county's second Killdeer, hot on the heels of the first in 2005. Was this the same bird again moving north? Several early 'firsts' arrived during the second week with Hobby, Grasshopper Warbler, Cuckoo and Reed Warbler. Also in



Northern Long-tailed Tit (*Phil Jones*)

this period the only Spotted Crake of the year was calling in the Broads and the first of two Ashy-headed Wagtails graced Pentney GP. The flow of Black-necked Grebe records was maintained with a further three in the first 10 days and the increase in Hawfinch records continued with a migrant at Inceborough Hill. The year's only Dipper occurred on the 19th with a Kentish Plover on the 21st and an early Golden Oriole next day. The end of the month produced Purple Heron, Dotterel and Hoopoe. Returning winter visitors were noted in the shape of Rough-legged Buzzard and Great Grey Shrike.

May opened with further rain-bearing fronts coming in from the west but from the 3rd an anticyclone over Scandinavia introduced increasingly warm south-easterly winds, the temperature on the 4th reaching 26°C. By the 8th winds had become strong easterly but fell light and variable by the 11th. From the 14th vigorous areas of low pressure advancing from the west resulted in spells of moderate-to-heavy rain almost daily between the 18th and the 27th. Winds veered slowly from south to west during this period but by the 28th cool northerlies had set in, lasting to the end of the month, resulting in temperatures reaching only 10°C in many places.

An early Nightjar was found on the 1st followed by Bee-eater, Hoopoe, Red-rumped Swallow and Richard's Pipit on the 3rd, and Pectoral Sandpiper on the 5th. These birds were totally overshadowed, however, by events at Holme where a bird that had flown into a window was subsequently identified as a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. This completely unexpected occurrence not only constituted the first record for the county but was also the first ever spring record for Britain. The 7th was the day that the huge Laughing Gull influx of the previous autumn finally reached Norfolk when a fine adult was found sitting on a lamp post in Cromer. On the same day a Cattle Egret was found at Holkham with a Tawny Pipit at Sheringham next



Quail (*Phil Jones*)

day. Also during this interesting period were two Purple Herons, White Stork, Dotterel, Kentish Plover, another Hoopoe and a notable movement of Fulmar off the north coast. A second Red-rumped Swallow occurred on the 13th with another Bee-eater on the 19th. The remainder of the month was somewhat quieter although a good passage of Manx Shearwaters took place on the 23rd and the spring's only Pomarine Skua, another Hoopoe and a Red-necked Phalarope all turned up during the final week.

The below average temperatures continued into **June** with a maximum of only 13°C on the 1st. However pressure increased and winds became lighter with temperatures recovering to 21°C by the 4th. Pressure remained high throughout the next week with south-easterly

winds strengthening as the anticyclone moved into Scandinavia. Temperatures climbed throughout the period reaching 31°C on the 12th but a cold front the following day brought rain and thunderstorms. High pressure re-established itself and temperatures again climbed until the 18th after which cool fresh-to-strong west winds were introduced by a low pressure. Anticyclonic weather with light winds then prevailed through the rest of month with the exception a brief unsettled spell with north-east winds on the 26th.

The month got off to a good start with Pectoral Sandpiper, further Red-necked Phalaropes, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Savi's Warbler and Woodchat Shrike in the first 4 days. A Pacific Golden Plover paid a short visit to Hickling on the 6th, the same day as a late Merlin began a two day visit to Scolt Head. A superb male Rustic Bunting spent the morning in an Overstrand garden on the 9th with further brief appearances of White-winged Black Tern on the 16th and Corncrake on the 23rd.

News of breeding birds was the usual mix of highs and lows. There was a slight reduction in Bittern nests but Little Egrets reached a total of 72 pairs. Raptors generally fared well, there being a minimum of 77 Marsh Harrier nests with Montagu's Harrier again breeding. Goshawks bred in the Brecks and Common Buzzard numbers again increased as did those of Hobby. On the down side Honey Buzzards failed to breed for the second year in succession. In the Broads at least 5 pairs of Common Cranes bred but news on the wader front was not so encouraging with both Oystercatcher and Avocet experiencing high losses. The news on Stone Curlew was also not encouraging with reports of low productivity despite the numbers increasing. Lapwings had mixed fortunes, Redshanks had similar results to 2005 but the small number of Black-tailed Godwits enjoyed good success. Mediterranean Gull numbers remained low but, with the exception of Arctic Terns, most tern species fared well. This was especially true of the Yarmouth Little Tern colony where over 700 young were fledged. Sandwich Terns also had a very good breeding year. On the passerine front three pairs of Black Redstarts bred and Common Redstart numbers in Stanford TA remained high. Several species of warbler were present in good numbers, notably Grasshopper, Reed and Blackcap, but there were no reports of Golden Oriole breeding in the county.

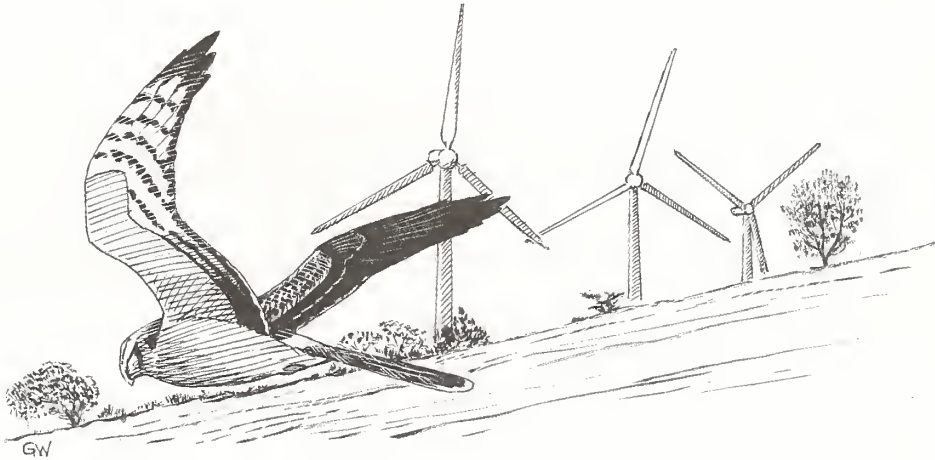
The high pressure which became established at the end of last month dominated for most of **July** resulting in persistent high temperatures, 30°C being exceeded on 12 days during the month and night-time temperatures reaching as high as 18°C. Indeed it was to become the hottest July on record. There were brief respites from the heat on the 5th when thunderstorms spread up from the south, and on the 7th when Atlantic fronts introduced cooler conditions with spells of rain until the 11th. The only other break in the fine weather was overnight on the 26th/27th when a low pressure brought further thunderstorms.

July is often a quiet month for birding and this year was no exception. A Red-necked Phalarope arrived on the 1st with a Roseate Tern on Blakeney Point next day. Pectoral Sandpiper and Red-backed Shrike occurred on the 3rd and further Roseates graced Breydon between the 7th and 16th. At least one Caspian Tern was in the Breydon/Hickling Broad area on the 15th but remained very elusive. A count of 706 Avocets at Breydon was impressive but the only other highlights in a rather dull month were a second Red-necked Phalarope and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

The weather in **August** was in complete contrast to the heat of the previous month with a depression over northern Britain on the 1st introducing cool north-westerly winds and rain with temperatures struggling to reach 17°C on the 3rd. Conditions remained unsettled with north to north-west winds until the 14th after which they became lighter as a low pressure moved along the English Channel reaching central Britain on the 17th. Thunderstorms and heavy showers were a feature of the next 5 days as another low pressure moved in, followed by

yet a further depression which deposited over 25mm of rain in many areas on the 23rd/24th. The final week of the month remained unsettled with mostly west to north-west winds.

The unsettled weather produced some early seabird activity with numbers of Arctic Skuas and the first of an impressive haul of Balearic Shearwaters on the 3rd. The second Cattle Egret of the year turned up on the 8th, the same day as the year's highest day count of Pomarine Skuas occurred with 8 off Horsey. The 10th then produced a very early Grey Phalarope. The 12th to the 14th proved to be one of the best periods of the autumn for seawatching with a good passage of Gannets, Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, and Leach's Petrels. This three day spell also provided the only Storm Petrels of the year. The sea was not the only place worth watching, however, as a White-rumped Sandpiper and three Barred Warblers were found,



Pallid Harrier (*Gary Wright*)

followed by a Red-necked Phalarope. Another new county record occurred when 102 Mediterranean Gulls were counted at the Breydon roost. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper occurred on the 17th with another bird 6 days later. The 19th saw the start of one of the largest arrivals of autumn Dotterel for many years with birds frequenting sites at both Choseley and Terrington. The combined count on the 20th broke the previous county record by 40 birds! The find of the month was, however, on the 26th when a check of the cliff top fields at West Runton revealed the county's sixth Yellow-breasted Bunting. Alas it soon flew west and was never seen again! Also found on this day was a Hoopoe with another turning up the following day.

The unsettled weather that had plagued August continued into **September** but high pressure over Central Europe by the 9th introduced warm south-east winds resulting in temperatures reaching 27°C on the 11th. Fronts moving in from the west produced overnight thunderstorms on the 13th/14th but the anticyclone persisted over Scandinavia giving us east to south-east winds until the 17th. Winds then became south-westerly but a vigorous depression developing over Biscay brought moderate-to-heavy rain on the 22nd. Further low pressures during the remainder of the month caused more heavy rain on the 25th and thunderstorms on the 29th/30th. The very warm spell mid-month made September one of the warmest on record.

The first week was fairly uneventful but seawatching on the 7th produced a Sabine's Gull and the month's only Leach's Petrel with a notable movement of Fulmars the following day. A Common Rosefinch arrived on the 12th before the easterly influence of the wind from the 14th resulted in one of the best falls of autumn drift migrants with multiple arrivals of Wryneck, Redstart, Whinchat, Wheatear and both Common and Lesser Whitethroats. Mixed in with these were Tawny Pipit and Citrine Wagtail, the first Yellow-browed Warbler of the autumn, an early Great Grey Shrike, two Richard's Pipits, five Red-breasted Flycatchers and a sprinkling of Red-backed Shrikes. The only Rose-coloured Starling of the year was found at

Winterton on the 22nd but was totally eclipsed the following day by the star bird of the month, a very smart juvenile Pallid Harrier discovered just down the road. Finally a Red-rumped Swallow over Beeston Bump enlivened the County Recorder's morning walk on the 28th.

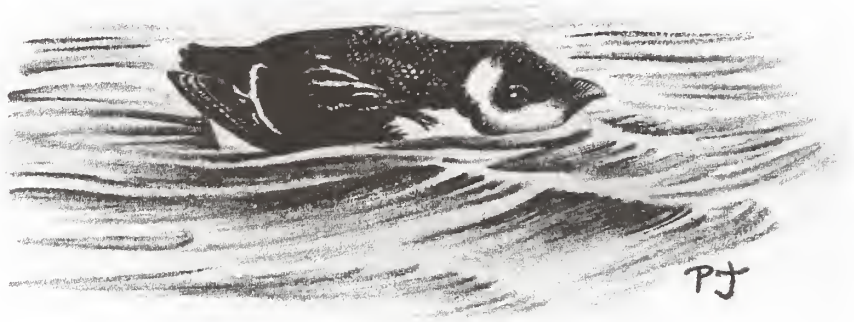
Low pressure continued to dominate at the beginning of **October** with heavy rain, showers and local thunderstorms until the 3rd by which time the wind had veered north-west. Further Atlantic depressions from the 5th maintained an unsettled pattern with relatively warm winds from the west or north-west until the 9th when warm southerlies raised the temperature to 20°C. Thunderstorms on the 11th signaled the passage of a cold front but thereafter a Scandinavian anticyclone introduced south to south-easterly winds through to the 20th. Atlantic depressions then advanced over the next 3 days with heavy rain particularly during the 22nd/23rd when over 40mm fell. The weather remained changeable until the 28th when a ridge of high pressure gave a settled spell on the 29th/30th. The month ended with a deep depression over northern Britain and associated strong north-westerly winds.

Last month's Pallid Harrier continued to grace east Norfolk until the 7th but the only other event of note during this period was a large movement of auks off the

north coast. Things livened up on the 7th with the arrival of a juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper at Titchwell followed on the 9th by the third Cattle Egret of the year at Blakeney. Another White-rumped Sandpiper turned up at Cley where up to 3 of these nearctic waders could be seen for the remainder of the month. Large numbers of incoming Song Thrushes were noted on the 11th but one of the most interesting birds of the autumn, a juvenile Whiskered Tern, was found the following day. This is an age group rarely seen in Britain so its prolonged stay at Titchwell allowed many to familiarise themselves with the plumage details. The next 6 days produced a fine array of good birds with Barred Warbler, American Golden Plover, the only Bluethroat of the year and the autumn's only Pallas's Warblers. A Dotterel joined the Cattle Egret at Blakeney on the 21st and a drake Surf Scoter was found amongst the Scoter flock off Titchwell on the 24th. Incoming thrushes were much in evidence the next 2 days when large numbers of Blackbirds and Redwings were seen pouring in off the sea. The sea remained the main focus of attention during the final days of the month with large numbers of Little Gulls and Guillemots moving offshore.

November opened with cool northerly winds but by the 4th these had backed to a westerly direction. The passage of weak fronts on the 8th turned the wind north-west but a particularly deep low pressure centred over Iceland on the 10th/11th introduced strong westerlies as fronts swept across the country. Conditions remained very disturbed for the rest of the month, although very mild, as a series of Atlantic depressions moved through with resultant, frequently strong, west to north-west winds.

The start of the month will long be remembered for the huge passage of Little Auks on the coast, with several birds being found at inland sites. Other seabirds associated with this passage were several Grey Phalaropes, a good movement of Great Skuas, Black-necked Grebe, Black Guillemot and another Leach's Petrel. It was not only seabirds moving, however, with an influx of Woodcock and large movements of Blackbirds and Fieldfares. The



Little Auk (*Phil Jones*)

first Waxwing of the autumn arrived with a Great Grey Shrike, and an American Golden Plover was found at Waxham. Another major seabird passage, this time of Gannet, occurred on the 6th when the first Rough-legged Buzzard of the autumn arrived. The 7th produced another Red-rumped Swallow followed by a brief respite before another large influx of Fieldfares took place on the 10th, the same day as the last Pectoral Sandpiper of the year was found. Iceland Gull and a late Dotterel livened up the 12th with a Richard's Pipit 3 days later. The sea again stole the show during the third week with Balearic Shearwater and further Grey Phalaropes reported. Also at this time an inland White-rumped Sandpiper at Cantley added to the county tally with those at Cley being present all month. Another Richard's Pipit and two Hawfinches at Titchwell kept the flow of good birds going. The final week maintained the sequence of notable events with another Balearic Shearwater, the only autumn flock of Common Crossbills, the arrival of the Black Kite that was to remain all winter, the latest Common Tern for 23 years off Mundesley and another Dotterel at Cley.

The very unsettled weather continued through a mild first half of **December** with strong-to-near gale-force winds from between south-west and north-west. From the 16th pressure began building and by the 19th an intense anticyclone was centred over Britain. This resulted in light winds, mist and fog with freezing fog persisting throughout the day from the 20th to the 22nd. Temperatures hovered around 0°C during this time and the conditions resulted in huge disruption to travel. A southerly air flow resulting from the high pressure moving east helped lift the fog into low cloud over the Christmas period but vigorous Atlantic depressions brought an unsettled but mild end to the year from the 28th with strong-to-gale force winds mainly from south-west and outbreaks of rain.

This is frequently one of the quietest months of the birding year but long-staying rarities in the shape of Black Kite and White-rumped Sandpiper helped buck the trend. The sea again provided much interest with Balearic Shearwater from the 2nd and large movements of both Guillemot and Razorbill mid-month. Also Great Northern Divers were more widespread than usual and there were some impressive counts of Red-throated Diver off the north coast. Hirundines continued to be seen into the third week and there were some noteworthy counts made of 175 Little Egrets at the Holkham roost, 66 Marsh Harriers and 36 Common Cranes in the Broads, and 73 Mediterranean Gulls at Yarmouth. The Mandarin count at Felbrigg peaked at 11 and Shore Lark continued to be widespread, but there was just one report of Smew during the month.



Black-eared Kite and Marsh Harrier (*Gary Wright*)

Wetland Bird Survey 2006
The Complete Wash: *Jim Scott*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mute Swan	33	31	27	22	13	10	17	4	8	10	33	22
Pink-footed Goose	9040	3000	300	7	1	-	1	-	2	285	33485	6185
Greylag Goose	115	793	189	99	372	543	698	940	1197	1337	683	606
Canada Goose	384	221	78	78	116	151	131	365	45	455	677	424
Dark-bellied Brent	12027	24490	15873	9797	8921	14	14	72	553	4546	20271	18660
Shelduck	5134	6904	1814	1826	992	2549	586	1023	1526	4094	5157	4981
Wigeon	5812	2425	2037	28	3	4	8	280	2142	2191	2835	6187
Gadwall	35	40	60	23	18	20	7	7	18	31	26	15
Teal	1579	1448	493	39	1	4	2	407	746	2138	1428	1401
Mallard	991	1646	488	303	432	430	226	1418	916	2417	1890	1876
Pintail	567	428	15	6	1	2	1	10	123	229	163	673
Shoveler	4	4	18	11	14	1	2	4	-	4	5	2
Pochard	10	23	26	-	4	-	-	3	2	3	13	12
Tufted Duck	55	79	94	116	93	51	24	25	40	43	35	34
Scaup	3	8	13	1	-	1	1	1	1	3	5	1
Eider	85	557	2	54	26	16	16	31	88	491	171	350
Common Scoter	17	-	2	38	-	-	8	-	17	8	17	77
Goldeneye	19	43	64	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	46
R B Merganser	9	32	18	27	3	-	-	-	-	8	7	23
Little Grebe	47	66	52	7	2	-	4	12	55	43	74	85
Great Crested Grebe	3	7	-	25	9	2	-	13	32	34	20	46
Cormorant	60	216	147	132	68	55	111	294	154	418	356	378
Little Egret	26	37	42	19	23	19	67	251	180	323	91	101
Grey Heron	4	11	9	4	9	12	22	34	34	59	9	11
Moorhen	14	14	19	5	12	13	14	19	20	34	46	37
Coot	69	126	102	56	28	22	34	105	154	137	119	97
Oystercatcher	11408	13433	9700	4344	3381	1671	5223	22963	18602	19030	15552	17390
Avocet	1	1	82	259	235	268	28	34	21	1	-	-
Ringed Plover	24	135	150	161	1416	99	106	883	438	393	318	237
Golden Plover	15175	16867	1106	200	4	-	1223	22477	28510	17964	28588	22522
Grey Plover	2217	3181	3642	7589	8533	252	690	7702	9750	4925	1978	2104
Lapwing	36327	19926	235	45	58	88	132	1028	843	5902	17231	25658
Knot	47617	32120	30040	27976	10755	2440	9880	108628	135585	135889	79620	114794
Sanderling	298	148	219	106	654	348	27	785	1504	165	162	111
Dunlin	16764	15219	14644	16104	16258	576	16933	10048	21106	21078	13751	21254
Snipe	1	15	4	1	-	-	-	27	71	33	5	8
Black-tailed Godwit	537	1422	1087	289	29	211	551	8090	4354	18712	3218	6013
Bar-tailed Godwit	6055	4687	7041	1102	395	926	3190	8794	11900	9035	8775	10717
Whimbrel	-	-	-	14	30	2	233	110	31	4	-	-
Curlew	1291	2489	2520	758	187	178	3850	8362	4883	9710	2487	1840
Spotted Redshank	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	86	79	19	1	-
Redshank	1655	2172	1199	1920	509	427	2212	5359	3578	5605	1439	1914
Greenshank	-	-	1	3	7	3	170	201	110	45	-	3
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	3	1	11	22	13	-	-	-
Turnstone	172	148	506	410	302	35	144	657	520	469	253	215
Black-headed Gull	984	3039	853	2512	1253	871	4203	6165	7441	30097	5389	2814
Common Gull	129	494	646	65	35	217	176	418	181	491	527	407
L B B Gull	228	-	11	208	224	104	203	343	1027	235	4	12
Herring Gull	482	2697	2187	3527	1916	2889	616	276	831	5252	3395	1517
G B B Gull	33	38	64	105	66	85	27	182	1186	843	154	331

The above data is unvalidated and for official uses the BTO should be contacted

Wetland Bird Survey 2006

North Norfolk Coast: *Neil Lawton and Michael Rooney*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mute Swan	56	26	59	42	30	45	39	38	37	36	46	36
Pink-footed Goose	72402	3774	374	1551	3	-	-	1	211	7779	33307	75314
White-fronted Goose	404	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	6
Greylag Goose	1064	1092	1128	585	570	432	634	1725	1417	1304	1353	1541
Canada Goose	1064	1092	1128	585	570	432	634	1725	1417	1304	1353	1541
Dark-bellied Brent	7270	8831	8650	3672	3172	10	10	8	258	1227	7091	5797
Egyptian Goose	47	45	46	96	83	60	59	195	97	193	34	44
Shelduck	1049	916	887	727	643	494	178	194	215	390	865	965
Wigeon	18426	18370	12438	105	24	21	4	98	6657	9848	16722	6637
Gadwall	262	158	118	169	179	109	31	59	128	138	130	92
Teal	4486	3250	760	235	27	23	37	1485	3638	3066	2906	3589
Mallard	1565	1159	746	486	574	493	277	705	1142	1425	1660	887
Pintail	536	657	219	17	8	-	-	11	209	187	307	682
Shoveler	278	187	181	165	130	93	14	132	243	184	214	380
Pochard	56	60	44	18	34	11	14	2	9	-	26	50
Tufted Duck	129	45	93	107	102	80	22	35	35	32	45	76
Eider	81	66	3	22	15	7	6	8	38	4	6	26
Common Scoter	6830	4590	2914	4000	2751	2403	543	283	970	836	3587	4960
Goldeneye	137	102	43	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	50
R B Merganser	112	88	59	19	2	-	-	-	1	6	81	90
Ruddy Duck	-	1	14	16	26	16	5	8	4	2	-	-
Red-throated Diver	16	10	5	-	-	-	-	1	29	26	39	226
Little Grebe	49	38	31	23	27	8	8	33	40	33	38	35
Great Crested Grebe	15	15	8	6	5	2	4	1	5	4	24	17
Cormorant	35	53	37	102	56	91	119	265	227	220	83	71
Little Egret	94	63	45	66	39	43	82	179	193	130	97	109
Grey Heron	12	18	15	7	25	11	23	31	38	27	20	15
Coot	497	254	484	242	280	130	198	219	148	184	197	198
Moorhen	241	281	151	107	214	36	51	84	72	70	113	89
Oystercatcher	2648	3355	2878	2017	1301	1208	1212	2656	3009	2633	1915	2485
Avocet	30	32	337	617	555	397	413	162	14	14	24	30
Ringed Plover	118	192	231	309	787	275	173	2046	1170	894	283	235
Golden Plover	5316	1281	770	43	2	-	14	2687	1541	2849	3574	4174
Grey Plover	1017	1093	812	1097	819	88	21	1615	1103	1307	482	772
Lapwing	13305	1844	1258	452	601	243	676	752	382	1545	3294	5811
Knot	4462	4263	409	635	87	198	37	1017	22928	7169	968	2432
Sanderling	440	506	225	348	1241	58	118	973	658	238	297	873
Dunlin	2001	3230	2264	915	711	72	266	1602	1340	1008	1727	2484
Ruff	117	108	39	22	2	-	38	88	58	121	114	37
Snipe	44	155	36	14	11	-	5	34	96	52	42	18
Black-tailed Godwit	330	811	411	435	45	104	441	645	424	360	235	264
Bar-tailed Godwit	979	1743	1136	535	161	32	95	763	2223	2990	923	1393
Whimbrel	-	-	-	12	37	3	70	47	4	1	-	-
Curlew	1619	1734	1381	831	142	299	1717	1929	1600	1710	943	1448
Spotted Redshank	11	26	4	6	-	-	20	42	30	31	5	19
Redshank	1111	1055	904	736	544	462	1315	1786	1409	837	1103	1106
Greenshank	3	2	2	10	6	-	61	118	99	68	4	3
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	12	-	4	18	1	1	-	-
Turnstone	377	562	408	476	454	129	239	678	592	465	476	528

The above data is unvalidated and for official uses the BTO should be contacted

Maximum Monthly Counts 2006

Breydon and Berney: *Peter Allard*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mute Swan	82	90	90	51	112	81	49	63	29	42	81	60
Bewick's Swan	163	268	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	63
Pink-footed Goose	11207	10410	505	6	6	1	1	1	-	2100	7500	9500
White-fronted Goose	35	227	470	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-
Greylag Goose	52	31	21	8	19	41	34	20	125	279	103	27
Canada Goose	36	34	10	13	27	58	28	30	59	110	105	7
Brent Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	5	1
Egyptian Goose	2	4	2	5	11	44	55	25	17	19	3	3
Shelduck	64	113	132	124	156	374	464	82	314	322	101	67
Wigeon	20540	17089	11460	293	10	3	1	9	90	3620	4016	9973
Gadwall	12	27	61	47	45	31	13	2	3	5	25	19
Teal	1238	2372	1924	787	126	18	4	27	94	163	284	282
Mallard	349	109	87	33	63	58	79	317	519	197	89	219
Pintail	193	146	81	11	2	2	-	4	26	117	98	194
Garganey	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shoveler	216	249	333	128	18	14	5	3	48	79	244	202
Pochard	4	14	28	16	13	13	4	2	-	-	8	4
Tufted Duck	1	1	20	5	4	2	6	-	-	1	1	2
Scaup	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Little Grebe	4	3	3	6	5	5	7	10	8	6	5	4
Great Crested Grebe	2	2	15	5	5	6	7	14	11	18	6	3
Cormorant	41	27	35	18	26	29	33	40	16	27	19	31
Little Egret	17	42	55	34	46	46	47	53	43	64	47	48
Spoonbill	-	-	-	3	3	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Coot	46	22	231	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oystercatcher	36	68	190	128	56	56	138	79	31	24	14	27
Avocet	176	143	228	176	103	146	473	706	556	247	102	174
Ringed Plover	54	75	61	76	215	35	26	147	189	112	76	63
Golden Plover	28220	22900	3313	14	-	1	72	2820	3135	4200	6830	9870
Grey Plover	59	44	53	14	16	14	2	7	7	13	16	19
Lapwing	24360	25140	816	206	224	220	249	200	417	316	2470	8217
Knot	445	339	182	36	15	7	4	22	26	17	67	113
Sanderling	7	14	9	1	7	-	1	2	1	-	-	3
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	11	12	2	-	-
Dunlin	3490	3670	4211	1714	717	22	392	211	463	1296	1990	2970
Ruff	15	59	24	1	4	-	10	7	3	10	14	6
Snipe	30	13	32	18	4	6	2	17	35	30	40	13
Black-tailed Godwit	1634	1363	1082	639	122	292	623	1120	840	1036	807	849
Bar-tailed Godwit	51	51	64	26	36	3	3	7	12	7	39	21
Whimbrel	-	-	-	30	59	2	3	6	2	-	-	-
Curlew	1152	1151	1161	267	64	192	334	726	890	899	757	799
Spotted Redshank	5	5	5	8	5	2	1	3	3	5	4	4
Redshank	967	973	1318	1330	164	143	979	810	1478	1216	871	813
Greenshank	-	-	-	7	16	2	8	6	3	1	1	-
Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	2	-	1	-
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	5	-	2	3	2	-	-	-
Turnstone	7	7	10	5	12	1	3	6	9	4	4	3
Little Gull	-	-	-	14	1	4	5	2	1	-	-	-

Norfolk Bird Atlas

Moss Taylor

By the end of the winter of 2006/07, all 1,458 tetrads in Norfolk had been visited twice between December and February since the start of the Norfolk Bird Atlas (NBA) fieldwork in December 1999. During these set visits a total of 214 species was recorded. The winter database currently holds just over 125,000 records, but this will increase by a few thousand as additional relevant records are extracted from the *Norfolk Bird Reports*.

By the end of the 2007 summer, all Norfolk tetrads will also have had two set visits between April and June, since 2000, during which the numbers of pairs of each species present has also been recorded. To date, a total of 310 species has been reported by NBA fieldworkers in Norfolk during these three months, of which 157 are likely to have bred. The summer database, which is incomplete at the time of writing, contains almost 80,000 records, but is expected to reach about 85,000 by the time all the recording forms have been submitted. This represents a 30% increase on the number of records submitted for the earlier 1980-85 Norfolk Bird Atlas of breeding birds.

Such an achievement would not have been possible without the dedicated army of observers who have supported the project over the eight years, and who between them have spent about 25,000 hours on NBA fieldwork. Almost 370 people have carried out set visits, of which 7% have come from counties other than Norfolk: Cambridgeshire (12), Suffolk (7), West Midlands (2), Bedfordshire (2) and one each from Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and even Scotland! The Working Group of the NBA are extremely grateful to everyone who has helped, as I'm sure everybody is who has an interest in the distribution and conservation of birds in our county.

As far as this current *Norfolk Bird Report* is concerned, all submitted NBA summer records up to the end of 2006 have been included in the species' analyses. For 90 selected species the percentage of tetrads in which each was recorded on at least one of the visits in one of the summers from 2000 to 2006 and the average number of 'pairs' per occupied tetrad are given in the species accounts of the Systematic List.

Once the summer fieldwork is finished in 2007, the work of the NBA will be complete and it will simply be a matter of writing up and publishing the results. It is hoped that the final book, which will be A4 format and containing about 500 pages, will be published during 2008. As fieldwork for the BTO national Atlas will be commencing this winter, NBA supporters are asked to transfer their efforts to that project, which will be of great value at both county as well as national level. If you are interested in continuing with atlas fieldwork over the next four winters and summers then please consider contributing to **Bird Atlas 2007-11**. This project aims to cover all 10-km squares in Britain and Ireland to record the distribution and relative abundance of birds in winter and the breeding season. Two complimentary methods, *Timed Tetrad Visits* and *Roving Records* will achieve these aims. For further information visit www.birdatlas.net where you can request tetrads and find out more or contact the local organisers for the county. It's a great opportunity to get out and discover new places in Norfolk.

The Regional Atlas Organisers for Norfolk are:

North-west: Fred Cooke Tel: 01553 631076 Email: f.cooke@uea.ac.uk

North-east: Chris Hudson Tel: 01603 868805 Email: chris697@btinternet.com

South-west: Vince Matthews Tel: 01953 884125 Email: bto@vincemattthews.plus.com

South-east: Rachel Warren Tel: 01603 593912 Email: campephilus@btinternet.com

It simply remains for me to thank most sincerely everyone who has helped with the NBA survey and made it such an outstanding success.

Systematic List

Introduction

The Systematic List follows that most recently published by the BOU in terms of the order and latin names. However, the English names that have been used in the Report for many years are retained. In order to avoid confusion with the names adopted by the BOU and used in ‘The Norfolk List’ later in this Report these have been included in brackets where applicable.

Unless otherwise stated, all observations are of single birds and refer to 2006. The following abbreviations are used in the species accounts:

BO	=	Bird Observatory	NBC	=	Norfolk Bird Club
BBRC	=	British Birds Rarities Committee	NBR	=	Norfolk Bird Report
BF	=	Sugarbeet Factory	NNR	=	National Nature Reserve
BOU	=	British Ornithologists’ Union	NR	=	Nature Reserve
BTO	=	British Trust for Ornithology	RC	=	Relief Channel
CP	=	Country/Coastal Park	RSPB	=	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
ESA	=	Environmentally Sensitive Area	SM	=	Saltmarsh
FM	=	Fresh Marsh	STW	=	Sewage Treatment Works
GC	=	Golf Course	TA	=	Training Area
GM	=	Grazing Marsh	WeBS	=	monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts
GP	=	Gravel Pit	WM	=	Water Meadows
NBA	=	Norfolk Bird Atlas	WWT	=	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Where tables are used in the species accounts these refer to monthly maximum counts for main sites unless otherwise stated. A dash indicates that no count details have been received or none present. For wildfowl and waders, the data used derives generally from the monthly WeBS counts although if higher totals are available these are used instead; readers are also referred to the tables giving composite counts for the Wash, north coast and Breydon/Berney which should be read in conjunction with the individual species accounts in the Systematic List. Updated WeBS thresholds for International/National importance have been inserted for all relevant species.

Whilst many records to the west of Sheringham town are in the Sheringham Bird Observatory recording area, for the sake of simplicity most records are referred to as ‘Sheringham’ only. The area previously referred to as ‘Lakenheath Washes’ is called ‘Hockwold Washes’ to avoid confusion with the adjacent Lakenheath Fen RSPB Reserve situated in Suffolk. The area referred to as mid-Yare RSPB includes the reserve at Strumpshaw and adjoining land under the Society’s control and/or ownership. Where details of breeding birds are given at Holkham NNR for example these refer, unless otherwise stated, to the grazing marshes at Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy and Holkham.

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

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

A common resident; the Ouse Washes attract the most important winter concentrations
Highest numbers at most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whitlingham CP	29	33	14	18	18	23	37	46	37	32	39	54
Welney	66	87	67	85	-	100	-	-	-	-	66	46

Other concentrations: Jan 77 Thorpe St Andrew; Feb 93 Thurlton Marshes; March 62 Fleggburgh; April 100 Barnham Broom, 71 Halvergate Marshes; May 66 Stanford Water; June 118 Upton Washes; July 65 Ormesby Broad; Aug 59 Thorpe St Andrew; Sept 98 Hockwold Washes; Oct 67 Cantley BF; Nov 162 Cantley BF, 106 Ouse Washes, 70 Great Ouse RC; Dec 44 Narford Lake.

Records of 53 nests/broods: Acle, Blakeney GM 2, Brancaster GM, Buckenham Tofts, Cantley BF, Chedgrave Marshes 5, Dilham, Guist Common, Hickling Broad, Holkham NNR 6, Hoveton, mid-Yare RSPB 19, Pentney GP, Thetford Nunnery Lakes and Abbey Heath, South Acre, Stanford Water, Welney 9, West Somerton. NBA results showed the species was present in 31% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad (non-breeders in flocks are included in the data).

At Buckenham Tofts the cob of the breeding pair was seen trying to drown a male Egyptian Goose of a pair with 5 grown young. He continually attacked it, holding it by the head under water. The gander was at his last gasp when his mate made three dive-bomb attacks on the swan’s head and eventually diverted it, the gander managing to scramble ashore.

Coastal movements: single on sea Cromer May 4th, 2 imms south Winterton May 17th, 3 north Gorleston May 23rd, single on sea Holkham Bay Nov 5th.

Bewick’s Swan (Tundra Swan)

Cygnus columbianus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in internationally important numbers

Counts at Welney WWT:

Jan 15th	Feb 12th	Mar 12th	Oct	Nov 19th	Dec 18th
3114	1626	25	-	1033	1580

International importance (winter): 200

Again numbers down compared with 2004 and 2005.

Peak counts in Broad s included: Jan 150 Stalham 2nd, 385 East Ruston 14th, 292 Sutton Mill 22nd, 394 Hickling Broad 25th, 285 Horning Upper Street 27th, 339 Ludham Bridge 28th; Feb 150 How Hill Reedham Water 3rd, 240 Horning Upper Street and 293 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh 8th; Nov 24 Hickling Broad 29th; Dec 89 Catfield and 45 Hickling Broad 28th.

An early departure of birds east/north-east: 25 Lynford GP and 40 Surlingham Church Marsh Jan 29th, 34 Chedgrave Marshes/Fritton and 60 Stanford TA 30th, 50 Hellesdon Feb 13th, 100 Cringleford, 59 New Costessey and 200 Norwich 18th, and 32 Norwich March 1st. Latest record 30 Upton Broad March 18th.

Autumn immigration was drawn out from Oct to end of year; earliest reports 9 Stiffkey Fen Oct 26th and 8 west Scolt Head 27th.

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

Winter visitor, mainly from Iceland, in internationally important numbers

Counts at Welney WWT:

<i>Jan 4th</i>	<i>Feb 26th</i>	<i>Mar 12th</i>	<i>Apr 5th</i>	<i>Oct 25th</i>	<i>Nov 19th</i>	<i>Dec 18th</i>
2087	1217	1028	150	250	2794	1553

International importance (winter): 210

Numbers down on previous year except for Nov which is the highest count ever recorded for that month. In April still 150 present on 4th; 7 birds over-summered. Elsewhere a moribund bird How Hill April 12th.

Peak counts in Broad: *Jan* 30 Catfield 12th, 46 East Ruston 14th, 59 Hickling Broad 25th, 30 Barton Turf Fen 30th; *Feb* 45 How Hill Reedham Water 1st, 25 Hickling Stubb Mill 6th; *March* 25 Irstead 3rd; *Nov* 9 Hickling Broad 26th.

Earliest report in autumn 22 Welney Oct 9th. Small numbers noted on passage: 4 west Holme Oct 23rd, 32 Snettisham and 16 south-west Titchwell Oct 27th, 6 Titchwell Nov 6th and 5 there 7th, 21 south King's Lynn Nov 10th.

Bean Goose

Anser fabalis

Taiga Bean Goose *A (f) fabalis*

Winter visitor to the Yare Valley

Numbers in Yare valley very similar to recent years with 179 Jan 2nd, falling to 72 by Feb 11th and last 41 27th. First returning birds there 6 Nov 2nd, with 26 4th, but no others until well into Dec when just 60 by month end.

Elsewhere singles Horsey March 17th, feral/escaped bird Colney GP July 22nd, 19 west Berney Nov 9th and an adult female with Pinkfeet Holkham GM Nov 18th/19th.

Tundra Bean Goose *A (f) rossicus*

Small numbers increasingly recorded in winter

A poor year; in first winter period 9 Welney Jan 1st-March 25th, up to 3 with Pinkfeet in north-west/north until early March, 3 St Olave's Herringfleet Jan 7th/8th, one Martham Jan 10th and 3 11th, Edingthorpe Jan 21st, Horsey Jan 22nd with 3 Feb 3rd and one March 14th-27th, west Cley March 5th and last of spring Burnham Overly GM April 9th.

In second winter period two again with Pinkfeet north Norfolk from Nov 12th until year end, 3 Martham and Rollesby with Pinkfeet Nov 17th and presumed same 3 Runham 18th with one next day.

Also a number of unidentified Bean Geese sp, with 3 south Winterton Nov 18th and 7 in off sea Caister Dec 10th.

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

Winter visitor in internationally important numbers from Iceland and East Greenland

As usual co-ordinated dawn counts of birds leaving roost sites once again carried out on a regular basis (although at some sites this is becoming increasingly difficult to be accurate due to birds roosting and feeding on grazing marshes), peak counts very similar to previous year with 112,777 Jan 3rd and 106,926 Dec 18th. The Jan 9th count at Snettisham was a new site record. In second winter period numbers roosting at Scolt Head much reduced compared with recent years, with more than half the county's birds roosting at Holkham/Wells.

First winter period roost counts:

	<i>Jan 3rd</i>	<i>Jan 9th</i>	<i>Jan 25th</i>
Snettisham	17790	49610	9040
Holme/Thornham	1000	-	5000
Scolt Head	49000	21500	4800
Holkham/Wells	29340	17275	50000
Horsey/Heigham Holmes	4440	7210	5110
Berney	11207	2450	8625
<i>Total</i>	112777	98045	82575

Second winter period:

	<i>Oct 16th</i>	<i>Nov 13th</i>	<i>Nov 27th</i>	<i>Dec 18th</i>
Snettisham	2035	24550	33485	10670
Holme/Thornham	600	-	-	-
Scolt Head	4800	9150	4600	17200
Holkham/Wells	10440	26700	53550	69100
Horsey	5000	5126	4726	2456
Berney	1050	3400	3500	7500
<i>Total</i>	30575	68926	99861	106926

Additional roost counts included 90,000 Holkham GM Jan 21st, 4640 Horsey Mere Feb 8th, 1300 Scolt Head Feb 11th and 250 there Sept 29th.

Inland feeding flocks and other noteworthy counts away from main coastal sites: *Jan* 3000 Bacton 21st, 8000 North Creake and 6000 Waterden 23rd, 1500 Chedgrave Marshes and 900 Burgh Marshes 29th; *Feb* 1150 Haddiscoe 5th; *Oct* 15,000 Docketing 16th, 1500 Cantley BF 21st, 10,000 North Creake 26th; *Nov* 10,000 Flitcham 13th, 11,000 Docketing 17th, 3000 Bacton Edingtonthorpe 23rd; *Dec* 3930 Haddiscoe Island 17th.

Most had left county by mid-Feb, but in north-west up to 675 still at Snettisham March 6th, 1200 Holme during March, 78 April and 10 May 1st, 1465 Burnham Norton until mid-April, 450 still 24th and 169 May 6th, 500 Burnham Overy GM April 9th and 6 May 10th, and 11 Cley May 3rd. In east of county numbers still present in early spring much smaller with 250 Horsey March 21st, 135 there April 14th and 13 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh April 28th.

Spring exodus evident in north-west when 160 north-west Titchwell and 90 north Scolt Head March 2nd, 600 north-west Titchwell 3rd, 320 north-west Scolt Head April 22nd, 100 north there May 4th, 80 8th and last of spring 17 north 12th.

Up to 6 injured birds remained at Snettisham May/June, with 1-2 feral/injured birds reported from Blakeney Point, Breydon, Brundall, Cley, Holme, Salthouse and Titchwell.

First returning birds 17 east Brancaster Staithe Sept 16th, 18 in off sea Scolt Head 17th and 50 Holkham GM 23rd. Few others with birds much slower to arrive than in recent autumns, with 456 in off sea Scolt Head 26th, 70 Waxham 28th, 110 west Weybourne 29th, 385 in off Scolt Head 30th and just 120 at Holkham GM by end of month. Birds continued to trickle in over first couple of days of Oct, with a more general and dramatic arrival from 3rd, when 3000 Holkham GM and 1860 in off sea Scolt Head 3rd, an impressive 7645 in off sea there 4th with 3100 also in off sea 5th. On latter date 933 also in off sea Blakeney Point, 800 east Weybourne and 1700 east Paston. Subsequently 25,000 Holkham GM and 4655 Horsey Mere 7th, with continued arrivals during rest of Oct and Nov.

Numerous overhead movements demonstrated the mobile nature of wintering flocks, the most noteworthy: 300 Acle, 3500 Cantley, 1100 north-west Foulsham and 500 north-west

Frettenham Jan 7th, 800 east Weybourne Feb 17th, 900 west Aylmerton March 3rd, 2500 east Paston Oct 8th, 360 north-west Barton Broad Nov 3rd, 760 south-east Honing Lock 11th, 3000 Grimston Heath, 5000 Harpley and 3500 east Paston 19th, 2000 west Sheringham 27th, 2000 east Blakeney and 7000 east Paston 29th, 1300 south-east Langham 30th, 2000 east Salthouse, 3500 Sheringham, 1750 east Aylmerton and 3200 east Paston Dec 17th, 4000 east Cley 18th and 350 west Norwich 19th.

As usual a number of various leusictic or oddly coloured birds reported, including a leucistic bird with red eyes, one with yellow-legs and several with orange legs and various birds with differing amounts of white in plumage.

White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons

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

Winter visitor and passage migrant from Siberian tundra

Peak counts at traditional wintering localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holkham	399	295	50	14	110
Hickling/Heigham Holmes	512	169	300	-	80
Buckenham/Cantley	200	110	128	28	56
Breydon/Berney	35	227	470	1	-

National importance (winter): 58

More records than usual away from key sites in first winter period when: *Jan* 2 east Sheringham 5th, 14 east Upton Marshes 14th, 4 with Pinkfeet South Creak and Waterden 23rd, 17 north Filby Broad 28th, 12 St Benet’s Level 29th; *Feb* 65 Horsey Mere 3rd, one Holme 4th/5th, 35 Welney 7th-15th and 48 25th, 198 south-west Haddiscoe 11th, 3 Snettisham 13th, 2 Martham Broad 18th, 29 east Kelling WM Feb 24th; *March* one Holme 1st, 10 Snettisham 3rd, 8 east Sheringham 5th, 32 Claxton Marshes 7th, one Welney 11th, 51 east Strumpshaw 12th and 68 Horsey 17th. Last of spring 29 east out to sea Winterton March 26th and 4 Snettisham April 1st.

Feral birds (1-2) reported May-Sept at Cantley, Cley and Stiffkey Fen.

First returning birds in autumn during second half of Oct when 2 Horsey 16th, 11 Waxham 17th and 12 23rd, 14 Brograve Level and 7 Cley 19th, 4 east Sheringham 21st and 8 Cley 28th/29th.

Additional birds in final two months of year: 3 Welney Nov 3rd, 4 Cley also 3rd and one 26th, 2 Snettisham 19th and in Dec one Snettisham 4th, 2 Gorleston 10th, 1-2 Morston 24th-27th, 7 Horsey 29th and 6 Pentney GP 31st.

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

Regular visitor in very small numbers from Western Greenland

In north of county an adult with Pink-footed Geese at Holkham GM Jan 15th and Waterden 22nd. In east a 1st-winter Horsey Jan 18th before presumably moving to north Norfolk where a 1st-winter Waterden and South Creak Jan 23rd, and Brancaster Thompson Farms and Burnham Market Feb 28th and March 1st.

In autumn presumed same returning adult at Holkham GM Oct 4th, Cley 7th, Holkham GM again 19th and Brancaster Dec 31st, with a 1st-winter between Docking and Syderstone Nov 21st.

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

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

Highest counts at most regularly counted and important sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	350	789	303	68	306	530	690	780	1190	1322	850	593
Holme	55	8	18	20	30	2	15	27	442	120	76	129
Titchwell	82	-	66	7	20	22	55	317	263	-	40	77
Holkham NNR	600	439	269	197	92	88	72	291	215	366	287	205
Holkham Park	95	328	250	38	56	32	60	41	27	57	37	300
Stiffkey Fen	237	258	349	36	38	89	157	897	523	409	314	842
Blakeney GM	-	-	36	71	63	81	67	-	3	96	6	36
Cley	11	10	200	198	236	75	150	366	285	600	599	173
Hickling Broad	450	-	-	-	-	148	200	700	650	300	-	-
Whitlingham CP	40	207	2	10	28	96	35	1	-	28	-	64
Welney	97	53	43	21	-	10	-	-	120	350	352	102

Peak counts elsewhere: *Jan* 550 Potter Heigham, 420 Martham Broad, 200 Tottenhill GP, 180 Wereham; *Feb* 400 Potter Heigham, 250 How Hill Reedham Water, 200 Irstead, 160 St Benet's Level; *March* 300 How Hill Reedham Water; *June* 185 Blackborough End GP; *July* 155 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh; *Aug* 320 Kelling WM, 140 Brancaster Hbr; *Sept* 650 North Wootton Marsh, 511 Buckenham Marshes, 445 Kelling WM, 350 Martham Broad, 232 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh; *Oct* 680 Blackborough End GP, 521 Strumpshaw, 350 Buckenham Marshes, 325 Limpenhoe Marshes, 300 Cantley, 153 Salthouse; *Nov* 442 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 200 Tottenhill GP, 140 Barton Broad; *Dec* 207 Narford Lake, 166 Barton Broad, 133 Ranworth Broad.

During spring/summer breeding pairs: Blakeney GM 26, Blakeney Point 3, Cley 100 (134 young fledged), Coxford, Holkham NNR 72, Hoveton Park, mid-Yare RSPB 37, Swanton Novers 2, Thornham and Wissington BF 3-4. Also bred Buckenham Tofts, Cantley, Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound Complex (where survey found 254 adults and 21 young from at least 5 broods), Nar Valley Fisheries, Pentney GP (where crèche of 200 young), Pentney Heath, Snettisham and Stanford Water. NBA results showed the species was present in 34% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad (non-breeders in flocks are included in the data).

Possible Icelandic birds with Pinkfeet included 2 in off sea Titchwell Oct 3rd, one Brancaster 4th, 2 Burnham Market 11th, one Docking Nov 4th, adult Flitcham 12th with same Holkham GM and Stiffkey 19th, 2 Holkham GM 23rd and one there 26th (different from 12th and 19th bird), and 13 Morston Dec 23rd with 6 on 28th.

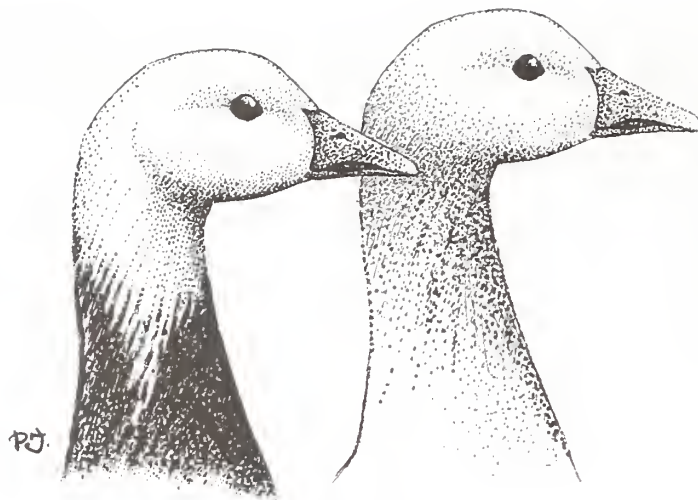
Small numbers of birds also showing characteristics of eastern race *rubirostris* included one Happisburgh Jan 9th, 1st-winter Holkham GM Jan 20th and Horsey Feb 3rd. Also 5 north off Gorleston Nov 5th possibly wild birds.

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

Feral/escaped birds in small numbers; probability of occasional genuine vagrants

Two presumed wild individuals arrived with returning Pinkfeet during Oct. The first, an adult Blue Morph (or intermediate) arrived Holkham GM 3rd and spent remainder of year with Pinkfeet in general vicinity, making two east coast excursions to Horsey Oct 16th and Happisburgh/Eccles/Sea Palling Oct 23rd.



Snow Geese (Phil Jones)

The second bird, an adult White Morph, flew south with Pinkfeet over Spurn (E Yorks) and Mablethorpe (Lincs) on Oct 13th and arrived in county later same day. It remained in Dooking/Holkham area until at least 20th before moving to Sutton Bridge (Lincs) on 25th-31st. It returned to the county early Nov and by 23rd had settled into Holkham/Wells area where it remained, often in company with the Blue Morph, until year end.

Greater Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Introduced resident

Regularly counted at following sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	130	130	96	24	78	132	87	104	140	275	177	148
Burnham Norton	138	90	34	52	-	15	31	35	64	72	75	40
Breydon/Berney	36	34	10	13	27	58	28	30	59	110	105	7

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 72 Thetford, 53 Cley, 41 Blickling Park; *Feb* 37 Barton Broad; *March* 92 Ditchingham, 56 St Benet's Level; *April* 38 Barton Broad; *May* 44 Westmere; *June* 79 Titchwell, 61 Barton Broad; *July* 81 Barton Broad, 80 Titchwell; *Aug* 120 Hickling Broad, 85 Salthouse, 77 Holme; *Sept* 430 Wisington BF, 353 Nar Valley Fisheries, 262 Buckenham Marshes, 186 Pentney GP; *Oct* 163 Cantley, 49 Blakeney GM; *Dec* 55 Cley, 35 Titchwell.

Typical coastal movement noted June with Scolt Head most productive site where 16 west 2nd, 43 east 3rd, 190 (145 on sea 45 west) 7th, 50 on sea 8th, 36 east 9th and 3 west 25th. Elsewhere 60 east then west Cromer 9th, 31 east Mundesley 10th and 32 in off sea Winterton 11th, the latter sightings perhaps involving same flock.

Breeding records from Bawsey, Blakeney GM (11 prs), Buckenham Tofts, Hickling Broad (5 prs reared 18 young), Holkham NNR (11 prs), mid-Yare RSPB (10 prs), Nar Valley Fisheries, Pentney GP, Welney (2 prs reared 8 young) and Westmere. NBA results showed the species was present in 24% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad (non-breeders in flocks included in the data).

Lesser Canada Goose

Branta hutchinsii

Vagrant from north America

The rather elusive individual, showing characteristics of race *hutchinsii* and first noted in county Nov 19th 2005, made a few intermittent appearances at Holkham GM during Jan from 12th-14th and again 17th/18th and 21st, but was not seen subsequently.

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

Branta leucopsis

As usual a number of presumed wild birds associating with Pinkfeet during both winter periods. Their high mobility among flocks makes exact numbers hard to ascertain but min of 15 in first winter period and 22 (including 11 in off sea Titchwell Dec 19th) in second winter period.

Small-scale spring passage noted at a few coastal sites commencing March 26th when 7 north Winterton followed by 7 (same?) west Scolt Head 31st. During April 8 east Mundesley 2nd, 4 west Beeston Bump 26th and 5 south Waxham same day. In May 4 west Mundesley 1st, one north Winterton 11th and 2 west Scolt Head 12th. The origin of all these birds remains unknown.

Presumed feral birds noted widely during year with max counts: *Jan* 67 Heigham Holmes, 40 Hickling Broad, 40 Postwick; *March* 280 Earsham; *July* 22 Hickling Rush Hills; *Aug* 65 Hickling Broad; *Sept* 120 Earsham, 63 Buckenham Marshes; *Oct* 74 Buckenham Marshes, 63 Cantley Marshes; *Nov* 40 Buckenham Marshes; *Dec* 62 Hickling Broad, 61 Buckenham Marshes.

Brent Goose

Branta bernicla

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

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly peak counts at selected important sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Ousemouth/Lynn Point	-	-	2000	800	150	150	-	-
Snettisham	600	900	970	540	520	2	140	-
Holme/Thornham/Titchwell	981	848	450	330	168	532	560	300
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	2200	2250	900	900	680	900	1158	1000
Holkham/Wells	1538	1390	1445	299	406	98	560	595
Stiffkey/Cockthorpe/Langham	700	1000	527	1000	769	450	298	2200
Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse	2500	1120	1500	1224	881	169	1098	925

International importance (winter): 2000

For further counts in Wash and north coast see WeBS tables

Most birds departed by early June leaving only a few individuals throughout summer especially Scolt Head where 8 June, 9 July and 5 Aug; elsewhere singles Snettisham and Blakeney Point.

First returning birds early Sept when 19 Holme 3rd, 11 Cley 8th, 9 Titchwell 11th and 13 west Blakeney Point 12th. Main arrivals Oct/Nov with two distinct peaks. The first Oct 9th-11th when 900 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 9th, 629 south 118 north Winterton 10th, 1000 west Blakeney Point, 1540 west Cley and 1377 south 66 north California all 11th. Second peak early Nov when coastal passage on 2nd included 223 Holme, 644 Sheringham, 468 Mundesley/Paston, 608 Walcott (0630-1440) (all west) and 510 north Winterton, followed by 608 past Eccles 3rd. Only other notable coastal counts until year end 295 north Gorleston Nov 25th and 90 south Scratby 28th.

From data received it would appear that this species suffered a disastrous breeding season; at Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr only 3 juvs recorded during entire second winter period while at Cley sampled flocks contained an average of 2% juvs.

On a sad note the regularly returning leucistic ‘Silver Brent’ which has graced the Scolt Head/Burnham Norton/Brancaster areas since 1982 failed to return this year.

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

Scarce winter visitor

During first winter period singles at Binham, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy, Cley, Holkham GM, Kelling, Ongar Hill, Ousemouth, Salthouse, Snettisham, Wells and Weybourne. Multiple sightings: *Jan* 4 Terrington Marsh; *Feb* 6 Weybourne, 5 Cley; *March* 6 Weybourne, 3 Terrington Marsh, 2 Cley.

Similar distribution and numbers during second winter period with singles at Brancaster, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy Staithe, Cockthorpe, Holkham GM, Holme, Morston, Salthouse, Sheringham, Terrington, Titchwell, Waxham and Winterton. Only records of more than one: 2 Burnham Market Oct 3rd, 2 west Walcott Nov 2nd with 2 past Eccles next day, and finally 2 Flitcham Nov 14th.

Black Brant *B (b) nigricans*

An almost annual vagrant from Arctic Siberia

During first winter period singles recorded at Binham, Blakeney Hbr, Burnham Overy, Cley, Holkham GM, Morston, Salthouse, Snettisham, Stiffkey, Terrington, Wells and Wighton, with 2 in Holme/Titchwell/Thornham area. It would appear that at least 5 birds resident in county during this period. Single adults at Cley March 28th and Morston April 29th considered to be different individuals to the usually present birds thus bringing the total to at least 7 individuals during first winter period. At Holkham GM 3 1st-winter Black Brant x Dark-bellied Brents present until at least end of Jan with another presumed hybrid Burnham Overy Jan 3rd.

During second winter period singles at Burnham Overy Staithe, Cley, Cockthorpe, Hindringham, Langham, Salthouse, Snettisham and Wells. At Holkham GM 2 present Dec 11th until year end where 2 hybrid Black Brant x Dark-bellied Brents also present.

At Overstrand 2 adults west together Dec 19th were presumably the usual Titchwell/Holme duo returning to winter; they were back in this area from at least Dec 28th. Analysis of data indicates min of 6 birds present during second winter period.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Long-established resident feral population

Highest counts: *Jan* 15 Whitlingham CP; *Feb* 56 Irstead, 29 Holkham Park; *March* 45 Holkham Park, 36 St Benet's Level; *April* 43 Holkham Park, 31 Holkham GM; *May* 51 Holkham Park, 21 Pentney GP; *June* 27 Holkham Park; *July* 55 Breydon/Berney, 50 Horning; *Aug* 135 Pentney GP, 58 Sennowe Park; *Sept* 188 Nar Valley Fisheries, 147 Pentney GP, 102 Buckenham Marshes; *Oct* 79 Cley; *Nov* 54 Burgh Marshes, 34 Snettisham; *Dec* 66 Pentney GP, 34 Barford.

Breeding recorded at Acle, Ashmanhaugh, Baconsthorpe, Bessingham, Cantley, Earsham, East Bilney, Flitcham, Fowlmere, Hickling Broad, Holkham NNR, Holkham Park, Holme, Horning, Hoveton, Ingoldisthorpe, Kelling WM, Letheringsett, mid-Yare RSPB, Nar Valley Fisheries, Pentney GP, Repps-with-Bastwick, Ringland, Spixworth, Stanford TA, Thetford, Wensum Valley (11 pairs), Westmore, Whitlingham CP and Wisington BF. NBA results showed the species was present in 26% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

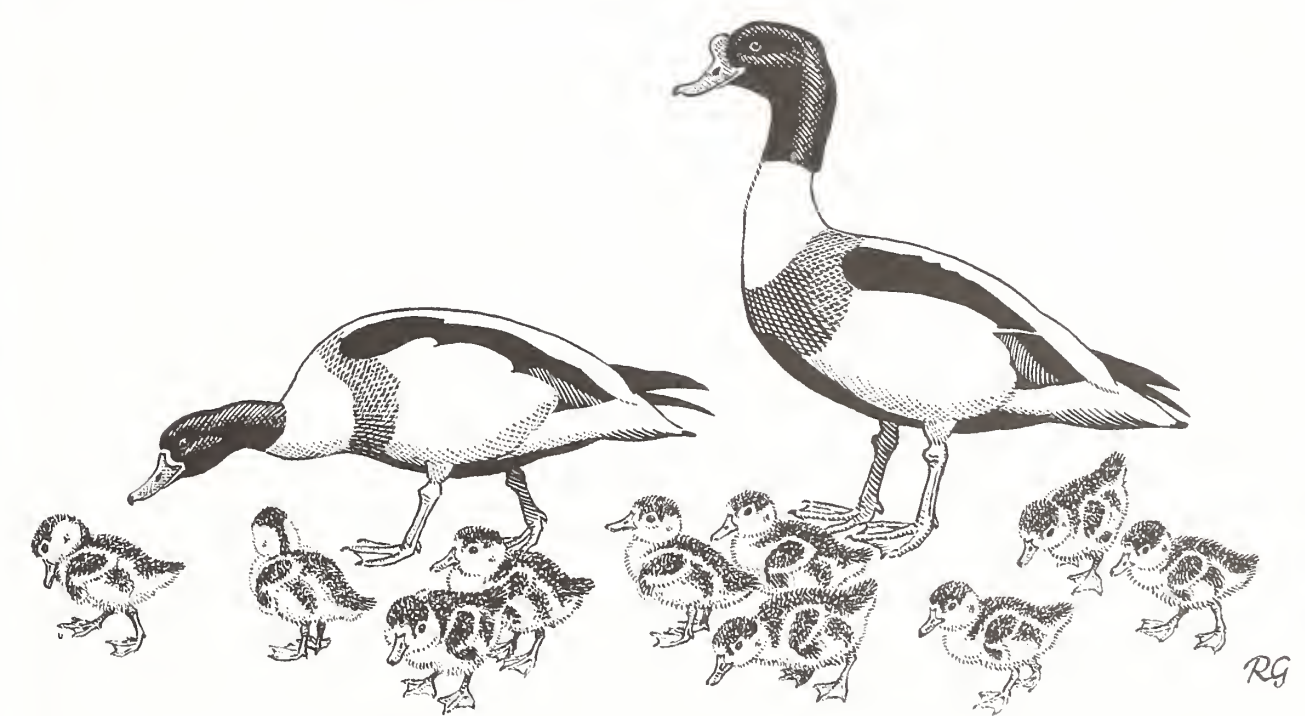
Widespread but declining breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington Marsh	1800	1600	1100	447	150	-	101	298	315	697	-	1874
Ongar Hill	-	-	-	248	114	-	83	620	740	296	410	-
Ousemouth	1427	1166	141	505	66	1117	33	168	118	373	21	172
Snettisham	1580	1526	380	166	245	1164	310	380	490	898	1169	912
Holme	6	7	37	32	39	19	10	10	40	-	80	90
Titchwell	52	59	78	31	69	38	6	11	20	33	29	46
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	385	275	161	128	84	102	57	31	75	92	334	345
Holkham NNR	51	54	121	53	130	-	-	3	2	18	16	45
Stiffkey Fen/SM	129	128	61	54	42	61	-	8	-	-	65	71
Blakeney Hbr/GM	248	238	237	226	138	127	30	16	25	58	282	243
Cley	83	66	85	75	74	78	36	62	71	106	71	127
Breydon/Berney	64	113	132	124	156	374	464	82	314	322	101	67

International importance (winter): 3000; National importance (winter): 782

No counts received from Welney. Only notable counts elsewhere: Jan 60 Wells Hbr; March 132 Hardley Flood; April 112 Hardley Flood; May 85 Wissington BF; Aug 80 North Wootton Marsh; Sept 240 North Wootton Marsh.



Shelduck (Robert Gillmor)

Winter movement 100 west Blakeney Point and 26 north Sea Palling both Jan 23rd.

Breeding records (single broods unless otherwise stated): Baconsthorpe, Blakeney Point (24 prs), Brancaster GM (3 prs), Breydon, Cantley BF (35 young), Cley (8 prs - 50 young fledged), Coxford, Dersingham Bog ('declining breeder'), Earsham, Flitcham, Hickling Broad (3 broods), Holkham NNR (4 broods), Holme (4 broods), Mileham, Scolt Head (30-35 prs - 30 broods including crèche of 50 young), Sparham Pools, Welney (11 prs), Wissington BF (3 broods). NBA results showed the species was present in 31% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Regular easterly midsummer departure to moulting grounds off Heligoland noted from June 14th onwards. Majority of records from Scolt Head where total 1294 June/July with peak counts 67 June 27th and 77 28th, 178 July 6th, 129 12th, 227 16th and 142 on 20th; also 62 Cley 27th.

Returning birds moving west as early as Aug 4th until Nov 19th. Peak movements 33 Scolt Head and 52 Sheringham Aug 27th, 83 Scolt Head, 86 Sheringham and 77 Mundesley Sept 17th, 40 Scolt Head Oct 8th, 260 Holme 12th, 357 Holme, 83 Kelling, 139 Sheringham, 59 Overstrand, 115 Mundesley, 69 Walcott and 108 north Winterton all Nov 2nd, 201 Holme, 35 Walcott and 61 north Winterton 3rd, 80 Holme 19th.

Leucistic bird again Breydon June 23rd-July 9th for second summer.

Mandarin (Mandarin Duck)

Aix galericulata

Small population derived from introductions and escapes

Regular records only from Felbrigg Park where peak monthly counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Felbrigg	4	5	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	8	9	11

Elsewhere only records Heacham (Jan-March), Tottenhill GP Jan 15th-Feb 3rd, Salhouse Broad Jan 25th, Outwell Feb 7th, South Creake March 23rd and Dec 20th, Yarmouth April 1st, Welney May 6th, Sennowe Park July 13th and Breydon Nov 27th.

Wigeon (Eurasian Wigeon)

Anas penelope

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

Peak monthly counts at main localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	3085	1730	900	9	600	1552	1583	2000
Holme	2227	1482	1090	40	500	2250	1200	750
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	475	505	51	2	3000	4725	3998	360
Burnham Norton	4118	4695	2970	17	95	67	2949	980
Holkham GM	6426	7557	4923	49	2041	2070	4330	918
Stiffkey Fen/SM	725	179	179	3	-	366	525	369
Blakeney Hbr/GM	2299	1821	1219	19	1663	884	1767	1252
Cley/Salthouse	1200	1827	1118	3	305	2073	1720	1640
Breydon/Berney	20540	17089	11460	293	90	3620	4016	9973
Ranworth Broad	2253	1057	1193	5	-	170	1223	1285
Cantley/Buckenham	5027	5000	4681	-	675	630	3200	2012
Welney	8733	10719	7702	704	150	1421	4841	10428

International importance (winter): 15,000; National importance (winter): 4060

Notable counts elsewhere: Jan 475 Heigham Holmes, 1350 Ousemouth; Feb 500 Horsey Mere, 1000 Snettisham CP; Oct 979 Titchwell; Nov 2670 Ouse Washes (excl Welney), 299 Titchwell; Dec 312 King’s Lynn Great Ouse, 2580 Ousemouth.

Movement of 26 east Sheringham March 11th. Usual rapid spring departure earlier than usual with most birds gone by late March/early April and only small numbers lingering into May. Over-summering birds, principally drakes, at many wetland sites with June records (max numbers): Blakeney GM, Burnham Norton, Cley (12), Holkham NNR (5), Holme (2), How Hill Reedham Water (4), Johnson Street Buttle Marsh (2), Ken Hill Marsh (3), Salthouse (15),



Wigeon (Gary Wright)

Snettisham (5) and Welney (6). Breeding suspected at mid-Yare RSPB (2 prs) and Titchwell (pair) but no broods reported.

First westerly movement 2 Mundesley July 9th with small numbers then arriving throughout Aug. Protracted passage through until Nov 28th (Scratby) although visible numbers generally poor. Peak movements (west along north coast and north along east coast): 333 Scolt Head Sept 8th, 257 9th with 1092 there 11th, 1739 Scolt Head, 2221 Sheringham and 1283 Mundesley 17th, 267 Scolt Head 26th and 208 Winterton Nov 2nd.

American Wigeon

Anas strepera

Vagrant from North America

A drake Welney Jan 2nd/3rd (JBK *et al*). A bird Breydon/Berney Dec 2005, and still present Feb 2006, posed identification problems for the County Records Committee; although resembling a drake American Wigeon it showed subtle characteristics thought to suggest hybrid origin with current understanding.

Gadwall

Anas strepera

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak monthly counts at principal localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	86	37	37	10	9	14	-	15	25	30	26	73
Holme	10	27	21	27	12	18	9	8	30	15	7	13
Titchwell	24	45	22	28	33	54	13	36	31	44	60	39
Holkham GM	53	16	40	25	48	-	-	29	8	10	22	6
Cley	70	35	13	23	35	81	2	26	74	64	25	47
Breydon/Berney	12	27	61	47	45	31	13	2	3	5	25	19
Hickling Broad	60	10	10	3	26	35	-	50	3	16	10	142
How Hill Reedham Water	44	25	18	9	28	84	50	54	55	-	-	48
Whitlingham CP	156	14	-	10	4	1	-	-	10	32	73	111
Welney	88	263	125	69	120	80	14	41	40	32	32	12

International importance (winter): 600; National importance (winter): 171

Best counts elsewhere: Jan 180 Didlington Park, 74 Holkham Park Lake, 129 Lynford GP, 148 Ormesby Broad, 85 Ormesby Little Broad, 77 Pentney GP, 117 Salhouse Broad, 79 Wroxham Broad; Feb 41 Alderfen Broad, 150 Bittering GP; July 41 Wolterton; Aug 50 Strumpshaw; Sept 68 Alderfen Broad; Oct 72 Alderfen Broad, 85 Martham Broad, 56 Nar Valley Fisheries, 70 Stanford Water; Dec 60 Narford Lake, 96 Nar Valley Fisheries, 87 Sparham Pools.

Spring movement of 3 east Mundesley April 25th.

Midsummer records from several localities but few cases of proven breeding: Blakeney GM (4 nests), Blakeney Point (3 unsuccessful prs), Brancaster GM (4 prs), Buckenham Tofts (3 prs), Cantley BF (3 broods), Cley (11 prs - 28 young fledged), Hickling Rush Hills (2 broods), Holkham NNR (48 prs), Horning Marsh Farm (brood), How Hill Farm (brood), How Hill NNR (11 broods - 77 young), mid-Yare RSPB (41 prs - one brood), St Benet's Level (6 prs), Scolt Head (5 prs), Stanford Water (pair), Swanton Novers NNR (pair), Titchwell (15 prs - 12 young), Upton Marshes (2 prs), Welney (24 prs). Also 8 males Ken Hill Marsh and 4 males Snettisham. NBA results showed the species was present in 16% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 4 drakes per occupied tetrad.

Series of chiefly east coast autumn movements with all records given: 10 north California Oct 14th, 5 north Winterton 29th, 5 north and 4 on sea Winterton Nov 2nd, 25 west Salthouse and 29 north California 5th, 6 south Winterton and 3 offshore Gorleston 25th, 11 south Scratby 28th.

Teal (Eurasian Teal)

Anas crecca

Passage migrant and abundant winter visitor; breeds in small numbers

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	1368	1020	500	12	220	500	972	1200	800
Holme	281	157	96	16	121	407	322	220	128
Titchwell	175	276	135	31	220	276	1132	726	455
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	745	287	57	6	20	457	305	398	278
Holkham GM	715	302	147	31	133	298	394	659	114
Stiffkey Fen/SM	311	550	56	21	40	565	543	337	352
Blakeney Hbr/GM	114	491	103	56	64	915	114	197	102
Cley	1632	742	87	43	831	1200	995	1024	1640
Salthouse	320	241	47	10	40	-	120	204	400
Breydon/Berney	1238	2372	1924	787	27	94	163	284	282
Hickling Broad	2310	400	200	121	300	835	1500	3700	2120
Ranworth/Cockshoot Broad	240	450	79	29	-	137	417	279	850
Welney	1619	2418	2533	255	70	373	433	1474	675

International importance (winter): 5000; National importance (winter): 1920

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 250 Barton Broad, 152 Burnham Norton, 200 Diddlington Park, 2240 Horsey Mere, 150 North Wootton Marsh, 675 Strumpshaw, 300 Tottenhill GP; *Feb* 370 Buckenham Marshes, 151 Burnham Norton, 240 How Hill Reedham Water; *Sept* 250 Cantley BF, 1260 Horsey Mere; *Oct* 306 Ousemouth, 360 Wissington BF; *Nov* 161 Barton Broad, 614 Buckenham Marshes, 175 Burnham Norton.

Winter movement of 250 east Holme Jan 21st.

Small numbers summered as usual at various wetland sites around county but no evidence of breeding.

First visible passage 2 west Scolt Head May 30th then trickle of single-figure records through June and July and only small build-up of birds on wetlands. Visible passage increased steadily from early Aug peaking in mid-Sept. Peak counts (west unless otherwise stated): 216 Scolt Head, 158 Sheringham (0530-0930), 92 Cromer and 59 north Gorleston all Aug 12th, 242 Scolt Head and 451 Sheringham 13th, 238 Scolt Head 26th, 163 Scolt Head Sept 7th, 523 Scolt Head, 211 Sheringham and 327 Mundesley 8th, 186 Scolt Head and 379 Mundesley 9th,

212 Cley (0855-1020) 12th, 432 Scolt Head, 1318 Sheringham, 829 Mundesley, 1044 north 178 south Winterton on 17th and 191 Scolt Head 26th. Late movements 89 south Scratby Nov 28th and 33 south Hunstanton Dec 30th.

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Vagrant from North America

Wintering drake from 2005 remained in Upper Thurne being seen Horsey Mere Jan 3rd and 29th-Feb 4th, then Hickling Broad March 13th. It returned for fifth winter Hickling Rush Hills Dec 2nd-17th.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak counts at selected sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Ousemouth	60	328	51	30	23	53	22	133	67	372	50	483
Snettisham	535	353	162	52	123	219	122	280	285	770	936	654
Holme	94	89	42	42	56	68	52	84	105	88	98	30
Titchwell	200	57	82	40	29	99	40	89	24	95	80	45
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	262	120	104	62	36	40	34	124	415	263	387	223
Burnham Norton	134	60	38	26	-	52	19	26	11	-	22	9
Holkham GM	322	292	130	72	230	-	-	35	91	360	354	64
Wells Hbr	81	110	111	20	25	27	36	-	40	121	96	35
Blakeney Hbr/GM	233	182	28	37	33	27	40	94	203	152	167	64
Cley	120	91	38	40	65	55	36	101	111	133	84	161
Breydon/Berney	349	109	87	33	63	58	79	317	519	197	89	194
Barton Broad	325	99	27	45	75	81	143	117	179	134	146	65
Ranworth Broad	517	125	81	62	-	113	122	87	238	212	276	167
Whitlingham CP	84	73	46	30	34	46	105	130	87	50	66	90
Welney	711	669	483	198	-	250	-	250	77	50	382	969

National importance (winter): 3520

Notable counts at other sites: *Jan* 200 Diddlington Park, 270 Hickling Broad; *Feb* 130 King's Lynn Fisher Fleet; *March* 100 Hardley Flood, 350 Wissington BF; *July* 140 How Hill Reedham Water; *Aug* 80 Hickling Rush Hills, 120 Stiffkey Fen; *Sept* 118 Alderfen Broad, 74 Thornham Hbr; *Oct* 600 Lynn Point, 160 Martham Broad, 207 Ouse Washes (excl Welney), 91 Stiffkey Fen; *Nov* 138 Great Ouse RC; *Dec* 350 Hickling Broad, 137 Holkham Park Lake, 112 How Hill Reedham Water, 200 Shouldham Thorpe.

Breeding season data from Blakeney GM (10 nests), Blakeney Point (4 unsuccessful pairs), Brancaster GM (21 prs), Cley (23 prs - 32 young fledged), Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound (7 broods), Holkham NNR (165 prs), mid-Yare RSPB (130 prs), Scolt Head (14 prs), Titchwell (28 prs), Welney (48 prs). NBA results showed the species was present in 87% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 9 drakes per occupied tetrad (drakes, such as those on village ponds, are included in the data).

Very limited visible passage confined as usual to late autumn with only notable records an impressive 36 west Sheringham (0615-1600) and 18 north Winterton Nov 1st, followed by 14 west Walcott and 7 north Winterton 2nd.

Pintail (Northern Pintail)*Anas acuta****Passage migrant and winter visitor, has bred***

Peak monthly counts at main localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington Marsh	-	300	-	-	90	-	95
Ousemouth	193	8	-	-	110	5	19
Snettisham	341	66	3	92	480	900	629
Titchwell	44	60	41	51	138	380	240
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	212	200	-	140	205	201	302
Burnham Norton	82	30	4	-	-	3	-
Holkham GM	41	44	90	11	10	22	28
Stiffkey Fen/SM	54	55	33	-	9	-	2
Blakeney Hbr/Cley	386	285	45	100	401	200	336
Breydon/Berney	200	200	81	26	117	98	194
Welney	306	281	711	-	78	289	383

International importance (winter): 600; National importance (winter): 279

Few notable records away from above favoured sites: *Jan* 199 Hardley Flood; *March* 265 Hardley Flood, 14 Thornham Hbr; *April* one Hickling Broad; *Aug* 6 Hickling Broad, one Salthouse; *Oct* 26 Holme; *Nov* 69 Ouse Washes (excl Welney). No records from Tottenhill GP, once a regular site.

Usual rapid nocturnal departure from mid-March with only visible migrants 26 west Sheringham March 11th. Only single-figure numbers remained into April. Records during May to July from Cley (2), Holkham GM (2), Snettisham (3), Titchwell (6) and Welney (2). Confirmed breeding at Cley where female with 6 small ducklings July 27th.

First returning birds 5 west Scolt Head Aug 25th. Autumn passage through until early Nov with double-figure counts (birds moving west along north coast and north along east coast): 19 Sheringham Aug 28th, 67 Holme, 88 Scolt Head and 17 Caister Sept 7th, 77 Scolt Head 8th with 98 there following day and 47 on 11th, 86 Scolt Head, 62 Mundesley and 11 Winterton 17th, 24 Holme Oct 12th and 22 Cley Nov 2nd.

Garganey*Anas querquedula****Very scarce breeding summer visitor; scarce passage migrant***

First arrivals 2 Whitlingham CP March 10th, followed by 2 How Hill 17th, Titchwell 25th, Hickling Rush Hills 26th, Strumpshaw 27th and Cley 28th.

Recorded April/May from following 22 localities (with highest counts): Berney (2), Blakeney GM, Burnham Norton, Cantley BF, Catfield Fen, Cley (2), Hardley Flood, Hickling Broad (max 7 April 16th), Hockwold Washes (2), Holkham GM, Holme (3), Kelling WM, Martham Broad (3), Pensthorpe, Pentney GP (2), Snettisham (4), Stiffkey Fen, Strumpshaw (3), Surlingham Church Marsh, Titchwell (4), Welney (4), Winterton (2). Visible migrant May 11th when drake north past Winterton.

Records from 8 localities June/July. Breeding suspected at Holme and mid-Yare RSPB (4 prs) but no young seen. Breeding likely at Titchwell where pair with 3 fledged young June 2nd onwards. Displaying drake Welney in June but no sign of female or young. At Cley 10 birds Aug 7th included at least 6 juvs and at Hickling Rush Hills juv Aug 11th with 2 juvs there 14th, but no direct evidence of local breeding at either site.

Early autumn movement of single west Sheringham Aug 3rd. Usual scatter of autumn records, chiefly of 1-2 birds, from Buckenham Marshes, Cantley BF, Cley (max 10 Aug),



Canada Goose - a pair with young at Cley. (*Brian Macfarlane*)

Mandarin - two at Felbrigg Hall lake. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Red-breasted Merganser - a drake at Titchwell. (*Bob Cobbold*)

Goosander - a drake at Blakeney Harbour. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Golden Pheasant - an elusive male at Wolferton. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Cattle Egret - this bird was on Blakeney Freshmarsh in October. (*Bob Cobbold*)

White Stork - a brief visitor to Hanworth in April. (*Bob Cobbold*)





Black Kite - this juvenile of the race known as 'Black-eared Kite' wintered in the county. (*Alan Tate*)
 Montagu's Harrier - a rare breeding bird in Norfolk. (*Alan Tate*)

Pallid Harrier - this juvenile was seen by many observers during its extended stay in the Winterton area.
 Both: (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Garganey (*Richard Johnson*)

Denver, Hickling Rush Hills (max 3 Aug, 4 Oct 4th), King's Lynn BF, Saddlebow BF, Snettisham, Titchwell (max 6 Aug) and Welney. Late birds Titchwell Oct 15th-23rd and 2 Cley Oct 23rd with one female lingering until Nov 2nd. Unusual midwinter record juv Cley Dec 12th.

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler)

Anas clypeata

Passage migrant, summer and winter visitor

Peak monthly counts at selected localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holme	33	35	26	27	12	19	26	6	68
Titchwell	132	39	39	22	77	128	282	104	106
Holkham GM	60	14	32	17	7	18	1	1	95
Cley	74	53	28	25	26	79	59	87	62
Breydon/Berney	216	249	333	128	3	48	79	244	202
Hickling Broad	97	10	10	6	65	55	70	-	124
Welney	189	212	286	338	150	45	49	183	97

National importance (winter): 148

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 84 How Hill Reedham Water, 64 Ormesby Broad, 30 Ranworth Broad, 35 Whitlingham CP; *Feb* 30 Blakeney GM, 50 Filby Broad, 55 Hockwold Washes, 48 Tottenhill GP; *March* 388 Filby Broad, 50 Hockwold Washes, 55 Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, 310 Ormesby Little Broad, 56 Tottenhill GP; *April* 43 Blakeney GM, 48 How Hill Reedham Water; *May* 64 Holkham GM; *June* 62 Titchwell; *Aug* 65 Strumpshaw; *Sept* 50 Cantley BF; *Oct* 40 Buckenham Marshes, 80 Holkham Park Lake; *Nov* 46 Ranworth Broad, 54 Wissington BF; *Dec* 98 Holkham Park Lake, 45 How Hill Reedham Water, 40 Narford Lake.

Small visible spring passage when 2 north Winterton April 1st with further records there 4 north May 3rd and 2 north 11th, then 2 east Scolt Head June 6th.

Breeding season records: Blakeney GM (5 nests), Blakeney Point (1-2 unsuccessful pairs), Brancaster GM (pair), Cantley BF (2 broods), Cley (7 prs - 17 young fledged), Holkham NNR (46 prs), How Hill Reedham Water (brood), Johnson Street Buttle Marsh (brood), mid-Yare RSPB (41 prs), Stanford Water (pair), Titchwell (17 prs - 25 young fledged), Upton Marshes (pair), Welney (36 prs). Also 11 males Ken Hill Marsh and 6 males Snettisham.

Westerly autumn passage from Aug 12th when 8 Cromer and (same?) 8 Sheringham. Only subsequent movements all from Scolt Head where 9 Sept 6th, 9 9th, 22 11th, 11 on 16th and 9 following day.

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

Netta rufina

In first winter period female Welney Feb 19th.

A pair Hickling Broad in April bred successfully, 3 ducklings seen May 1st although not subsequently. Other summer records, female Welney July 29th and female-type west past Sheringham with Common Scoter Aug 6th.

In second winter period: *Oct* 2 Blackborough End GP 21st; *Nov* pair Hoveton Hall Lake 7th (to end of year); *Dec* male Wroxham Broad 14th, 2 males west Mundesley and Salhouse 23rd, male in scoter rafts Blakeney Point 28th, unusually pale male Felbrigg 30th/31st.

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

Aythya ferina

Peak counts at selected sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	38	37	50	-	2	3	13	18
Holme	8	15	15	19	2	4	6	8
Titchwell	25	30	16	6	-	8	22	33
Ranworth Broad	4	-	-	-	7	25	58	21
Welney	757	975	663	6	-	352	642	81

National importance (winter): 595

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 45 Barton Broad, 112 Hickling Broad, 87 Nar Valley Fisheries, 148 Ormesby Broad, 45 R Bure (Horning), 65 Tottenhill GP; *Feb* 56 Barton Broad, 100 Bittering GP; *March* 50 Snettisham, 50 Thompson Water; *Sept* 75 Martham Broad; *Oct* 80 Blackborough End GP, 65 Martham Broad; *Nov* 47 Ormesby Broad; *Dec* 84 Pentney GP, 100 Wroxham Broad.

Another good breeding season (broods in brackets): Cantley BF (2), Cley (1), How Hill Reedham Water (1), Ormesby Broad (2), Titchwell (2). Elsewhere breeding pairs (in brackets) reported from Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound (2), Holkham NNR (16), mid-Yare RSPB (13), St Benet's Level (6), Stanford Water (3), Upton Marshes (4).

Coastal movements: 111 east Sheringham March 11th (the second largest movement ever recorded in county), 6 north Eccles March 24th, 2 west Scolt Head April 26th, 2 west Scolt Head Aug 31st and 4 west there Sept 11th, 3 north Yarmouth and west Sheringham (possibly same) Nov 1st.

Summer breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	45	41	76	36	37	43	35	51
Holme	16	20	26	14	3	11	10	16
Ranworth/Cockshoot	88	32	12	31	54	66	62	42
Whitlingham CP	146	125	195	20	2	12	71	113
Welney	58	187	193	198	-	-	112	210

National importance (winter): 901

Notable counts elsewhere: Jan 170 Barton Broad, 120 Ormesby Little Broad, 116 Rollesby Broad, 137 Salhouse Broad, 110 Woodbastwick Staithe; March 300 Denver Sluice; April 111 Narborough, 75 Sennowe Park, 100 Stanford Water; Oct 126 Nar Valley Fisheries; Nov 223 Great Ouse RC; Dec 113 Great Ouse RC, 210 Wroxham Broad.

Breeding records (broods in brackets): Cantley BF (1), Corpusty (1), Felbrigg (1), Gunton Park (1), Hanworth Hall (3), Holt (1), Johnson Street Buttle Marsh (2), Ken Hill Marsh (3), Lynford (2), Martham (1), Nar Valley Fisheries (1), Snettisham (no count), Stiffkey Fen (1), Wissington BF (2), Wolterton Park (5). Breeding also noted but no broods reported (pairs in brackets): Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound (6), Holkham NNR (35), mid-Yare RSPB (28), Stanford Water (1), Titchwell (5), Welney (26). NBA results showed the species was present in 25% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 drakes per occupied tetrad; this data includes drakes that are still in winter flocks as the species does not breed until later in the summer.

Notable coastal movements: 5 south Winterton May 3rd and 6 north there 17th, 4 west Sheringham Aug 4th, 4 south California Sept 24th, 31 west Sheringham Nov 1st (including one flock of 25 east then west).

Scaup (Greater Scaup)

Aythya marila

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

In first winter period regular only at Breydon, up to 3, and Snettisham where numbers peaked at 14 Feb 18th before declining to one April-Sept. Elsewhere: 14 Holme Jan 18th and 11 west Sheringham March 11th, with others at Martham Broad Jan 18th, 2 Hickling Broad 20th, 3 Horning 27th, Ormesby Broad Feb 26th, Filby Broad March 4th until April, Bittering 5th, Sennowe Park Lake 12th, Whitlingham CP 18th, Filby Broad 22nd, Titchwell 28th, Welney April 11th, Sennowe Park Lake 13th-29th and Swanton Morley GP 22nd.

During summer other records: 3 south Gorleston May 22nd, single Hickling Broad June 15th with 2 males there July 12th, and one Brancaster Hbr June 20th.

Autumn coastal movements: Aug (all west) singles Scolt Head and Paston, and 4 Sheringham 3rd, 3 Walcott 4th, Scolt Head 13th, Sheringham 25th; Sept 4 over Wash Snettisham 11th, in off with Pinkfeet Scolt Head 29th; Oct west Titchwell 25th, south Gorleston 28th and 1-4 noted at various other localities in month; Nov small numbers east/north coasts 1st with max 7 north Eccles, 15 west Kelling and 11 west Mundesley 2nd, and 3 west Holme 3rd. Subsequent scatter of records until end of year with up to 3 Snettisham and 2 Welney.

Eider (Common Eider)

Somateria mollissima

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

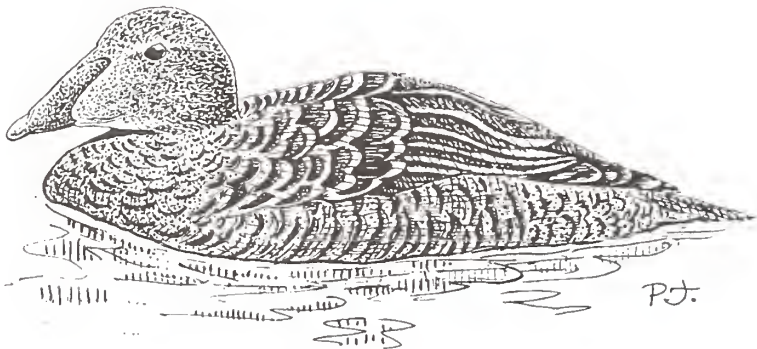
Max counts at regularly visited sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	31	11	100	2	5	7	15	5	12	11	18	3
Titchwell	4	2	36	10	8	2	4	5	30	20	15	23
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	7	13	1	11	3	5	5	13	52	3	4	4
Holkham Bay	110	100	8	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	2	-

National importance (winter): 730

Coastal movements in first half of year included 200 past Overstrand March 19th, single in off sea at Caister then west March 4th and 58 east Scolt Head April 17th.

In second half of year notable movements: 61 west Cley and 82 west Sheringham Aug 13th, 35 north Winterton Nov 2nd and 32 on 3rd, 53 west Cley and 29 west Mundesley Dec 23rd.



Eider (Phil Jones)

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

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

In first winter period mainly at Holme/Titchwell with monthly max 41 Jan, 32 Feb, 37 March, 2 April and 2 May. Also 1-4 Holkham Bay Jan-March with 3 Brancaster Feb 26th and March 18th; single inland Hardley Flood April 30th.

In second winter period earliest Holme Oct 13th, Salthouse 16th, and Cley (2) and Winterton 21st. Subsequently occasional records of 1-3 north and east coasts until end of year. Regularly seen Holme/Titchwell with peak counts 17 Nov 1st and 27 Dec 9th. At Holkham Bay 7 Nov 16th. Elsewhere Snettisham Oct 26th and Nov 1st, and Heacham 15th.

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

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

Max monthly counts at principal north coast sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	522	450	2000	450	1000	300	100	300	200	182	1000	577
Titchwell	5340	2700	4750	3800	5000	400	400	205	720	2000	2236	2000
Scolt Head	2000	500	2000	4000	3000	2000	500	-	450	25	200	100
Holkham Bay	3810	1000	1100	-	750	-	-	-	-	-	2000	690

National importance (winter): 500

Much duplication in counts between Holme and Scolt Head.

Only other large concentrations Blakeney Point/Cley where 800 second half Nov and 2600 Dec. In Wash only count 200 Snettisham Feb 28th.

Few spring/summer movements apart from 278 south 18 north Winterton April 26th and 150 east Sheringham June 27th.

Autumn movements (north along east coast and west along north coast) mainly concentrated in two periods, early Aug and early Nov. Max counts: 397 Scolt Head and 230 Sheringham Aug 3rd, 240 Sheringham and 214 Walcott 4th, 271 Scolt Head 5th, 172 Sheringham 6th, 353 Scolt Head 12th with 313 there Sept 17th. In Nov: *1st* 450 Sheringham; *2nd* 981 Holme, 487 Sheringham, 247 Mundesley, 277 Paston and 626 Winterton; *3rd* 221 Walcott, 530 Eccles and 471 Winterton.

Only inland record Whitlingham CP June 28th.

Surf Scoter

Melanitta perspicillata

Rare vagrant from North America

A male Titchwell Oct 24th-29th (MBr *et al*), the first record since 2003.

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

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

Max counts from principal sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	8	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	8	2	-
Titchwell	11	23	30	11	9	1	-	3	2	12	12	6
Holkham Bay	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	-

At Titchwell no records between June 26th and Aug 5th.

Elsewhere in first winter period 8 Cley Jan 2nd, 3 Kelling Jan 23rd and one March 7th, 3 west Blakeney Point Feb 11th, one Snettisham Feb 18th and one south Eccles Feb 27th.

In second winter period one Winterton Aug 14th, 4 Gorleston Sept 29th, and 8 east Cley and 14 Salthouse Oct 13th. Subsequently numerous records of 1-3 north/east coasts until end of year.

Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye)

Bucephala clangula

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Max monthly counts at selected localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	32	60	60	5	2	24	34
Titchwell	87	131	45	2	5	30	92
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	25	30	20	6	5	27	35
Hickling Broad	30	64	15	4	-	-	-

National importance (winter): 249

Other double-figure counts in first winter period: *Jan* 21 Wiggenhall St Germans RC, 12 Filby Broad 14th, 13 Tottenham GP 17th; *Feb* 10 Holme 2nd, 13 Barton Broad 11th; *March* 24 Filby Broad 4th and 14 16th, 14 Denver 5th, 30 Sennowe Park Lake also 5th with 11 12th, 19 Tottenham GP 18th with 15 27th, 12 Nar Valley Fisheries 28th.

Latest in spring 4 Hardley Flood and 4 Hickling Broad both April 30th.

First of autumn one south California Oct 9th then 2 Snettisham 16th. Major movement early Nov with birds north along east coast and then westwards along north coast: *1st* 17

Holme, 56 Cley, 57 Sheringham, 10 Winterton; 2nd 21 Sheringham, 26 Walcott; 3rd 12 Walcott, 15 Eccles.

Other double-figure counts at end of year: 12 Barton Broad Nov 19th with 17 Dec 17th, and 10 Nar Valley Fisheries Dec 16th with 12 on 26th.

Smew

Mergellus albellus

Winter visitor in small numbers, increasing during severe weather

In first winter period two favoured localities: at Tottenhill GP 5 Jan 1st (one drake), one Jan 15th, 4 Feb 8th and 2 drakes March 29th; at Hickling Broad redhead Jan 15th-21st, with drake also 18th/19th, redhead again Feb 1st-March 9th.

Elsewhere: Jan Snettisham 1st, Welney 3 (incl one drake) 2nd, Titchwell offshore 10th-15th, Barton Broad 12th, Overstrand offshore with Common Scoter 14th, Whitlingham CP 15th, Ranworth Broad 25th; Feb Horsey Mere 8th and 21st (probably Hickling bird); March Nar Valley Fisheries drake 25th.

Only one record in second winter period, drake Snettisham Dec 25th-30th.

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional in summer

Max monthly counts at principal coastal localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	28	15	29	10	3	3	5	18	18
Titchwell	17	32	20	5	1	2	4	16	65
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	35	35	30	33	13	1	25	36	28
Holkham Bay	36	40	10	-	-	-	-	24	19
Blakeney Hbr	9	2	3	-	1	-	-	12	37

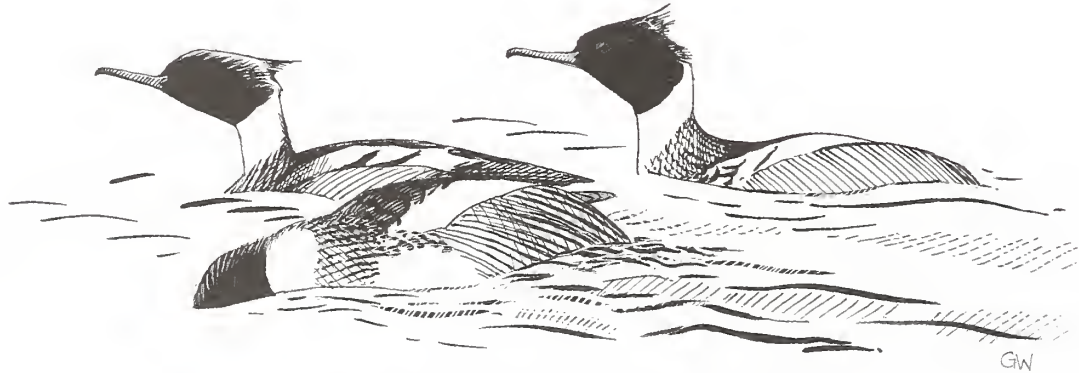
National importance (winter): 98

Only other double-figure counts: 25 Heacham Jan 30th, 43 Snettisham Feb 18th and 11 Wells Hbr Dec 9th.

A scatter of summer records: June Salhouse 17th/18th, 9 west Scolt Head 24th, 2 Brancaster Hbr 26th, 7 Cley 30th; July 2 Scolt Head 4th/5th; Aug West Runton 1st, Scolt Head 3rd, 3 south California 8th.

Only noticeable coastal movements occurred Nov: 1st 6 west Sheringham; 2nd 8 west Sheringham, 12 west Walcott and 9 north Winterton; 3rd 12 north Eccles; 28th 13 south Scratby.

Inland: single (presumably same bird) various sites along Great Ouse RC Jan 5th-Feb 21st.



Red-breasted Mergansers (Gary Wright)

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

Mergus merganser

Max counts from favoured sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
UEA Broad	8	11	-	-	-
Thetford Nunnery Lakes	17	4	5	3	2
Sparham Pools	5	16	-	-	12
Denver Sluice	19	3	14	10	14

Elsewhere in first winter period records of 1-3 birds from 26 other widely scattered localities with higher counts of 5 Magdalen RC Jan 8th and 21st with 7 on 17th, 5 Wiggenhall St Peter RC Jan 22nd, 5 Lyng Feb 6th, 6 Wissington Cut March 4th with 4 April 5th, and 5 Pentney GP March 4th.

During May Cley/Weybourne 1st and 2 Holkham GM 21st. Following 2 Whitlingham CP Aug 27th first of autumn there Oct 30th.

More widespread than usual Nov/Dec at both coastal and inland sites, with numerous records of 1-3 west along north coast especially in Nov. Larger counts: Nov 4 Cley and 5 New Costessey 10th, 10 Stowbridge RC 13th, 18 Great Ouse RC (whole length) 26th; Dec 5 Wissington Cut 10th-29th, 8 south Hunstanton 30th.

Ruddy Duck
An introduced resident, first recorded in 1977

Oxyura jamaicensis

Far fewer records received compared with recent years and only regularly seen at 3 sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	-	6	11	13	8	9	3	3	3	-	-	-
Titchwell	-	-	5	11	-	6	-	3	-	-	-	-
Cley	-	-	-	4	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-

At other previously regular sites only one Tottenhill GP Jan and 5 Stiffkey Fen Aug. Occasional records from 20 other localities with only notable counts 5 Burnham Overy Feb 15th, 12 Holkham GM May 14th and 5 Ormesby Broad Nov 20th. In latter part of year only 4 records in Sept, none in Oct, 2 in Nov and one Dec.

Breeding (pairs): Titchwell 2 (4 young), Brancaster GM 2, Holkham NNR 8, Cley 2, Sanford Water 1-2 (one young).

Red-legged Partridge
Common introduced resident

Alectoris rufa

Counts reported in first winter period: Jan 80 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 42 Swaffham, 28 Bunwell; Feb 40 Bunwell. In spring 437 counted at Brancaster Thompson Farms (no date given).

Breeding pairs included one Blakeney Point (no fledged juvs seen), 11 Holkham NNR and 7 Scolt Head (2 broods seen). NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Counts in second winter period: Sept 500 North Wootton Marsh, 150 Wroxham, 100 Winterton (High Barn Farm); Oct 85 Brancaster Staithe, 78 Aylmerton, 75 Hanworth, 70

Gayton; Nov 126 Winterton, 80 North Wootton Marsh, 75 Aylmerton, 74 Dickleburgh Rushall; Dec 48 Wighton.

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Resident

No counts received in first winter period exceeded 8 birds. However an observer at Nar Valley Fisheries commented 'more in evidence than for many years'.

Breeding pairs included: Sparham 7, Holkham NNR 6, Scolt Head 3 (one brood seen), Blakeney GM 3. NBA results showed the species was present in 40% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Counts in second winter period: Sept 31 Wickhampton, 30 Winterton (High Barn Farm); Oct 45 Cantley (presumed release), 30 Docking, 17 Flitcham, 12 East Barsham, 12 Hillington, 12 Ashill; Nov 17 Warham SM, 15 Welney, 12 Eccles; Dec 14 Bittering.

Quail (Common Quail)

Coturnix coturnix

Summer visitor in erratic numbers; sporadic breeder

Over-wintering birds were reported from Brancaster Thompson Farms Jan 9th (flushed from game crop), March 9th, 13th and 14th, and Choseley Jan 21st.

Earliest record of a probable migrant from Terrington Marsh April 13th.

A min of 66 birds reported from 34 sites. Most records were of 1-2 birds at each site calling for just 1-2 days.

A limited survey over recent years, mostly by one observer (MSR), has revealed the true status of this vocal but secretive summer visitor in north-west Norfolk. All counts were carried out during second half of June on just one or two nights, with key survey times at dusk when birds were vocal for just a short period prior to dark and especially two hours before dawn when birds sang vociferously, quickly becoming quiet with the first glimmers of light. In 1998 total of 46 singing males located (9 Choseley, 2 Field House Brancaster Staithe, 16 Fring/Shernborne/Inner area, 4 Lyng House Farm Anmer, 12 Ringstead and singles at Burnham Market, Docking, Sunderland Farm Burnham Market). In 1999 22 singing males were counted at Sunderland Farm Burnham Market in a single pre dawn visit. Survey work in the Choseley area during 2000 failed to locate any birds, however in 2002 total of 26 were located, 20 Choseley and 2 at Houghton, North Creak and Sommerfield. No further surveys carried out until 2006 when in a single night total of 28 singing males located at Choseley. In almost all instances these counts were far higher than any corresponding daytime counts. It is hoped that this inspires other insomniac observers also to carry out surveys at this time, which will undoubtedly produce more surprises around the county.

Latest record Ryston Oct 1st.



Pheasant (Alan Burtenshaw)

Common Pheasant
Common introduced resident

Phasianus colchicus

Breeding records included 25 territories Dersingham Bog, 29 males with at least 10 broods Scolt Head (numbers highest for at least a decade due to breeding success and predator control) and 3 nests Blakeney GM. NBA results showed the species was present in 95% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 14 cocks per occupied tetrad.

Counts in Oct: 70 mid-Yare RSPB, 60 West Acre, 32 Nar Valley Fisheries, 20 Gayton.

Increasing numbers of black (melanistic) birds noted at various localities.

Golden Pheasant
Scarce and local introduced resident

Chrysolophus pictus

In period Jan-June regularly recorded at Hockham (max 3), East Wretham Heath (max 2), Wayland Wood (max 3) and Wolferton (max 7). Only other records 2-3 males Lynford Arboretum Jan/Feb.

In second half of year only 3 sightings all at Wayland Wood: 2 Oct 22nd, 3 Nov 5th and one Dec 3rd.

An observer noted that 3 males at Wolferton Jan 8th were ‘dark-throated Golden mutations’ a recognised mutation in captivity although some authorities consider it to have some Lady Amherst’s genes.

Red-throated Diver
Common passage migrant and winter visitor; rare in summer

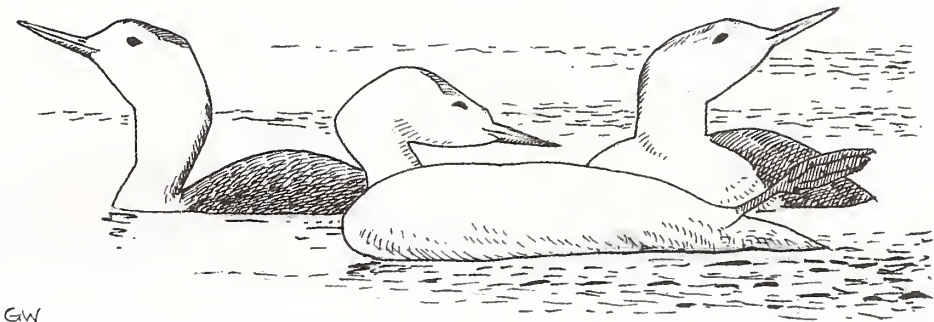
Gavia stellata

Recorded all months. Monthly max (including birds in flight and on sea):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hunstanton-Scolt Head	30	5	5	1	1	-	-	1	35	15	10	140
Burnham Overy-Blakeney Hbr	20	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	4	2
Blakeney Point-Happisburgh	164	366	380	1	1	-	1	3	20	43	105	508
Eccles-Hopton	72	300	135	2	-	1	-	-	20	184	-	174

National importance (winter): 49

Three-figure counts frequently reported from north and north-east of county: 104 Cley Dec 9th and 246 Dec 15th; 227 Sheringham Feb 19th with 103 east Nov 26th and 75 west Dec 17th; 130 on sea Overstrand Jan 13th, 120 on sea and 40 west Jan 15th, 170 west 60 on sea March 16th, 274 March 19th, 380 March 23rd, 120 Dec 22nd and 160 Dec 25th; 164 Mundesley Jan 29th, 366 Feb 11th, 291 March 1st, 508 Dec 21st (all west); 300 Eccles Feb 2nd, 135 March 23rd, 112 Dec 15th; 184 Winterton Oct 13th, 124 on sea 12 north 10 south Oct 29th and 106 north, 56 south 12 on sea Dec 16th. A remarkable 140 off Holme Dec 30th.



Red-throated Divers (Gary Wright)

Despite the exceptional numbers reported in county at close of year, no reports from Wash, nor from any inland localities. Sole record from Breydon Water Dec 8th.

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

Typically rather scarce in first winter period, with 1-2 Hunstanton Jan 7th/8th, 1-3 Holme on 13 dates Jan 1st-March 18th, 1-2 Titchwell 5 dates Jan 5th-March 11th, 2 Scolt Head Jan 15th, singles Holkham Bay 7 dates Jan 4th-Feb 26th, Cley Feb 4th, Sheringham May 30th, Beeston Regis Jan 22nd, Walcott Feb 1st and 22nd, north Waxham March 19th, and Winterton Jan 1st and south May 23rd.

First of autumn east Sheringham Sept 15th. Subsequently single Hunstanton Dec 26th; 1-2 on 30 dates Holme Sept 16th-end Dec, with 4 on 30th; 2 Titchwell Dec 1st-4th and again 8th; Scolt Head Nov 25th; Brancaster Hbr Oct 30th-Nov 13th; Holkham Bay Oct 27th-30th, Nov 11th with 3 on 16th and again Dec 18th, and one Dec 20th; Blakeney Point Sept 26th, Dec 9th and 16th; Blakeney Hbr Oct 1st and Nov 2nd; Cley Sept 27th, Oct 1st, with 4 Nov 4th and singles Dec 9th and 14th; 2 Salthouse Dec 6th; east Sheringham Nov 1st, 2 on 2nd and one on 3rd; Overstrand Dec 19th/20th; 2 Winterton Sept 28th; south Eccles Oct 21st.

Inland: single landed on wet road outside Norwich and after treatment at East Winch Animal Hospital was released Pentney GP where present Dec 5th-7th.

Great Northern Diver

Gavia immer

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

Most numerous in coastal waters of north-west and north of county: Hunstanton Jan 8th; 1-3 Holme on 19 dates to April 1st, with 5 reported Jan 5th; 1-3 Titchwell on 12 dates to April 26th, with 6 on Jan 22nd and 4 summer-plumaged birds April 1st; 2 Burnham Overy Feb 5th; singles Holkham Bay on 10 dates to Feb 23rd, with 3 east Jan 6th; Blakeney Point Jan 31st; Cley Feb 13th; east Sheringham Jan 5th, 31st, Feb 4th/5th, 2 east 25th and single March 19th; east Overstrand Jan 1st; south Waxham Feb 11th. Last of winter 2 summer-plumaged birds east Weybourne May 30th.

First in autumn Yarmouth Sept 24th, quickly becoming widespread in north coast waters in small numbers: singles Holme on 6 dates from Oct 8th; 1-2 Titchwell on 19 dates from Sept 26th; Scolt Head Nov 25th; Holkham Bay Nov 17th, 22nd and 26th; west Stiffkey Dec 9th; 1-2 Blakeney Point/Hbr on 4 dates from Nov 21st, but with 5 Dec 8th/9th; 1-2 Cley/Salthouse on 11 dates Sept 30th-Dec 9th, when 3 present, and subsequently up to 7 (Dec 15th) reported almost daily to month end; 1-2 Weybourne-Sheringham on 8 dates from Sept 30th, with 3 present Nov 3rd; singles West Runton Oct 17th, Nov 15th and Dec 10th; Overstrand Dec 12th and 20th, with 2 Dec 22nd; Eccles Dec 15th.

Inland: Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen RC Dec 30th.



Little Grebe (Andy Benson)

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Found throughout county with monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	17	14	13	1	-	-	1	4	24	26	47	36
Holme	9	9	12	4	4	1	2	4	6	7	10	4
Titchwell	7	6	9	16	-	2	2	3	5	10	3	3
Holkham NNR	4	4	-	8	22	62	-	-	15	7	7	3
Cley-Salthouse	14	10	10	3	3	4	2	11	9	8	11	8

Just five other counts of 20 or more birds: 42 Hickling Broad Feb 7th, 33 Wissington BF Sept 5th, 26 Hockwold Washes Sept 25th with 27 there Oct 7th, and 21 Rockland Staithe Feb 1st which had apparently been rounded-up in centre of mooring basin by an otter swimming around the basin edge.

A total of 58-60 breeding pairs reported from 17 sites (pairs in brackets) - a slight increase on last year's reporting rate: Brancaster GM (5), Breydon, Calthorpe Broad (2), Cantley BF, Chedgrave Marshes, Cley (2), Holkham NNR (31), How Hill Reedham Marshes, King's Lynn BF, Lopham Fen (2), mid-Yare RSPB (2), Nar Valley Fisheries (1-2), Sheringham, Terrington Marsh, Titchwell, Wissington BF (4-5) and Wolterton. NBA results showed the species was present in 13% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

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

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holme	19	15	8	4	4	4	-	3	3	4	15	34
Titchwell	1	6	1	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	8	2
Scolt Head	7	2	2	4	3	3	3	2	2	3	4	2
Ranworth Broad	7	7	6	18	16	22	23	19	21	22	8	5
Barton Broad	6	6	22	23	35	44	31	26	35	27	11	9
Rockland Broad	2	8	12	12	12	12	9	13	10	7	5	5
Nar Valley Fisheries	13	-	19	-	12	4	-	9	-	10	-	-

Other counts of 20 or more: 58 on sea Snettisham Feb 18th, 22 Welney April 10th, 25 Holkham Bay Nov 25th and 31 Great Ouse RC Nov 26th.

A total of just 40 breeding pairs reported from 14 sites (pairs in brackets): Berney Marshes (2), Bittering GP, Cantley, Diss Mere, Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound (5), Hockwold Marshes, Horning, Horsey Mere (3), mid-Yare RSPB (14), Nar Valley Fisheries (2), Pentney GP (2), Ranworth Broad (3), Thompson Water (2), Wissington Cut (2). Much of the decline is accounted for by a large and very worrying fall in numbers at Hickling/Heigham Sound, down to 5 from 32 pairs in 2005. NBA results showed the species was present in 13% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Good numbers remained until mid-Feb, following last autumn's modest influx, with max 4 Holme Jan (5th and 21st) and 2 in Feb, with last west there April 29th; 1-2 Titchwell until April 26th; Holkham Bay max 8 Jan (5th), 6 Feb (5th) but with just 1-2 thereafter and last there March 26th; max 5 Jan Cley-Blakeney Point (24th), 2 Feb (3rd/4th) but only report thereafter March 27th. Elsewhere singles Hunstanton Jan 7th/8th and 23rd, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr April 7th-9th with 2 Jan 15th, and Mundesley east April 3rd.

First of autumn Kelling Sept 8th, becoming widespread by month end. Largest numbers in usual north coast haunts: Holme Sept 18th, Oct 13th, Nov 6th and 21st; 1-2 Titchwell on 16 dates Sept 9th to end of year, with 3 Oct 25th and Dec 25th; Scolt Head Sept 17th, Oct 27th and Nov 25th; up to 4 Holkham Bay Oct 8th-Dec 6th (max Oct 30th and Nov 24th); Blakeney Point Sept 12th with 1-2 in Blakeney Point/Hbr-Cley area at least 6 dates Dec 6th-18th. Further east singles west Kelling Nov 2nd, Salthouse Sept 14th/15th, Weybourne Sept 13th and 15th, Sheringham Oct 7th and Nov 2nd, Overstrand Nov 1st, Winterton Nov 18th and Gorleston Nov 24th. Singles in Wash Snettisham Sept 17th and Nov 5th, and at Ousemouth Nov 2nd.

Inland at Colney Pits Jan 12th-Feb 12th, Hickling Broad Jan 28th, Whitlingham CP Feb 14th/15th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Feb 17th-March 2nd, Downham Market Sept 29th and R Yare at Reedham Nov 19th.

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly during autumn

Numbers in inshore waters in north-west of county high in first winter period, following the influx of autumn 2005. Monthly max: Holme 7 Jan (18th), 3 Feb (19th), 8 March (14th) with last there 24th; Titchwell 5 Jan (13th-19th), 7 Feb (16th), 5 March (22nd) with last reported 2 April 1st; Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr

2 Jan, 1 Feb; Holkham Bay 3 Jan (22nd), 6 Feb (17th) with only subsequent record one March 19th. Elsewhere Hunstanton Jan 7th and 14th with 2 on 8th and one Feb 26th, Blakeney Point Jan 1st, Cley Feb 16th, West Runton Jan 2nd and last of winter Winterton April 6th.

First of autumn 2 Titchwell Sept 26th, where monthly max 2 Oct (25th), 2 Nov (6th and 29th) and 6 Dec (10th and 24th). Monthly max at Holme 2 Oct (26th), 2 Nov (8th and 22nd) and 5 Dec (9th); excellent numbers built in Holkham Bay from 2 Oct 26th to 10 on 28th, with later monthly max of 2 Nov (24th) and 5 Dec (6th). Elsewhere 2 Scolt Head Nov 25th, Blakeney Point/Hbr Dec 8th/9th, Cley Nov 1st, Dec 9th and 16th, Sheringham Oct 5th and east Nov 1st, Winterton Nov 1st/2nd, and Eccles Dec 7th.

Inland Whitlingham CP from Dec 22nd 2005 until March 3rd.

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

A good series of 9-10 birds in first four months but just two in autumn: Titchwell Jan 5th, Filby Broad Jan 14th-Feb 11th, 1-3 Hickling Broad Jan 17th-March 27th, Holkham Bay Feb 5th, Snettisham Feb 12th, Holme April 2nd, north Horsey April 8th, Brancaster Hbr April 9th, Holkham GM Oct 8th/9th and north Walcott Nov 2nd.

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar)

Fulmarus glacialis

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

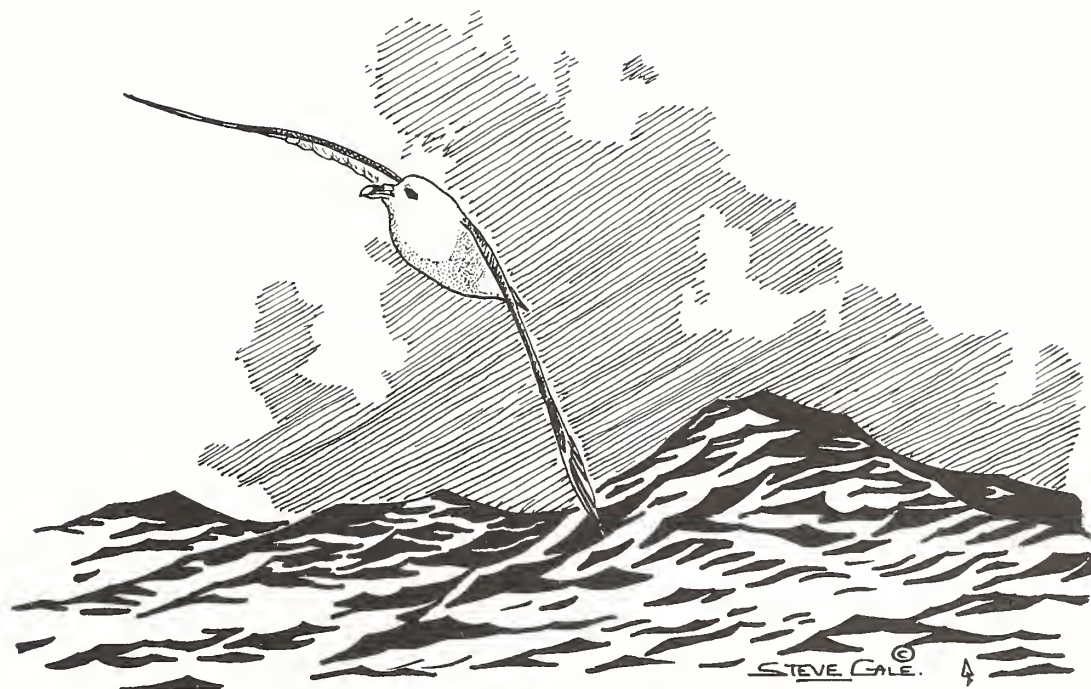
Best of first winter period 50 Hunstanton Jan 17th and 20 west Mundesley Feb 25th. In spring, 107 north 10 south Winterton April 10th with a notable movement May 8th when 62 east 5

west Cley, 207 east Mundesley and 92 south Winterton. May reports concluded with 85 south in 1 hr 30 mins Walcott 22nd, 29 east 8 west Scolt Head and 80 Sheringham 29th, and 40 west in 2 hrs 30 mins Weybourne 30th. A single inland record Great Ryburgh May 28th.

Poorly recorded during breeding season with 4 pairs Sheringham, 3-4 pairs Beeston Bump-West Runton, 12 pairs East Runton-Cromer and 4 pairs Scratby. At Hunstanton Cliffs a count on June 10th found 107 apparently occupied territories using standard seabird 2000 methods.

Most notable of autumn movements: at Scolt Head 44 west 8 east Aug 3rd and 64 west 6 east 12th; at Sheringham 30 west 4 east also Aug 12th and 100 west Sept 8th. Count of 168 back breeding at Hunstanton Cliffs Dec 16th.

Blue phase records: one west Overstrand Jan 1st, 2 Blakeney Point Aug 3rd and one Cley Sept 8th.



Fulmar (Steve Cale)

Sooty Shearwater

Puffinus griseus

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

Following a bumper 2005, a more typical autumn with first reports 4 Holme and 3 west Scolt Head Aug 3rd. A notable offshore movement Aug 12th when 32 west Holme, 31 west Scolt Head, 16 west Cley in 4 hrs 30 mins, 22 west Sheringham in 6 hrs, 4 west Cromer, 12 north Winterton and 2 north California. During remainder of month best counts 5 north Yarmouth 13th and 8 west one east Sheringham 14th.

Peak Sept counts included 5 Cley and 9 east Sheringham 7th, 6 north Winterton 8th and 7 south Horsey 23rd. Singles only on 4 dates in Oct from Snettisham to Winterton. Nov highlight 5 Holme 1st with latest 2 west Sheringham and singles Eccles and Winterton 12th.

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

Passage migrant with majority during autumn movements

First report single west Holme April 28th. A good movement in May when 5 Cley, 59 east Mundesley in 1 hr, 73 east Walcott and 81 south Eccles 22nd, 33 west Sheringham 23rd, and 23 east Scolt Head and 37 Sheringham 29th. Noteworthy reports in June included 10 west Holme

22nd, 15 Titchwell 25th, 13 Cley, 38 east Sheringham and 22 east 2 west Mundesley 26th, and 16 east Scolt Head 30th.

In autumn, significant movement Aug 3rd when 17 west 16 east Scolt Head and 40 east in 5 hrs Sheringham. Aug 12th also proved a highlight when 26 Holme, 15 Titchwell, 76 west Scolt Head, 40 west Cley in 4 hrs, 44 west 14 east Sheringham in 6 hrs and 5 west Cromer.

Very light movement in Sept with best counts 8 Sheringham 7th, 6 east one west Scolt Head 15th, 6 Cley 16th and 6 there 26th. Four Oct records with 3 Winterton 2nd, 3 Cley 7th, 2 Cley 8th and single Sheringham 31st. Only Nov records 10 Holme 1st, and 2 Titchwell and one Sheringham 9th; a sick bird found on Yarmouth beach 26th. Latest single Blakeney Point Dec 9th.

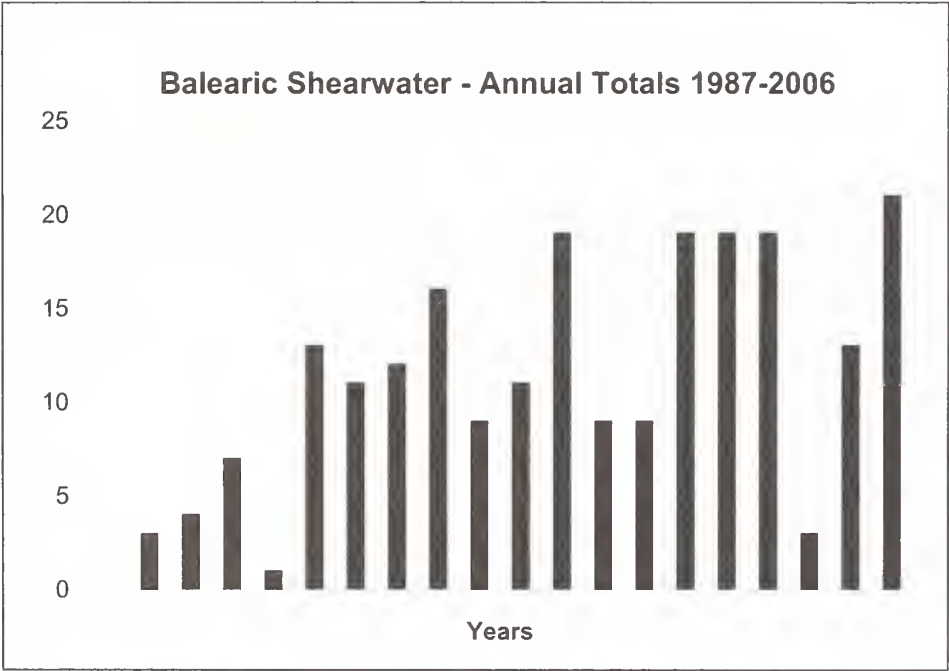
Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus mauretanicus

Annual in small numbers during autumn

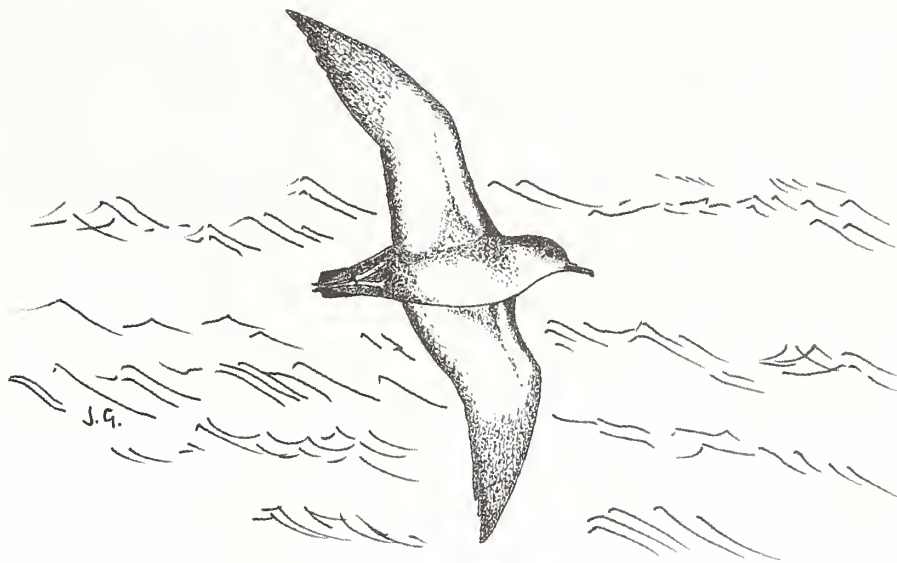
An exceptional autumn with records almost certainly involving some duplication. Following 2 West Runton Aug 1st and single Sheringham 3rd, one Holme, 3 west in 4 hrs 30 mins Cley and one west Sheringham 12th.

In Sept east Cley 7th, west Sheringham 9th, west Sheringham, west Mundesley, west Walcott and north Sea Palling 15th, 2 east Sheringham 16th with one lingering there 17th, west Mundesley 23rd, 1-2 feeding off beach Cley/Salthouse 26th/27th and one Waxham 28th.



Four Oct records: Sheringham and Walcott 7th, west Mundesley 13th and Cley 24th. A pale bird noted Kelling Nov 17th and single Gorleston 25th. Exceptionally late records in Dec with single Titchwell 8th and one lingering between Blakeney Point and Kelling 2nd-19th.

The Balearic Shearwater is one of the world’s most critically endangered seabirds, with estimated world population of just 10,000 individuals and is probably the rarest of the world’s birds visiting the county. Despite declining numbers in Europe numbers visiting the county’s waters have increased, especially since the early 1990s, with peak counts in recent years of 19 in 1998 and 2001-2003 and 21 in 2006. A similar trend has also been noted throughout north-west European waters, with a progressive northward shift in dispersal patterns, possibly as a result of increasing sea surface temperatures and changes in distribution of prey.



Balearic Shearwater (John Geeson)

Storm Petrel (European Storm Petrel)

Hydrobates pelagicus

Almost annual late autumn visitor, often in stormy weather

A very poor year with just 4 records untypically all in Aug when Titchwell 12th (RC), east Holme (CR) and 3 Sheringham (BJ *et al*) 13th, and one west Cley 14th (D&PW *et al*).

Leach's Petrel (Leach's Storm Petrel)

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Gale-blown visitor mostly during autumn

As with above species, a poor year with again just 4 records: 2 east Sheringham Aug 13th and one there 14th, west Scolt Head Sept 7th and Cley Nov 3rd.

Gannet (Northern Gannet)

Morus bassanus

Passage migrant, most during autumn gales

Substantially more numerous in first winter quarter than previous years with best counts 305 north 72 south Winterton Jan 1st, 54 Gorleston Feb 21st, 187 north 86 south in 1 hrs 15 mins Winterton Feb 25th and 80 east Sheringham March 11th.

Numbers maintained in spring when 88 east Mundesley April 28th, 229 east Mundesley and 119 south Winterton May 8th, 186 east 27 west Scolt Head May 29th, 136 east 5 west Sheringham May 30th and 187 east 41 west Mundesley June 26th. A sick adult bird Breydon June 17th.

Well reported in Aug when max 498 west 105 east Scolt Head, 300 west Weybourne, 84 east 68 west in 3 hrs 30 mins Sheringham, 425 north 25 south in 2 hrs Walcott and 264 north 41 south California all 3rd, 430 north in 2 hrs 30 mins Walcott 4th, 293 north Winterton in 2 hrs 5th and 260 west Sheringham 6th. Aug 12th proved a notable date when 492 west 56 east Scolt Head, 208 west Cley, 400 west Weybourne, 791 west 49 east Sheringham and 327 Winterton.

Sept peaks included 200 Holme 9th, 268 south 44 north Winterton 15th, 500 east Sheringham, 1012 east Mundesley and 362 south in 4 hrs Horsey 16th, and 525 Holme 26th. At Scolt Head 250 feeding offshore on 20th remained until mid-Oct during which time exceptional numbers of whiting were noted.

Reported throughout Oct when max 317 Winterton 3rd, 402 Cley and 235 juvs east Holkham Bay 7th, 320 west in 2 hrs Sheringham 10th, 500 west Holkham Bay and 717 Cley 30th, and 476 south 55 north in addition to 353 feeding offshore Winterton 31st. Last major movement Nov 6th when 454 Cley, 300 west Kelling and 316 west Mundesley.

Cormorant (Great Cormorant)*Phalacrocorax carbo****Increasing winter visitor and passage migrant; sporadic breeder***

Monthly counts from roost sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	25	38	22	53	35	44	106	95	45	72	40	17
Titchwell	-	-	-	19	-	25	64	75	67	88	25	20
Holkham GM	35	40	67	48	176	-	-	56	144	169	50	91
Ranworth Broad	239	310	218	33	-	-	22	42	56	66	348	240
Welney	182	181	-	7	49	-	-	-	-	-	121	105

National importance (winter): 130

Other roosts noted included 38 Filby Broad March 4th.

Other daytime roosts (loafing birds from most regularly counted sites):

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Breydon	41	27	35	18	26	29	33	40	16	27	19	31
Scolt/Brancaster	13	17	18	27	51	83	180	143	97	48	31	31
Cley	3	8	3	4	1	6	45	39	33	56	36	4

Largest counts elsewhere included 124 feeding offshore California Jan 22nd, 90 on sea Winterton Jan 30th, 80 Holme Sept 1st, 103 Winterton Sept 23rd, 136 Gorleston Nov 11th, 162 Winterton Dec 8th, 56 out to sea from Rollesby Broad Dec 29th and 147 Gorleston Dec 31st.

At Holkham GM 88 breeding pairs represented a significant increase on 2005 and exceeded the 72 pairs there in 2004. Elsewhere 15-20 pairs Didlington. NBA results showed the species was present in 13% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad; there are few breeding sites in county and as adults wander widely during summer in search of fish, this should be taken into account when interpreting data.

Shag (European Shag)*Phalacrocorax aristotelis****Autumn and winter visitor with occasional birds wrecked inland***

A very poor year with just 6 reports during first winter period including 2 inland: Swanton Morley GP Jan 6th, Hunstanton 7th, Snettisham 25th, Sheringham Feb 22nd Colney GP March 1st and King's Lynn 14th.

Summer records of singles Eccles June 1st, Mundesley July 7th and Sheringham Aug 28th.

Following singles Salthouse and Sheringham Oct 16th higher numbers in second winter period with best 3 Sea Palling Oct 30th, 3 Cley and 3 Mundesley Nov 1st, 3 Walcott Nov 3rd, 2 Wells Hbr Dec 2nd, single lingering Cley Dec 4th-24th and 6 Sheringham roosting on baskets Dec 16th. A single tideline juv corpse on the Wash Dec 6th.

Bittern (Great Bittern)*Botaurus stellaris****Rare resident breeder; also winter visitor in variable numbers***

Recorded singly at 25 sites during first winter period including: *Jan* Kelling WM 1st-April 5th, Thompson Water 4th; *Feb* Dilham 1st, Irstead 10th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 13th; *March* Narborough 3rd, Felbrigg 14th, Boughton Fen 16th, Attleborough 17th, Sparham 26th. Multiple counts included max 4 Strumpshaw March, 3 Hickling Broad Feb 7th, 2 Welney Feb 11th and 3 Thompson Water March 3rd. Evening dusk departures of birds migrating east high out to sea noted at Horsey with 4 March 25th and 2 March 27th.



Bittern (Gary Wright)

Booming first recorded April 1st. This year total of 44 booming males recorded in the UK, 2 fewer than in 2005, with number for county increasing by one to 13. On north coast booming noted at 3 sites (one of which constituted first breeding attempt since 1996), and two of these held nesting females. In Broads boomers recorded at 10 localities, (9 in 2005) including booming at a new site; however only 4 nests (6 in 2005) at just 3 sites, one of which a new location.

Little or no evidence of post breeding dispersal, with singles at Holme Sept 3rd and 26th only reports away from known or suspected breeding areas.

In second winter period recorded singly at 15 localities, with those away from regular haunts at Hanworth Common Oct 15th, Belton Oct 29th, Denver and Haddiscoe Island Nov 19th, Salhouse Nov 29th, Kelling WM Dec 10th and Morston Dec 26th.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Vagrant from southern Europe

Three accepted records: Holkham GM May 7th (AIB), Burnham Norton Aug 8th-10th (RM *et al*) and Blakeney GM Oct 9th-23rd (JVB *et al*). The first apparently wild birds since 2000.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Increasing visitor especially in winter; breeding has occurred since 2002

Max monthly counts tabulated below, there is doubtless some overlap involved between sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	5	4	4	10	2	8	25	26	27	31	11	9
Holme	8	8	8	8	4	8	19	14	17	10	2	3
Thornham Hbr	3	8	3	3	2	1	1	24	11	2	7	9
Titchwell	26	5	13	5	2	2	30	60	86	83	1	2
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	13	10	9	8	9	10	51	81	91	67	31	32
Holkham GM	62	51	10	23	80	40	50	2	114	151	170	175
Wells Hbr	5	-	-	3	3	4	2	10	29	9	10	8
Warham SM	37	14	3	6	8	5	15	7	7	9	15	14
Stiffkey SM	8	5	2	4	5	3	-	12	15	3	11	11
Blakeney Hbr	10	8	3	5	3	2	11	16	23	6	13	19
Cley	2	6	2	4	1	3	6	5	3	4	3	2
Breydon/Berney	17	42	55	34	46	46	47	53	43	64	47	48
Welney	1	4	2	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

It is interesting to note that peak counts at Holkham GM were down by around 15% on 2005.

Light spring passage recorded with singles south Hunstanton and west Scolt Head. April 15th, west Sheringham 20th, in off sea Scolt Head 25th, 6 west Sharrington 26th, east Sheringham May 13th and last high west Scolt Head 27th.

Increase in records from inland areas again this year with birds regularly following river valleys in north of county particularly along the Stiffkey and Wensum. Singles recorded from a number of sites but 2 Newton Jan 13th, 2 Wighton Jan 17th, 2 Little Thornage Feb 2nd, 3 Hunworth Feb 18th, 4 Great Ryburgh March 18th and 5 Sculthorpe Moor April 17th. Still scarce in Fens as indicated by low counts at Welney, but 6 Ouse Washes March 30th only other notable count from region. In Brecks still rare, with only records Larling Jan 25th and Feb 22nd, Thetford March 18th and April 18th, and Stanford TA July 19th. A definite increase in records from Broads with 2 Upton Fen Jan 1st, Acle Jan 11th, 9 Burgh Castle Jan 29th, Hardley Flood on numerous dates, Tunstall May 27th, 17 How Hill Reedham Water July 28th with 21 there Aug 2nd, 3 Heigham Holmes Aug 20th and 2 Hickling Broad Aug 21st. In Yare Valley total of 56 records, with peaks of 6 Cantley June 3rd and 24th.

Breeding: total of 72 pairs at 4 sites with 40, 17, 14 and one respectively; fledging success unknown. Birds present at a further 4 potential breeding sites with displaying and nest building observed at one. Surely with the number seen along our inland water courses this year more are going unrecorded?

Evidence of post breeding dispersal or autumn movement noted with 4 east Weybourne July 19th, west Sheringham Aug 6th, west Scolt Head Aug 17th, 4 east Weybourne Aug 21st (inc at least one juv), 4 east Scolt Head Sept 9th, 5 west Beeston Bump Oct 5th, 2 east one west Sheringham Oct 8th, south Hunstanton Oct 30th and north Horsey and 2 west Sheringham both Nov 4th.

Grey Heron

Resident and passage migrant/winter visitor

Spring passage noted from March 24th when in off sea Eccles and east Overstrand March 31st, east Beeston Bump April 18th, west Overstrand April 19th and high east Beeston Bump May 16th. Otherwise highest count 12 Holkham GM May 14th.

A better breeding season with 25 sites occupied this year. At Great Witchingham Wildlife Park 43 nests still highest concentration but also 41 Clenchwarton, 28 Wimbotsham, 15 Barton Broad and 19 Earsham. NBA results showed the species was present in 41% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad; adults wander widely in search of prey during breeding season and non-breeders are present throughout summer, thus inflating the number of ‘pairs’.

Summer and autumn coastal movement noted at well-recorded watchpoints as follows:

	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
Holme	3	-	-	20	-
Scolt Head	13	16	5	43	2
Sheringham	-	-	2	29	-
Cley	-	-	7	21	4

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

Ardea cinerea



Grey Heron (Phil Jones)

Other notable movements included 18 west Stiffkey Fen Sept 11th and 12 in off sea Gorleston Sept 25th; elsewhere 22 Hickling Broad Oct 11th.

Purple HeronArdea purpurea

Almost annual spring and autumn vagrant from the Continent

One high east Sheringham April 26th (MPT); singles in May Holme 5th (GFH) then east and subsequently Titchwell 6th-16th, and Cley 8th/9th (MAG *et al*).

White StorkCiconia ciconia

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

The usual series of Broads spring records that presumably relate to the free-flying escape from Thrigby Wildlife Park were supplemented by a number of records that could constitute up to 5 genuine migrants. The first came in from the east at Catfield April 18th before drifting north-east; what could have been the same bird then tracked west along the north coast between Overstrand and West Runton same day. One west Blakeney April 22nd last seen over Thornham Farms and another April 26th west from Blakeney to Holme before following coast south to King’s Lynn where it roosted on a pylon; bird still present following morning and bore a metal ring on its left leg. These records followed by singles west Holme May 4th and Great Ryburgh May 21st.

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill)Platalea leucorodia

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

With no records in first winter period, first spring migrant one south Winterton March 31st. Further April records from Holkham GM 16th, Breydon 19th with 3 on 27th, Berney 21st and Winterton where 2 north 30th and 3 north-west May 1st. Elsewhere during May 3 Horsey and Martham 2nd, 2 over Cley, Holkham GM and Holme 3rd, 4 Titchwell 5th with 2 in off sea there 8th, 4 over Cley, Blakeney and Holkham GM 9th before heading east again following day, and one east Kelling 12th with 4 Salthouse later same day. A juv at Berney May 24th was possibly an early fledged bird of Spanish origin.

A good number of summer records with max 9 Cley and 6 Holkham GM and Titchwell; also recorded at 12 other localities with 1-4 at each. Fewer records in Broads this year, as seen from table below, which is unlikely to include any duplication:

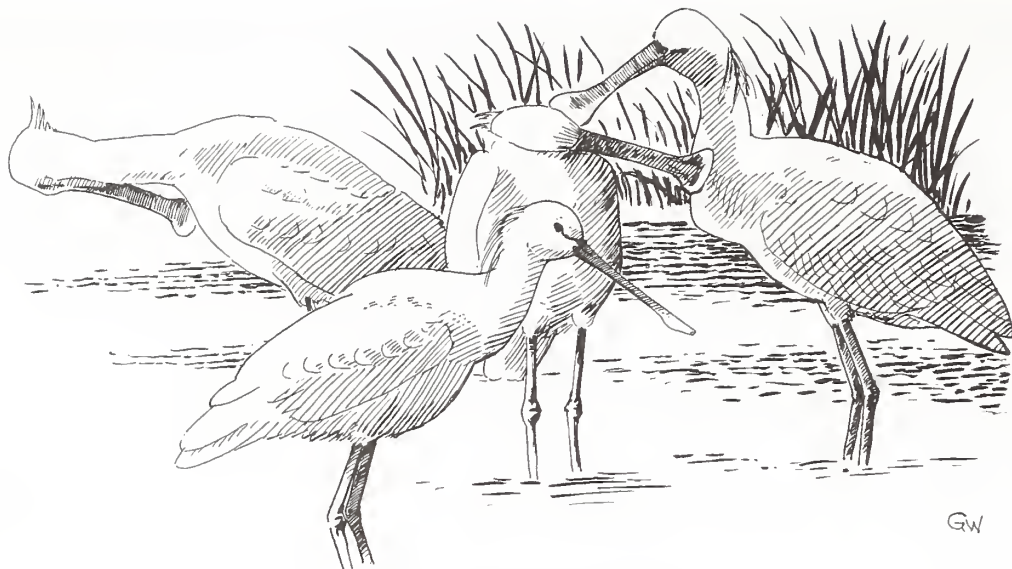
	May		Jun		July	
	1st-15th	16th-31st	1st-15th	16th-30th	1st-15th	16th-31st
Hickling Broad	-	3	-	1	1	-
Breydon/Berney	-	2	-	-	-	-

One east Scolt Head Aug 25th and 2 west there 27th could have involved autumn migrants. Other autumn records included 3 briefly Titchwell Sept 3rd, an imm Waxham Oct 10th which landed among Pinkfeet in a potato field, flying off an hour later, and another Welney Oct 12th.

Honey Buzzard (European Honey Buzzard)Pernis apivorus

Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant

First of spring north Welney May 5th followed by other singles close to breeding area May 9th and 12th. Other migrants noted during May (all singles): Thornham 14th, Metton 17th, Gateley 19th, west Titchwell 20th and south Great Walsingham 21st. Midsummer wanderers away from known breeding area Heigham Sound June 11th and East Rudham June 15th.



Spoonbills (Gary Wright)

Two pairs present in breeding area during summer (arrival May 17th) and behaviour in June lead to hopes that at least one pair may have bred. Unfortunately this appeared not to be the case as no sign of any feeding flights into woods, and if they did nest, certainly no young were hatched; the third year in succession that no young have been raised.

Only two other July records away from breeding area, in off sea then south Scolt Head 7th and Cawston 23rd. Autumn dispersal/passage underway late Aug when south Hardley Flood 26th, and south Wereham and west Sheringham both 30th. During Sept south-west over Norwich 3rd, 2 in Morston/Stiffkey area 9th-13th, singles east Cley 10th, Foxley 15th, Thornham Marshes 16th, 2 Snettisham 23rd and singles Blakeney Point and Narborough 30th. Latest record one east Weybourne Oct 8th.

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

Vagrant from the Continent

A juv showing characteristics of the eastern race *lineatus*, known as Black-eared Kite, at Snettisham Nov 28th, Dec 6th-17th and 24th, Ranworth also 17th and Cley/Morston 26th-31st.



Black-eared Kite (Phil Jones)

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

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

During first winter period (Jan-Feb) records of singles on various dates from Brancaster Thompson Farms, Breydon, Burgh Castle, Colkirk, Fakenham, Great Ryburgh, Rackheath and Scoulton involving max of 6 individuals.

Traditional spring influx commenced March 18th/19th with one Great Ryburgh followed by further March records: 22nd Hempstead; 24th Massingham Heath; 25th Sparham, east Cromer and 2 east Paston; 26th west Titchwell, west Sheringham, north-east out to sea Overstrand and Sennowe Park; 27th Titchwell, Martham and Gunthorpe; 28th Dickleburgh and Massingham; 29th Titchwell; 30th south Winterton.

In April singles Bintree and Titchwell 1st, Colkirk 3rd, Titchwell 4th, Snettisham CP, Titchwell and Winterton 7th, Snettisham 8th, Holkham Park 16th, Norwich and Tivetshall 17th, west Holkham, Holme and Old Hunstanton 18th, Waxham 20th and 25th, north-west Whissonsett 25th and east Kelling 26th.

Birds remained in evidence during May but high mobility of birds makes it impossible to be certain how many individuals present in county. Records of singles from 18 widely-scattered sites with 2 Bodham/Aylmerton 12th/13th; 2 at another site remained into July and raised hopes that breeding may occur. It was later suspected that both birds were of same sex.

Unlike normal years a large number of reports during summer months with records from 19 sites in June and 14 in July but presumably all records could relate to only a few wandering individuals.

During second winter period (Sept-Dec) records of singles received from 5 sites in Sept, 13 in Oct, 10 in Nov and 3 in Dec.

There is no doubt that this species is becoming increasingly more common and the first breeding record cannot be far off.

Marsh Harrier ((Eurasian Marsh Harrier)

Circus aeruginosus

Increasing migrant breeder; also passage migrant; small numbers winter

During first winter period records from numerous north coast and Broads sites. Main roost in Broads peaked at 70 Jan, 72 Feb and 22 March with 1-17 birds roosting at further 9 sites. On north coast roosting recorded from 3 localities with max single-site count of 9 birds; numbers present along coast during this time would indicate that more were roosting elsewhere. An interesting record of one in off sea Mundesley Jan 29th followed by female east offshore past Weybourne next day.

Discernable spring passage commenced March 25th with one east Aylmerton followed by 2 west Ringstead March 28th. Numbers increased during April with one south Hunstanton 1st, 2 in off sea Winterton 2nd, west Sheringham 7th, west Overstrand 11th, 3 Aylmerton and one west at sea West Runton 14th, 3 west Holt 17th, 2 west Inceborough Hill 20th, 3 west Home 21st and 4 in off sea Blakeney Point 27th. At Scolt Head April total of 16 west during month with max 4 on 21st; smaller numbers continued to pass through in May with total of 6 west there during month.

Elsewhere during May west Aylmerton 1st, 2 west Weybourne and 2 north Winterton 2nd, 2 south Hunstanton 3rd, east Aylmerton and west West Runton 6th, and west Aylmerton 13th. No further passage until early June when west Scolt Head 2nd, high west Weybourne 4th with another individual west there 7th.

After last year's comprehensive breeding survey, data for this year incomplete but bare min of 77 pairs recorded (35 pairs Broads, 32 north coast and min 10 in Wash). Productivity

appeared low with min of 78 young raised; true number of fledged young no doubt higher than this. Unfortunately many records simply state ‘pair nesting’ and provide no details of fledging success. NBA results showed the species was present in 19% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad; breeding Marsh Harriers have large hunting territories thus inflating the number of ‘pairs’.

From Aug birds dispersed far and wide. At Scolt Head exceptional numbers recorded moving west during month with total of 73, peaking 23 on 5th, 10 13th and 22 16th. Dispersal continued into Sept with 5 west Home 1st, in off sea Gorleston 3rd, Beeston Bump (mobbing escaped Turkey Vulture) and Paston 5th, west Scolt Head 6th, in off sea Blakeney Point 10th, Norwich 15th, 3 east Holme 16th, west Scolt Head 21st, east Aylmerton 23rd and west Scolt Head 30th. A dark morph adult male present Warham Greens Sept 29th.

During second winter period main Broads roost held max 17 birds Sept, 18 Oct, 42 Nov and 66 Dec. Only 4 other Broads roosts counted during this period holding anywhere between 6 and 25 birds. Other roost sites no doubt existed but went unrecorded. North coast roosting noted at 2 localities with max count 10 on two dates.

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

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

High numbers noted during first winter period with records from many north coast and Broads localities. Roosting recorded at total of 10 sites:

	Roost Sites										Max
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Jan	7	5	4	7	2	9	3	7	-	-	44
Feb	9	6	-	-	1	8	6	-	3	-	33
March	3	-	-	-	-	6	1	6	-	1	17

First noticeable migrants of spring 2 east Overstrand March 25th followed by ringtail out to sea Blakeney Point 27th. Wide scatter of records during April with obvious migrants south at sea Winterton 12th, west Inleborough Hill 20th, east Paston 24th and adult male Northrepps 29th. Birds continued to pass through into May with ringtails east Aylmerton 3rd, 5th and 7th, with further singles at 6 other sites, latest Holme May 23rd.

Not recorded again until first returning bird Terrington Marsh Aug 26th; no further sightings until Brancaster Thompson Farms Sept 10th. Thereafter numbers slowly increased as wintering birds moved into county but in contrast to first winter period numbers rather low, perhaps due to mild weather. Roosting recorded from 10 sites with counts increasing as winter progressed.

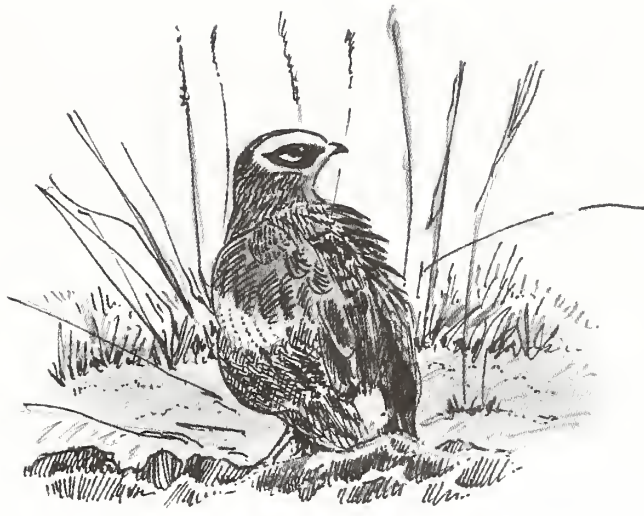
	Roost Sites										Max
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Oct	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	6
Nov	1	2	-	-	-	6	1	-	1	1	12
Dec	2	5	4	2	1	5	1	-	-	-	20

Pallid Harrier

Circus macrourus

Vagrant from Central Asia

A well-watched juv Winterton Sept 23rd-Oct 7th (NM JS-M GWi *et al*). The third county record.



Pallid Harrier (Andy Benson)

Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant

First of spring male Dersingham April 16th with further records during month ringtail west Holme 20th, ringtail west Scolt Head 21st and another in off sea there 22nd.

Passage continued into May with imm male west Titchwell 1st, imm male west Scolt Head 3rd, west Hickling and north Titchwell 5th, female Blakeney/Cley 8th, Snettisham 9th, male west Sheringham 15th, male Cley 19th, ringtail south-west Beeston Common and imm male Cley 20th, imm male Holkham GM and ringtail west Scolt Head 21st, male west Weybourne then Cley 22nd, and female Great Ryburgh 25th.

Breeding occurred at 2 widely separated localities. At site one 3 pairs present but only one pair raised 2 juvs; at site two one another pair also raised 2 juvs, these making their first flights July 14th. Unfortunately one juv found dead at edge of natal field Aug 4th. This site also attracted an unmated 2nd-cy female July 14th and Aug 11th-20th and a juv, presumably dispersing from a site in neighbouring county, also Aug 20th. This is fourth year in succession that successful breeding has occurred in county.

Elsewhere during summer months presumed unmated birds noted at 3 sites.

Autumn dispersal rapid once breeding completed and no records received after Sept 7th (Titchwell).

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk)

Accipiter gentilis

Rare breeder; also scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

During first winter period only records away from known/possible breeding areas singles Kelling WM Jan 30th, and Strumpshaw also Jan 30th and Feb 3rd.

Only 2 records of spring migrants, both late April, Yarmouth Cemetery 20th and imm male west Thornham 26th.

Definite breeding confirmed at 2 sites within Norfolk section of Brecks, raising one and 2 young respectively. Elsewhere at least one pair at a locality in north-west where one young successfully fledged in 2005. Displaying also noted a several others sites Feb-April but unknown if breeding took place.

Very scarce in second winter period. Only records away from known/possible breeding areas south Wereham Aug 30th, Brettenham Heath Sept 10th, 2 Thetford Nunnery Lakes Oct 4th, imm male Waxham Nov 9th, Frettenham Dec 7th and Nar Valley Fisheries Dec 30th.

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Accipiter nisus

First spring migrant west Overstrand March 16th followed by 4 west there 22nd and one south Breydon 25th. Highest spring total at Winterton where 131 past March 27th-May 13th (76 north 55 south) with max day counts 7 north one south April 17th and 11 north 5 south May 2nd. Heavier passage than usual recorded Scolt Head with April total of 32 west including 8 15th, 10 19th and 7 on 21st. Small-scale movement noted from 6 further sites April-early May, all 1-2 apart from 5 north Horsey April 14th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 51% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage virtually non-existent with only records 4 Caister GC Oct 8th and 2 south Hunstanton Nov 10th.

Common Buzzard
Increasing resident breeder; also passage migrant and winter visitor

Buteo buteo

Widely distributed in first winter period, with main concentrations in north and west of county. As usual, birds more obvious in late Feb and March with largest numbers 8 Castle Rising, 9 Cockley Cley, 7 Colkirk, 8 Gateley, 12 Grimston/Massingham Heath, 6 Hunworth, 12 Sennowe Park and 6 Wighton.

Apparent spring passage noted from March 2nd when singles west Holme with 3 west next day and 3 west 7th. Further March passage included birds in off sea Titchwell March 12th, east Cley and west Sheringham 21st, 7 east Overstrand 25th, single west Sheringham 26th and 3 south-east and single north-west Titchwell 29th. In April 2 south Winterton 2nd, 3 west Titchwell and 2 east Weybourne 5th, single west Titchwell 6th, 2 west Scolt Head 15th, and 2 west Overstrand and single east Sheringham 30th. Only apparent migrant in May single east Sheringham 15th. All such ‘migrants’, however, difficult to distinguish from local birds.

Displaying pairs noted at 60 localities, with a very significant concentration in north and west of county. Little information received on breeding success and therefore difficult to distinguish between possible and probable breeding, but number of pairs located confirms that the upward trend continues. Only 11 pairs confirmed breeding but this likely to under estimate the actual position.

Breeding data for last 10 years:

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
Confirmed prs	4	5	5	9	10	11	17	21	25	11
Max prs	9	12	12	20	20	24	33	34	47	60

NBA results showed the species was present in 12% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Apparent movements in autumn noted from Aug when single south-east Sheringham 15th, 3 east Brancaster Hbr 21st and 3 south-east Langham 23rd. In Sept 4 south High Kelling 6th, 3 west Blakeney and 12 east Cley 10th, single in off sea Beeston Bump 13th, 9 east and 5 west Hindringham 18th, 8 south Thornham Hbr 23rd and 4 west Hindringham 30th. In Oct 4 east Hindringham 4th, and 9 south-west Holkham Park and 4 east Sheringham 8th.

In second winter period 2-3 recorded at many localities, although with a continuing bias towards north and west of county. Max up to 5 Ashill and 5 Great Massingham.

Rough-legged Buzzard

Buteo lagopus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; periodic large-scale influxes

In first winter period singles Stiffkey valley from 2005 to Jan 20th, Grimston/Massingham Heath from 2005 to March 29th and Hickling/Horsey Jan 11th-15th, with probably same Chedgrave/Halvergate/Haddiscoe/Belton Jan 28th-April 17th. Only other winter sighting Brancaster Feb 11th.

In spring singles Wissington BF March 12th and Leziate Heath 23rd, North Creake April 29th, Brancaster May 2nd and Bayfield Hall 23rd.

In autumn/winter reported from Lyng Nov 6th, Stiffkey 21st, Brancaster Thompson Farms 29th, Horsey Dec 1st and Holkham 1st/2nd.

A typical set of records for recent years.

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Regular passage migrant in increasing numbers; over-summering has occurred

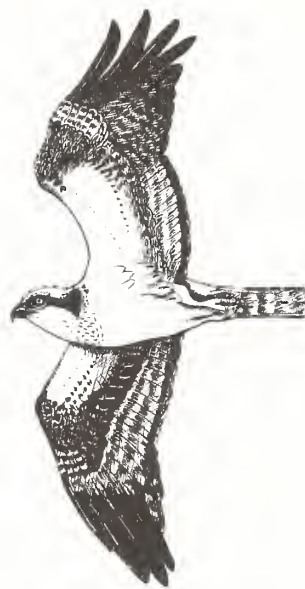
A single west Overstrand April 1st was first of year. Thereafter another 11 recorded in April, as usual largely heading west along coast and reported from multiple localities: Titchwell 2nd, Salthouse/Stiffkey 3rd, Kelling/Scolt Head/Titchwell 7th, Narborough 9th, Rockland Broad 9th/10th, Holme 13th, Cley/Blakeney/Wells/Scolt Head 19th, Holme 20th, UEA Broad 22nd, Hockwold Washes 23rd and Rockland Broad 29th.

A further 22 seen in May: Flitcham 1st, Scolt Head/Holme with another Rockland Broad/Surlingham 5th, single tracked east over Holkham/Thornham/Holme/Hunstanton/Snettisham with other sightings involving at least one other bird from Aylmerton, Cley/Blakeney Point and Hempton all 6th. On 10th another tracked east Burnham Overy/Scolt Head/Wells/Blakeney with others recorded at Great Ryburgh/Sennowe Park and Hockwold Washes, the latter remaining to 11th. Further singles on this date at Blakeney, Hoveton and Surlingham, followed by others Burnham Norton 12th, Sparham Pools 18th, Stiffkey 20th and Overstrand/Cley/Stiffkey 22nd. A further single on 23rd over Bayfield Hall/Cley/Blakeney/Stiffkey/Titchwell/Thornham/Holme/Hunstanton, with others Cley and Holme/Titchwell/Thornham 24th, where lingered to 25th. Further singles How Hill 25th and Cley/Stiffkey/Warham same day, with others Cley/Salthouse 26th, and Narborough and Cley/Blakeney 27th.

Passage slowed in June with singles Walsey Hills 2nd, Cley/Warham/Titchwell/Holme 4th, Hickling Broad 5th, Aylmerton 6th and Breydon 11th.

No summering birds present, the only July records being Strumpshaw 1st and Thetford 30th.

Light autumn passage started Aug with 6 records: Thornham 15th/16th, Winterton 21st, Swanton Novers 22nd, Titchwell 23rd, Great Ryburgh 25th and Salthouse 30th. A further 14 seen in Sept: Welney 3rd, Scolt Head 4th, Snettisham 6th, Rockland Broad/Strumpshaw 10th-14th, Scolt Head and Stiffkey/Warham 12th, Scolt Head/Titchwell/Holme/Hunstanton 14th, Pentney GP 15th, Scolt Head 16th, Sparham 18th-20th, Castle Acre and Titchwell 19th, Swanton Morley GP 21st, Titchwell 22nd and Hockwold Washes 30th, last bird of year.



Osprey (Alan Burtenshaw)

Kestrel (Common Kestrel)

Falco tinnunculus

Resident and passage migrant

A small number of likely migrants recorded in March: singles east Overstrand 21st, and west there 26th and 30th. In April 2 west Overstrand 2nd, in off sea Scolt Head 15th, west at sea Sheringham 17th, 3 west Scolt Head 19th, and in off sea Overstrand and 2 west Scolt Head 20th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 28% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad. Summer concentrations: 8 Hickling Aug 3rd and 15 Terrington Marsh 10th. A bird at Hickling June 13th was hawking dragonflies.

Probable autumn migrants included singles south offshore Gorleston July 23rd and another in off sea there 30th, 5 west Scolt Head Aug 16th and singles in off sea Gorleston Oct 1st and California 17th.

At year end highest counts 9 Ouse Washes Nov 6th and Dec 4th, and 10 Wolferton Dec 10th.

Merlin

Falco columbarius

Passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

In first winter period reported from usual coastal localities, always 1-2 birds but 3 Terrington during Jan. Birds also recorded widely inland. A traditional roost held up to 5 birds during Jan-April. As usual, wintering areas occupied until first week of May, but later singles Burnham Norton 22nd and Lessingham 25th. A bird at Cley May 24th-31st was described as 'pale' and carried a blue ring. It was therefore presumed to have been an escape and may not have been a pure Merlin. An unseasonal summer bird Scolt Head June 6th-8th.

First of autumn Scolt Head/Titchwell from July 18th, with another Cley/Blakeney Point from Aug 13th and others more widely from third week of month.

A few apparent migrants reported in autumn although these often hard to distinguish from hunting birds: in off sea Gorleston Sept 3rd with further single north offshore there 9th, in off sea Weybourne Oct 6th, singles north California 25th and south 26th, south offshore Winterton 28th, east offshore Cley Nov 1st and west there 4th, south California 6th and north there 18th, in off sea Winterton 13th and west at sea Sheringham 21st.

In second winter period traditional coastal sites re-occupied by 1-2 birds, with several reported inland in west of county, and up to 4 back at main roost site.

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby)

Falco subbuteo

Scarce but increasing migratory breeder and passage migrant

First of year Barton Broad April 9th and Wheatfen 14th, then numerous reports from 18th onwards. Reports especially widespread from 30th at both inland and coastal localities, with particular concentrations in wetland areas, although noted as far scarcer in Broads than in recent years. Peak numbers included 18 Strumpshaw May 6th and 24 Hockwold Fen 15th.

Breeding: 27 pairs reported, a further increase on 2005, most in Brecks where 18 pairs located on Norfolk side of county boundary. Of these, 12 pairs successfully fledged young but with fewer chicks than



Hobby (Martin Woodcock)

2005, down from 2.58 per nest to 1.75. All nests were found in old Carrion Crow nests in Scots Pine planted between 1926 and 1947.

Max pairs in past 10 years:

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
	10	12	13	16	10	11	13	20	26	27

NBA results showed the species was present in 11% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Reported widely throughout county during Aug and still regularly in Sept when migrants east Beeston Bump 12th, east Sheringham 21st and in off the sea California 29th. In Oct 11 reported with last of year Great Fransham Nov 4th and Kelling WM 6th.

Peregrine (Peregrine Falcon)

Falco peregrinus

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Widely reported in first winter period. Numbers difficult to assess with such a mobile species but probably at least 12 present in county. Two reported from several sites with 3 Warham Greens Jan 17th. Records fewer by April and only 5 in May: Breydon 1st, Blakeney Point/Cley/Salthouse and Berney 5th, Cromer 9th and Aylmerton 30th. In June one Upton Marshes 3rd, and in July 4 reports received - South Lopham 6th, Holt 8th, Hickling Broad 9th and Brancaster Staithe 27th.

Numbers picked up from Aug 10th when singles Terrington and Burnham Market, and widely seen during autumn and into second winter period. Records largely involved singles although 2 again reported from several localities. Little hard evidence of passage recorded at either season as often difficult to distinguish from daily wanderings of wintering birds.

Prey items recorded during year included Magpie and Common Scoter.

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak numbers at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	2	1	1	-	-	3	4	4	3
Titchwell	3	3	-	1	3	3	6	3	4
Cley	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	3
Hickling	1	-	12	1	1	5	3	1	-
How Hill	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	2
Strumpshaw	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	3	-
Catfield Fen	2	-	14	8	-	5	-	2	-
Lopham Fen	6	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-

Other localities with at least 3: Jan 5 Ormesby Broad, 3 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr; Feb 6 Horning Hall Marshes, 3 Ranworth Flood/Ward Marsh, 3 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr; March 16 Buckenham Marshes, 3 Denver; April 3 Barton Turf Fen, 3 Buckenham Marshes, 4 Burgh Castle; Oct 5 Barton Turf Fen; Nov 3 Cockshoot Broad.

Breeding pairs/calling birds/broods included: Berney, Blickling Park Lake, Cantley BF, Catfield Fen 4, Cley 1+, Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound 11, Holkham NNR 3, Lopham Fen 6, Roydon Common 3, Titchwell 5.

Only evidence of migration one on beach Weybourne Oct 31st.

Corncrake

Crex crex

Rare passage migrant

One in flight briefly Breydon South Wall June 23rd (KRD).
2005 Addition: Wells Lodge Marsh Sept 24th (JGi).

Spotted Crane

Porzana porzana

Scarce passage migrant, rare in winter

Only one record, one calling Strumpshaw April 15th and 17th (MAC PK).

Moorhen (Common Moorhen)

Gallinula chloropus

Abundant resident; immigrants in autumn

Peak monthly counts at the most regularly monitored sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	35	20	23	12	9	4	11	4	10
Titchwell	9	16	5	9	11	15	10	12	2
Fritcham	42	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	45
Holkham GM	61	39	7	19	17	17	-	35	2
Holkham Park Lake	24	19	21	7	7	9	14	7	13
Blakeney GM	17	59	14	17	4	2	3	11	16
Cley	34	52	28	19	14	8	13	12	19
Salthouse	54	56	39	6	7	-	-	31	18

Other counts exceeding 20: Sept 40 Cantley BF, 35 North Wootton Marsh; Oct 47 Narborough, 25 Great Massingham; Nov 29 Snettisham, 28 Ouse Washes, 28 Great Massingham, 26 Narborough; Dec 37 R Nar, 30 North Wootton Marsh, 22 Hoveton Hall Lake.
Breeding pairs included: Blakeney GM 7, Brancaster GM 14, Cley 8 (10+ young fledged), Holkham NNR 76. NBA results showed the species was present in 83% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Coot (Common Coot)

Fulica atra

Common resident and winter visitor

Monthly max at all regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	41	56	77	16	8	11	13	18	120	113	103	103
Holme	70	27	27	20	22	15	58	39	17	18	40	7
Titchwell	21	52	59	35	11	12	32	59	15	41	86	42
Holkham GM	63	31	26	66	192	-	-	14	34	53	46	2
Holkham Park Lake	250	63	275	18	6	21	29	31	23	36	24	64
Cley	29	45	51	33	21	28	29	17	11	16	17	18
Salthouse	24	6	27	17	12	10	22	16	-	17	21	27
Barton Broad	220	213	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ranworth Broad	116	47	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	127	-
Whitlingham CP	351	211	157	70	20	22	31	91	51	112	180	211
Welney	492	794	750	543	-	-	-	-	-	-	463	412

National importance (winter): 1730

Other counts exceeding 100: Jan 220 Horning; Feb 248 Hickling Broad, 100 Horning; March 200 Hickling Broad; Oct 152 Nar Valley Fisheries; Nov 463 Ouse Washes, 100 Pentney GP.

Breeding pairs included: Blakeney GM 14, Brancaster GM 20, Cley 12, Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound 8, Holkham NNR 130, Welney 22. NBA results showed the species was present in 32% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Common Crane

Grus grus

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

Up to 31 birds seen in first winter period. Five pairs nested and 4 pairs may have attempted breeding. A pair raised 3 young which were predated before fledging. In second winter period up to 36 (one juv). The juv present Sep 23rd-Oct 12th thought to be from one of the pairs successfully fledged in Yorkshire.

Away from regular areas in east of county reports of wandering birds (or possible migrants) began with singles over Sheringham and Cromer March 18th, and Great Ryburgh 19th. Subsequently in April 2 Snettisham 9th, 4 west Ridlington 17th, 9 west Cromer, Inceborough Hill, Aylmerton, Sheringham, Cley, Blakeney, Thornham Farms and Titchwell then south Snettisham (at times one bird became detached from the flock) 22nd, 8 west Holme 23rd, 12 in off sea Cley then east East Runton/Aylmerton, south-east Overstrand and south Paston 30th. In May 2 east Titchwell and Thornham Farms 25th.

Single present Wensum Valley during third week May noted several times from Watchpoint. Late in spring it settled with the captive birds at Pensthorpe and stayed for remainder of summer.

Oystercatcher (Eurasian Oystercatcher)

Haematopus ostralegus

Common winter visitor, passage migrant and breeder

Most important and consistently counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ousemouth	1515	6	18	41	29	32	33	5	-	-	-	1343
Snettisham	3650	3630	3610	1742	422	243	606	4510	4300	5453	3871	3063
Heacham	468	9	100	518	915	240	1006	-	64	90	429	500
Holme	822	1103	893	245	50	44	132	872	1214	846	502	566
Thornham Hbr	13	97	28	15	14	14	8	5	138	-	16	7
Titchwell	167	420	534	126	70	174	66	405	208	266	464	337
Brancaster	44	56	42	7	12	15	13	22	62	38	38	24
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	520	416	393	375	381	345	485	657	781	558	493	543
Wells Hbr	371	622	119	357	94	51	55	6	297	-	8	404
Warham SM	5	53	3	15	31	14	25	2	105	-	-	81
Stiffkey SM	422	331	297	214	147	134	-	501	-	-	404	-
Blakeney Hbr	233	287	329	433	347	454	396	380	500	920	405	316
Cley	5	20	39	38	31	38	35	45	6	1	2	4
Breydon/Berney	36	68	190	128	56	56	138	79	31	24	14	27

National importance (winter): 3200

Additional counts: Ongar Hill 353 July and 230 Nov, Burnham Overy Hbr 250 March, Holkham GM 55 May and Blakeney GM 49 June.

Total of at least 433 pairs breeding at coastal sites, slightly more than last year: Ken Hill Marsh 6, Snettisham 17, Holme 20-22 (13-15 beach and 7 grazing marshes) no young fledged, Thornham 1, Titchwell 38 (33 on saltmarshes - all flooded), Brancaster GM 3, Scolt Head 105 fledged 30-40 young, Holkham NNR 87, Morston 2, Blakeney Point 130 fledged 12 young (majority of failures due to predation by stoat and large gulls), Blakeney GM 14, and Cley 10



Common Cranes (Phil Jones)

with 4 chicks seen but thought predated. One at Thornham Hbr nested in tree stump 5-6 feet from ground.

Inland total of 67 breeding pairs reported, slightly down on last year: Aldeby Tip, Berney 13, Brancaster Thompson Farms 3, Coxford, Docking, Earsham (one fledged), Gayton Thorpe, Horsey, Hoveton Hall, mid-Yare RSPB 13, Mileham, Nar Valley Fisheries (2 fledged), North Creake Abbey 2, Pentney GP, Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Rockland All Saints (with young), Saxthorpe, Shammer, Sparham Pools 2, Stanford TA 12, Swanton Morley GP, Thetford Nunnery (3 chicks noted), Upton Marshes 2, Welney 2, Wighton/Wareham 2. NBA results showed the species was present in 40% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

At Scolt Head birds noted departing east in spring with 112 April 14th and 43 May 2nd. Westerly/northerly return passage along coast in autumn: 45 Scolt Head, 48 Sheringham and 17 Walcott Aug 3rd, 32 Sheringham and 22 California 4th, 53 Scolt Head 5th, 78 13th and 48 Sept 10th.

The albino bird again present Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr during both winter periods, returning Aug 22nd.

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Vagrant, mostly in late spring/summer, has bred

2005 Addition: Bird Welney also present May 1st (MR&ORM).

Avocet (Pied Avocet)

Recurvirostra avosetta

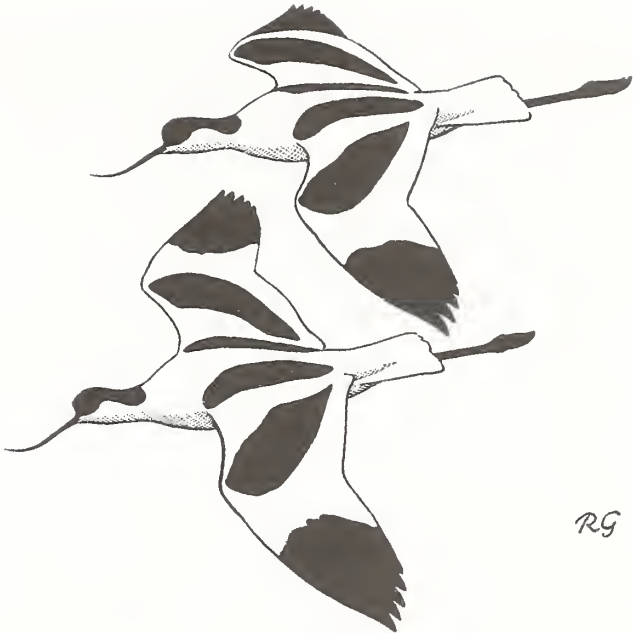
Breeding summer visitor, increasing in winter

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	-	5	51	170	120	113	70	91	21	-	-	-
Holme	-	-	26	28	42	25	18	8	7	-	-	-
Titchwell	8	36	93	115	110	144	319	148	123	10	11	12
Holkham NNR	-	-	37	137	98	140	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stiffkey Fen	-	-	20	26	37	34	31	14	-	-	-	-
Cley	22	98	226	231	220	219	345	72	36	17	16	19
Salthouse	-	-	11	67	48	61	4	2	-	-	-	-
Hickling Broad	-	-	39	42	16	20	21	25	2	-	1	-
Breydon/Berney	176	143	228	176	103	146	471	706	556	247	102	174
Welney	-	2	32	97	94	70	63	-	-	-	-	-

Highest counts elsewhere: Ousemouth 95 March and 76 April, Burnham Overy Hbr 36 March, Stiffkey Fen 37 May, 31 July and 14 Aug, Blakeney GM 33 April, 16 May, and 67 June, Buckenham 22 March and April, and Cantley 12 May.

Breeding data incomplete, with no information from some key sites; 380 pairs reported from 12 sites: Snettisham 47, Holme 21 (fledged 9 young), Titchwell 52 (Reserve record) 35 young fledged, Holkham NNR 70, Blakeney GM 19 nests (fledged 3 young), Cley 98 fledged only 5 young, (all 98 of first clutches/chicks predated by Grey Heron - 42 went on to nest away from scrapes, many broods taken by Kestrel), Horsey 20 (all predated by Common Crane), How Hill pair fledged 2 young, Hickling Broad 7 raised 10 young (all nests on Rush Hills were predated), mid-Yare RSPB 11, Hardley Flood 4 flooded due to high tides, Welney 30 (74 chicks hatched, 24 fledged). In addition there was a further 30 nests at Blakeney GM on bare ground created by the R Glaven re-alignment, most thought to have been relaying birds from Cley. No counts received from Berney but 80 birds including 6 young present in early June, increasing to 12 young by mid-month.



Avocets (Robert Gillmor)

	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
Pairs	209	214	203	181	267	186	309	364	383	397	482	405	335
Sites	n/a	10	11	13	16	11	14	16	14	14	18	14	12

Movements offshore included one south Caister April 1st, south Winterton Oct 21st, north Eccles Nov 2nd and 2 on sea Yarmouth harbour mouth Nov 13th.

Additional inland birds: up to 5 Hockwold Washes April 17th-25th with 5 May 2nd, Nar Valley Fisheries May 1st, 12 south Strumpshaw June 18th, 2 King's Lynn BF June 23rd, 15 Wissington BF July 17th with 20 18th, 2 juvs on Great Ouse West Lynn Aug 4th, Whitlingham CP Sept 17th and Cantley BF Sept 26th.

Stone Curlew

Burhinus oedicnemus

Breeding summer visitor, mainly to Brecks

No reports until March when Gooderstone 22nd, 2 Cockley Cley 26th, 2 Brettenham 27th, 2 Thetford Nunnery Lakes 28th/29th, although birds probably present before these dates.

In Brecks total of 205 breeding pairs, of these 121 in Norfolk; productivity low at 0.54 fledged young per pair but the population trend is still upward albeit slowly. In one area of true Breck (Stanford TA) 28 pairs fledged only 7 young, two fewer than 2005, making productivity especially poor at 0.25 young fledging per pair. Elsewhere 10 pairs (8 in 2005) bred in north Norfolk fledging only 2 young; monitoring by the RSPB is still paramount in maintaining this species' continued recovery. At Hilborough one was found predated, possibly by a Peregrine on July 14th, but more worryingly a further 4 kills were found over next few weeks.

Only records away from breeding sites during April when singles south-west at dusk Barton Turf Fen 8th, north-west over Strumpshaw 14th and in off sea and roosting on beach Scolt Head 16th.

Autumn gatherings 35 Gooderstone Aug 30th, 90 Great Cressingham Oct 7th with 81 still there 13th, dropping to 62 on 21st and 14 on 29th, while at Hilborough 66 Aug 28th, 50 still present Oct 17th, 30 on Nov 27th, 12 Dec 17th and 6 on 24th and 29th.



Stone Curlew (Gary Wright)

Little Ringed Plover (Little Plover)

Charadrius dubius

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

First of spring Cley March 9th, Rockland Broad and Strumpshaw 14th, and Holkham GM 18th. Main arrival from March 24th, with spring records from 29 sites including 3 Whitlingham CP March 29th, 4 Pensthorpe April 7th, 6 Pentney GP 15th, 3 Stiffkey Fen 18th, 5 Hickling Rush Hills 20th, and 4 Buckenham Marshes 27th and 29th. Visible migration included singles north Winterton, north Eccles and west Kelling WM April 20th, 2 west Scolt Head April 25th and one west May 2nd.

Breeding pairs reported from 14 sites (same as 2005), but only 20 pairs fledged a min of 8 young (28 pairs in 2005). Breeding pairs as follows: Blakeney Point (predated), Earsham 2 (nests abandoned), East Tuddenham, Fowlmere, King’s Lynn BF (failed), Lynford GP 2, mid-Yare RSPB, Pensthorpe (2 young fledged), Pentney GP (3 young fledged), Sennowe Park, Tottenhill GP, Welney 5, West Acre and Wissington BF. The decline in numbers at Welney by nearly half (9 pairs in 2005) was of concern, whilst the breeding pair on Blakeney Point was most unusual away from the more normal freshwater habitat.

Post breeding dispersal/autumn passage from mid-June but numbers generally low, best counts: Titchwell 4 June 17th, 8 July 21st and 7 Aug 2nd, Cley 4 June 25th and 29th, 5 July 4th and 23rd, and 4 Aug 3rd, 4 Hickling Broad July 11th-16th and 4 Welney Aug 8th. Numbers rapidly declined after mid-Aug, with only records in Sept east West Runton 2nd, and last of year Cley and Stiffkey 5th.

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

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

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	-	-	-	39	401	40	61	450	125	15	-	-
Holme	8	22	30	22	120	28	23	361	171	243	1	14
Thornham	66	1	15	15	51	16	4	7	8	-	124	82
Titchwell	22	34	34	20	55	18	16	278	74	105	125	106
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	28	55	52	215	402	165	235	1118	1043	459	116	56
Wells Hbr	40	25	-	15	10	1	-	-	190	-	-	12
Stiffkey SM	-	5	30	41	141	13	-	27	-	-	1	-
Blakeney Hbr	18	43	60	28	26	33	20	226	141	109	9	18
Cley	24	22	15	14	16	143	17	25	70	55	27	53
Breydon/Berney	54	75	61	76	215	35	26	147	189	112	76	63

National importance: 330 (winter), 300 (passage)

Only other high count 290 North Wootton Aug.

Passage of *tundrae* much stronger than usual April 29th-June 29th, with max counts (all June): 22 Hickling Broad 5th and 7th, 14 Buckenham 6th, 24 Titchwell 10th, and 165 Scolt Head and 93 Cley both 11th.

Breeding: as part of an ongoing project monitoring the success and/or failure of birds in the Snettisham/Heacham area total of 36 nests found (17 successful), compared with 58 in 2005. The population here is undoubtedly in rapid decline, the primary cause being the increase in human activity on these holiday beaches. Elsewhere 135 pairs reported from 12 localities fledging 139-194 young: Holme 16 (5-10 fledged), Titchwell 9 (12 fledged), Brancaster Beach 5 (3 fledged), Scolt Head 64 (100-150 fledged), Holkham NNR 17, Stiffkey Fen 1 (fledged 3), Blakeney Point 12 (8 fledged), Cley 4 (fledged 8), Salhouse 1, Weybourne 2, Eccles 6 (all suffered from corvid predation). Inland a pair on cereal at Egmere and 2 pairs Swaffham Heath.

The high fledging success on Scolt Head was attributed to caging nests; of the 60 caged, 50 clutches (83%) hatched (see article on page 330). This method was adopted in response to regular predation of clutches in recent years by Common and Mediterranean Gulls and foxes. Clearly this form of protection could well help turn this species' fortunes around, only time will tell.

Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus

Vagrant from North America

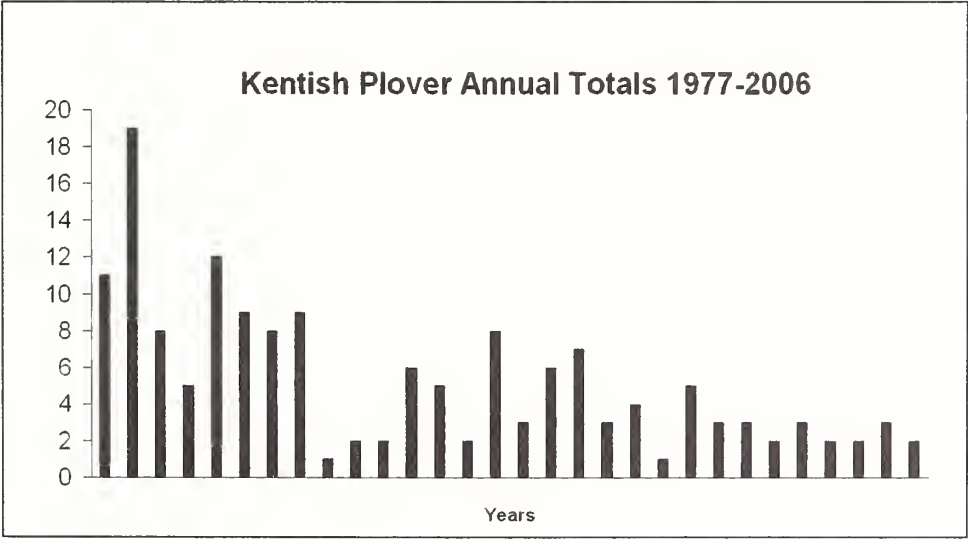
One Blakeney GM April 7th-9th (OM *et al*). The second county record - was it the same bird as that at Breydon in March 2005?

Kentish Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus

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

Two records, female Breydon April 21st and a male Snettisham then west on May 6th.



A decline in breeding numbers on the near Continent over the last 20 years is clearly reflected in the numbers now recorded in the county, with just 2-3 in recent years, compared with highs of 19 in 1978, 12 in 1981 and 8 in 1991.

Dotterel (Eurasian Dotterel)

Charadrius morinellus

Scarce but annual passage migrant; has over-wintered

A poor spring began with one with Golden Plover Foulden April 28th-30th; subsequently Salthouse April 30th/May 1st, 2 Aylmerton May 5th and a trip of 12 Choseley May 14th.

Autumn passage far more impressive, beginning with juv Scolt Head Aug 18th, followed by 12 Choseley 19th, increasing to 36 20th (only 2 juvs), 16 21st, 4 22nd and 3 23rd, and at Terrington a record count of 51 also on 20th (only 5 juvs). A combination of 87 birds on one date made it a record count for Norfolk, the previous best of 47 was also at Terrington Marsh on the same date in 1959! Late autumn saw birds at Blakeney GM Oct 21st, Mulbarton Nov 12th and Cley Nov 28th/29th.

American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica

Rare vagrant

An adult Hilgay Fen Oct 15th-17th (MLH *et al*) and a juv Waxham Nov 4th-8th (PJH *et al*). The county total now reaches eight.

Pacific Golden Plover

Pluvialis fulva

Rare vagrant from Asia

An adult Hickling Rush Hills June 6th (JRW *et al*). The first since 2002 and the eighth county record.

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Most regularly counted sites

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	3500	1850	250	-	40	650	1800	4000	4000	2200
Holme	500	750	380	100	3	309	500	500	12	400
Titchwell	2000	4500	455	35	5	750	111	1523	1866	1960
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	600	400	10	-	150	1500	1500	1500	1600	1500
Holkham NNR	1000	167	410	-	-	-	1100	-	-	133
Blakeney Hbr	731	430	-	-	-	550	25	1650	34	-
Cley	7000	1150	350	50	7	70	190	1500	3500	3000
Breydon	28220	22900	3313	14	72	2820	3135	4200	6830	9870
Welney	3590	4072	350	900	12	8	1500	288	5000	-
Buckenham	3000	5000	2000	130	-	-	-	-	3000	-

National importance (winter): 2500

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

Impressive counts at Cley and Breydon during Jan.

Elsewhere counts over 1000: Jan Bracon Ash 1200, Ludham Airfield 1500, Stiffkey Fen 2000; Feb Terrington Marsh 9500; March Great Cressingham 2000; Aug Terrington 2300; Oct Choseley 2650, Norwich Sweet Briar Marshes 1200; Nov Caston 1000, Hethel 3000, Mulbarton 2265, Ouse Washes 1524, Pulham St Mary 3000, Scoulton 1000, Waxham 1000; Dec Beetley 2500, Cawston 2500, Hainford 2000, Long Stratton 2000, Roughton 1000.

Overhead spring passage during April included 224 north Winterton 14th, 35 east Hickling Broad 16th, and 32 west Holme and 85 west Scolt Head 21st. In May 1-2 reported from 6 sites until 22nd. In June recorded on 4 dates, with first returning adults Salthouse 26th and Cley 30th.

Autumn westward migration included 65 Holme Aug 3rd and 60 Sept 23rd, 22 Scolt Head July 22nd, 92 Aug 12th, and 203 Aug 23rd, 70 Cley Aug 14th and 27 Sheringham Aug 3rd.

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Most consistently counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington Marsh	-	72	88	1386	828	-	57	340	216	292	-	146
Ousemouth	90	1	73	2	4	-	-	40	250	496	-	271
Snettisham	660	350	520	1400	1610	50	12	3140	3000	1408	50	100
Holme	152	331	305	41	201	2	-	159	377	714	32	128
Thornham Hbr	4	11	89	96	9	1	-	97	-	-	27	-
Titchwell	4	256	89	103	63	1	93	412	392	114	95	141
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	270	225	220	496	456	25	60	425	383	384	277	252
Wells Hbr	311	44	4	98	3	-	-	-	122	2	2	81
Stiffkey SM	122	166	17	391	99	66	-	616	-	-	87	-
Blakeney Hbr	45	32	160	8	3	8	-	40	31	125	34	60
Breydon/Berney	59	44	53	14	16	14	2	7	7	13	16	19

International importance (winter): 2500; National importance (winter): 530

Highest counts elsewhere: North Wootton Marsh 650 Aug, Warham SM 67 Jan, 256 Feb, and 54 Sept, and West Runton 26 March.

Inland records: Welney March 9th, 2 April 10th, and singles May 3rd and Oct 9th/10th, Hickling Broad April 8th/9th, May 4th, June 7th, July 10th and 26th, and Aug 17th, Strumpshaw April 25th and Whitlingham CP east May 4th.

Westerly/northerly coastal passage especially evident Aug 3rd when 123 Scolt Head, 121 Sheringham, 140 Weybourne, 70 Walcott, 26 California and 17 Gorleston. Only other movements of note 16 west Scolt Head July 31st and 27 Aug 12th, 21 west Walcott Aug 4th, 16 west Cley Aug 14th and 24 north Winterton Nov 1st.

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing)

Vanellus vanellus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>		<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	5060	192	110	8		15	195	56	568	1221	953
Holme	180	400	100	66		8	1	2	60	408	15
Titchwell	1250	796	276	1		35	195	108	574	940	1350
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	8000	620	14	2		493	385	173	225	1700	1353
Holkham NNR	270	306	472	205		18	3	71	34	83	152
Stiffkey Fen	827	450	63	12		5	15	-	79	118	607
Blakeney Hbr/GM	536	171	95	69		47	-	-	20	125	202
Cley	3000	2050	212	50		39	194	273	729	350	1638
Breydon/Berney	24360	25140	816	206		249	200	417	316	2470	8217
Buckenham/Cantley	8000	4000	2500	-		-	250	-	-	1200	-
Welney	7618	6675	489	154		555	600	1000	3000	5000	133

International and National importance (winter): 20,000

Other counts over 1000; *Jan* Hickling Eastfield Farm 2150, Ludham Hall Common 2500, Ousemouth 16,065, Roudham Heath 1500, Sutton Mill 1000; *Oct* Ousemouth 1100; *Nov* Ongar Hill 3250; *Dec* North Wootton 1000, Terrington 11,340.

The mild winter saw no hard-weather movements, whilst in spring migrants noted heading east back to Continent included 58 Winterton March 19th and 108 Paston March 25th.

During breeding season total of 656-658 pairs reported from 34 sites (same as 2005), but as last year data from some sites missing: *Wash* Dersingham Bog 1 (4), Ken Hill Marsh 27, Snettisham 4; *north coast* Holme 42 (46), Titchwell 3 (4), Brancaster GM 2, Holkham NNR 220 (228), Blakeney GM 32, Cley 33 (26); *Broads* Berney 112 (10% increase), Chedgrave Marshes 3, Hickling 2, mid-Yare RSPB 69 (76), Oby 5 (10), Upton Marshes 5; *Brecks* Brettenham Heath 1, Cockley Cley 3, Mileham 3, Stanford TA 14, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 1, Weeting Heath 10-12, Westmere 2; *Inland* Aylmerton 2, Baconsthorpe 3, Beechamwell 3, Castle Acre 1, Gayton Thorpe 1, Great Ryburgh 1, Hanworth 1, Hindringham 3, Mileham 3, Sustead 1, Swanton Novers 1, Wickmere 1, Wighton 4; *Fens* Welney 39 (104). Also good numbers reported breeding in every suitable sugarbeet field in locality of Wereham and generally in south-west Norfolk with at least 2 pairs in each suitable field. Trends mixed, the north coast suffering again with a relatively dry spring and poor fledging rates, while Berney showed it was still recovering well since resuming predator control. The large reduction in numbers at Welney is due to a change of survey methods (see Editorial). NBA results showed the species was present in 52% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Post breeding movements (all west) Scolt Head 8 May 25th, 37 June 11th, 68 12th, 202 18th and 222 24th, 62 July 12th and 42 26th. Autumn movements (most west) concentrated Oct 9th-13th, when 220 Scolt Head 9th, 1309 3 hrs from dawn Hunstanton (south), 2731 Holme, 270 Scolt Head, 3040 Brancaster Staithe, 418 Blakeney Point and 500 west south-west Hindringham all on 12th, and 500 Holme 13th.

Knot (Red Knot)

Calidris canutus

Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor

Monthly max at main sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington	-	6000	4360	12560	2950	-	-	40	10	203	-	9060
Snettisham	18500	15000	5300	10000	900	2350	15000	20000	17500	35000	60000	27175
Holme	150	71	60	42	7	3	-	657	18300	6721	46000	40
Titchwell	650	270	114	29	98	151	173	547	3750	32	240	247
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1200	640	305	265	550	150	23	120	430	415	115	215
Warham SM	5	491	-	-	5	-	-	-	75	-	-	60
Wells Hbr	2180	2800	-	45	-	-	-	-	350	-	-	2100
Stiffkey SM	58	204	26	287	-	55	-	23	-	-	417	-
Blakeney Hbr	14	5	1	11	-	-	-	8	1	-	90	1
Breydon	445	339	182	36	15	7	4	22	26	17	67	113

International importance (winter): 4500; National importance (winter): 2800

As usual good numbers present in Wash during year, with many of these birds roosting during high spring tides at Holme Sept-Nov.

Elsewhere: North Wootton 2000 and Brancaster 350 Jan, Ongar Hill 10,500 April, Lynn Point 300 and North Wootton 5000 Aug, and Ongar Hill 11,000 Nov.

Inland: Welney Jan 1st/2nd, Nar Valley Fisheries Jan 25th, with all others at Hickling where on Rush Hills singles April 23rd, May 6th, up to 4 July 24th-31st, 4 Aug 7th and 2 24th, and on Swim Coots 2 Sept 17th with 3 next day.

At Breydon a leucistic bird on several dates March 11th-29th.

Coastal movements only noted in autumn, when best counts 388 west Scolt Head Aug 13th, 135 Sept 10th and 146 Sept 15th, 58 north Winterton Sept 17th and 133 south Nov 25th, and 81 south Gorleston Nov 25th.

Sanderling

Calidris alba

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly max at main sites:

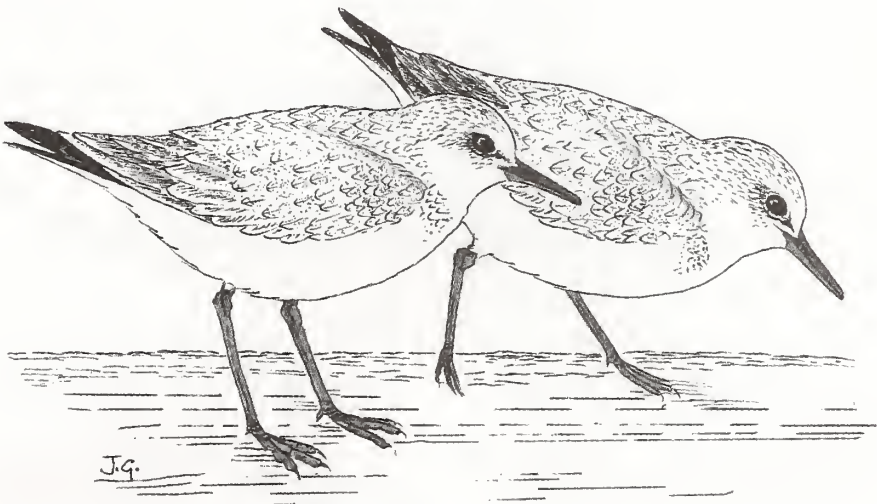
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	220	26	30	100	630	64	12	690	90	40	12	20
Heacham	-	-	10	-	-	261	11	403	72	70	-	4
Holme	71	94	83	64	702	130	2	419	242	116	300	511
Thornham	8	15	12	64	300	3	-	46	48	-	1	125
Titchwell	2	215	185	125	360	38	317	182	113	189	163	133
Brancaster	14	12	8	9	5	3	5	16	-	-	-	-
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	35	28	35	145	265	80	245	487	216	91	46	45
Holkham Bay	40	73	-	2	4	6	101	6	-	-	44	6
Wells Hbr	200	240	-	38	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	170
Stiffkey SM	48	8	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	-
Blakeney Hbr	5	10	24	3	18	14	-	33	14	6	4	3

International importance: 1200 (winter); National importance: 210

Additional counts: Jan 37 Winterton, 18 Walcott, 47 Warham; Feb 14 Breydon; March 63 Burnham Overy Hbr; July 35 Cley; Sept 54 Warham SM; Nov 17 Gorleston.

Only offshore movements of note 21 west Mundesley May 13th and 26 west Walcott Nov 2nd.

Very few inland with singles Hickling Rush Hills June 1st and 2 5th/6th, Hickling Swim Coots May 18th and Sept 7th, 3 Sennowe Park July 14th and 5 Ouse Washes Nov 6th.



Sanderling (John Geeson)

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Double passage migrant in fluctuating numbers

The recent trend for occasional birds over-wintering continued with one Cley Feb 4th, with possibly same there March 30th-April 14th and Salthouse April 13th and 18th, whilst one at Stiffkey Fen April 5th may have also over-wintered.

First genuine spring migrants during final 10 days of April when singles Cley 21st and 30th, Salthouse 24th and 27th, and Snettisham 27th. Few during May when 2 Titchwell 21st and singles on 13 dates at 8 other sites during rest of month. Max numbers in June at Hickling Rush Hills/Swim Coots where up to 4 1st-15th; elsewhere singles Titchwell 10th-12th and last of spring Cley 16th/17th.

Autumn passage slow to start with none until Aug when singles Pentney GP 4th, Earsham 12th, Snettisham 13th-15th, 4 Hickling Rush Hills 15th, one Cley 19th-24th and 30th, and Titchwell 26th/27th where 3 28th-30th. Only odd birds reported during first half of Sept until influx of juvs from mid-month, peak counts 39 Cley 28th, 29 Titchwell 24th, 17 Salthouse 19th, 16 Hickling Broad 24th, 9 Kelling WM 20th, 8 Cantley 20th and 4 Welney 23rd; with 1-3 at Snettisham and Holme. Good numbers remained during first half of Oct when best counts 45 Cley, 20 Titchwell and 18 Salthouse all 2nd, 4 Blakeney Hbr 8th and 3 Hickling Broad 16th. Late birds in Nov: 2 Cley 1st and Stiffkey Fen 9th, and singles Welney 25th/26th and Breydon Dec 16th.

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

Passage migrant, more frequent in spring

Spring passage very light with just 15 May 1st-June 12th; as usual most during May when singles Cley 1st, 3rd-5th, 14th/15th and 30th, Titchwell 6th, 14th, 3 16th-19th, 2 20th and single 21st/22nd, 3 Buckenham 8th/9th and one 10th, and in June singles Titchwell 3rd and 13th, Buckenham 4th-6th and Hickling Rush Hills 5th/6th.

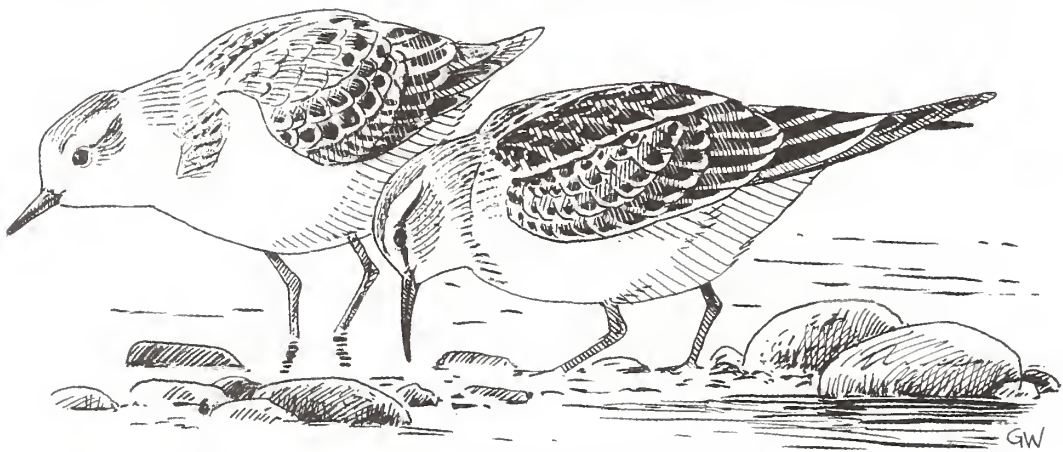
Five in autumn average for recent years, with 2 Titchwell July 11th/12th and another Aug 24th-27th, and singles Hickling Rush Hills July 15th and Cley Aug 23rd/24th.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

Vagrant from North America

In autumn a plethora of records: Snettisham Aug 13th (JRMc JSc *et al*), Titchwell Oct 7th (CZ), Cley Oct 9th then 1-2 until 22nd, 3 23rd/24th, one 25th-Nov 2nd, 2 Nov 3rd-7th, then one intermittently until Dec 6th and again 16th (ETM MAG *et al*), Salthouse Oct 10th, 25th-29th, Nov 1st and 5th, and Dec 15th-26th (many obs), and Cantley BF Nov 18th/19th (JLa *et al*). It is thought that up to 5 birds were present in the Cley/Salthouse area.



White-rumped Sandpiper and Little Stint (Gary Wright)

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

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

Another excellent year with 2 in spring and around 18 in autumn. Spring singles Salthouse May 5th and Buckenham Marshes June 3rd, the first time since 1993 when more than one in spring.

Autumn birds: Titchwell July 31st-Aug 3rd, 2 Sept 18th, one 19th and a fourth Oct 13th-29th, Burnham Norton Sept 23rd, low west calling Blakeney Point Sept 12th (first site record), Cley Sept 3rd, 14th/15th, 21st and 26th, Salthouse Aug 12th and Oct 18th-20th, Kelling WM Oct 21st/22nd (same as Salthouse bird), Hickling Swim Coots Aug 31st and a different bird Sept 4th-6th, Hickling Rush Hills Sept 20th-24th, 2 26th, 3 27th-29th and one Oct 10th-20th, Welney Sept 9th-19th and last Berney Nov 10th. The final total of 20 birds very similar to previous best year in 2003 when 18-20 recorded.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Autumn passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; scarce in spring

Spring passage typically light, with total of around 24 birds, first Hickling Rush Hills April 20th and Breydon 21st, followed by small arrival May 3rd-6th when 3 Cley, 2 Welney and singles Snettisham and Salthouse. Apart from 2 Hickling Rush Hills May 15th, all other records of singles on 8 dates during rest of month at Breydon, Cley, Stiffkey Fen and Titchwell. Late spring birds June at Scolt Head 9th-11th, Cley 10th with 2 next day, and Titchwell 12th-21st and 26th.

First returning adults during second half of July when Cley 17th, Breydon 20th and small influx 24th-31st when 5 Breydon, 2 Snettisham and Titchwell, and one Hickling Rush Hills. Numbers during Aug low, until start of a light passage of juvs from 18th when first Cley. Highest counts during month 14 Titchwell and 11 Breydon 31st, 8 Cley 22nd and Hickling Broad 30th, 6 Stiffkey Fen 27th, 5 Snettisham 30th and 1-2 Kelling WM and Scolt Head. Numbers only slightly better in Sept when monthly max 18 Titchwell 10th, 16 Blakeney Point 7th, 12 Breydon 28th, 8 Cley 5th and Scolt Head 10th, 17th and 24th, 7 Snettisham 16th and Hickling Swim Coots 18th, and 1-2 Holme and Cantley BF. Only Oct records 4 Titchwell and 2 Cley 1st, 10 Snettisham 2nd, 2 Holme 12th-15th and Breydon 13th, and last of year 2 Cley 29th.

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritime

Passage migrant and declining winter visitor in small numbers

Few sites held regular birds during winter months, most reliable Titchwell where 3 Feb 14th and one for much of Jan-March and Nov/Dec, up to 4 Sheringham Oct-early Dec, Eccles where one on at least two dates Feb and 3 Nov 12th with probably 1-2 there in both winter periods (although viewing conditions often difficult in rough weather resulting in birds frequenting the seaward side of the reefs) and Breydon where one on odd dates Jan-March.

Elsewhere during winter months singles Hunstanton Jan, Blakeney Hbr Feb, Nov and 2 Dec, Cley Feb, Salthouse Nov and Yarmouth Dec.

Last in spring Scolt Head April 8th, Titchwell 12th and a late bird Cley May 30th.

First returning birds Scolt Head July 15th, Yarmouth Aug 3rd and Scolt Head Aug 8th/9th. Also in autumn 2 Scolt Head Aug and Sept with singles Oct at Hunstanton, Thornham, Titchwell, Salthouse and Cromer. Small numbers also noted moving west over sea in autumn with 2 Scolt Head Sept 15th, 2 Holkham Bay Oct 7th, south Gorleston 8th, and 2 Sheringham 28th and 2 Nov 11th.

Passage migrant and winter visitor; non-breeders in summer

Peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington	-	374	1980	4426	3271	-	4082	1165	655	5051	-	3130
Ousemouth	4092	2600	281	-	-	38	-	227	15	4228	600	2581
Snettisham	4350	1977	4350	4280	3507	69	8500	2000	2800	2671	2750	1850
Holme	150	180	241	28	82	3	10	30	49	63	181	521
Thornham	-	80	350	50	7	5	-	18	43	-	60	286
Titchwell	5	489	208	50	30	2	518	351	315	110	108	558
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1092	690	615	444	492	40	320	1050	1155	695	825	655
Wells Hbr	260	350	-	170	-	-	-	-	45	-	-	520
Stiffkey SM	126	413	318	133	33	-	-	36	-	-	522	-
Blakeney Hbr	63	535	283	22	24	1	54	163	77	178	15	6
Cley	500	700	304	66	150	23	130	152	240	119	380	314
Breydon/Berney	3490	3670	4211	1714	717	22	392	211	463	1296	1990	2970

International importance (winter): 13,300; National importance (winter): 5600

Additional coastal counts: Ongar Hill 1260 July and 3500 Oct, Warham 460 Feb and 117 Dec, Salthouse 78 Feb, 120 March and 40 April.

Other noteworthy counts inland: Buckenham 30 Feb, Hickling Rush Hills 150 March and 100 May, Hickling Swim Coots 240 Oct, Welney 460 Feb and 117 Dec.

Spring passage continued until at least mid-June when noted Cley 14th and Scolt Head 15th, with first adults of autumn just a few days later at Cley 18th and Scolt Head 20th, with first juvs Scolt Head July 11th.

Few movements of note during much of autumn, with highest counts 65 west Scolt Head Sept 26th and 106 north Winterton Sept 17th and main passage Nov when 80 west Sheringham, 650 west Walcott and 202 north Winterton 2nd, 135 west Walcott 3rd, 346 south Winterton and 145 south Gorleston 25th, and 104 south Scratby 28th.



Jack Snipe (Alan Burtenshaw)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Vagrant from North America

Tryngites subruficollis

In autumn adults Hickling Swim Coots July 24th (JRW), Holme/Titchwell briefly (RA *et al*) and presumed same Warham Greens (JGi RMa) Aug 17th, and Yarmouth north beach Aug 23rd (PRA AGr *et al*).

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

Philomachus pugnax

Monthly peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	2	19	1	4	12	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Titchwell	86	100	54	3	3	8	41	100	190	173	119	-
Brancaster Hbr	20	-	10	-	-	-	-	2	43	85	35	13
Stiffkey	-	-	4	3	4	-	38	44	41	25	-	2
Cley	31	36	31	15	8	18	35	19	16	18	4	30
Salthouse	2	1	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	24
Breydon/Berney	15	59	24	1	4	-	10	7	3	10	14	6
Buckenham/Cantley	10	13	46	-	-	-	23	22	32	25	18	25
Hickling Rush Hills	-	-	7	20	13	12	54	56	67	83	31	-
Welney	141	82	82	7	8	-	25	32	22	30	30	2

National importance (winter): 7

Away from tabulated sites only other winter records 25 Ouse Washes (excl Welney) and 5 Waxham Nov, and 1-2 Burnham Norton Jan/Feb. Also during first winter period and again Oct birds from Titchwell were regularly noted feeding inland on freshly ploughed fields, including 41 Choseley Jan 7th, 14 three miles inland from Brancaster Jan 25th, 7 Ringstead March 28th and 105 Choseley during Oct.

As table shows spring passage poor, only other records 6 Scolt Head April 15th, 5 Snettisham May 5th with last in spring Cley May 23rd.

In June singles Earsham 8th and Hickling Rush Hills 14th were possibly early returning birds, but no others until 3 Cley 24th and 8 Titchwell 25th. Elsewhere in autumn 28 Wissington BF July 17th, 10 Breydon 21st and up to 2 Earsham Aug 20th-30th.

Overhead passage light, only records 13 west Scolt Head May 2nd and 3 west Sheringham Sept 24th.

Jack Snipe
Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining

Lymnocryptes minimus

In first winter period records from an impressive 32 sites (18 in 2005 and 16 in 2004); best counts 5 Claxton Marshes March 7th, 4 Holme Feb 2nd, 3 West Runton March 19th and 1-2 Beeston Regis, Breydon, Buckenham, Burgh Common (Fleggburgh), Buxton Heath, Dersingham Bog, East Ruston King's Fen, East Winch Common, Eccles, Great Ryburgh, Hellesdon, Horning Hall Marshes, Horsey, Kettlestone, Lyng-Easthaugh GP, Nar Valley Fisheries, Paston, Roydon Common, Salthouse, Snettisham, Strumpshaw, Swanton Novers, Terrington St Clements, Thornham, Titchwell, Welney, Whitlingham CP and Winterton. Last in spring 3 Nar Valley Fisheries April 4th, with 2 on 15th and one until 22nd, and Catfield April 24th.

First of autumn Scolt Head Sept 16th, Welney 28th and Strumpshaw Oct 3rd, but no others until 2 Blakeney Point 11th and singles Titchwell 14th and Holme 15th, with records from 9 further sites by end of month, including one dead below power lines Sparham Pools.

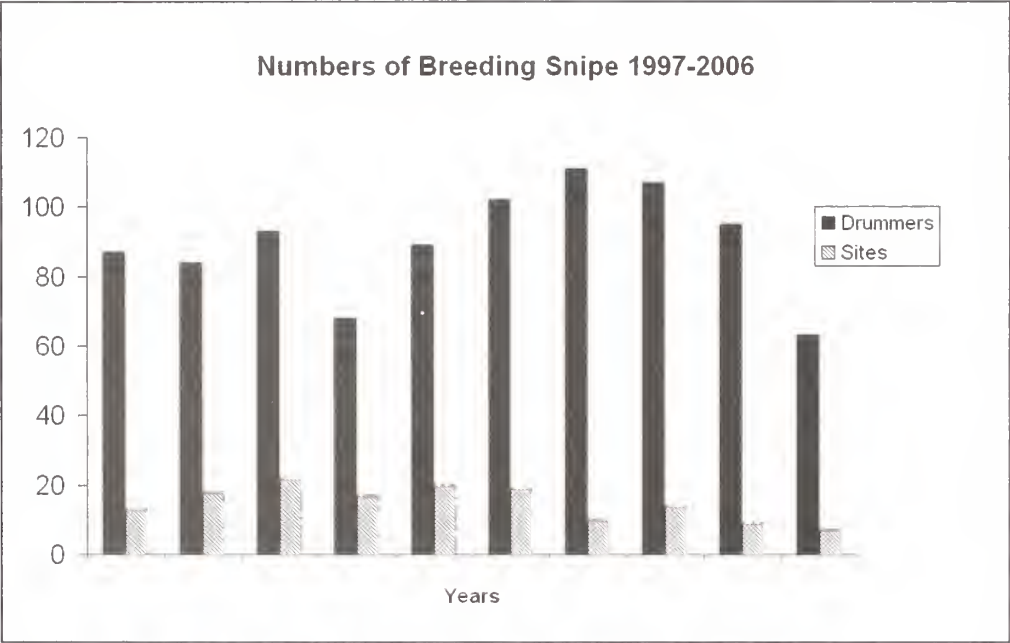
Few reported during second winter period with 4 Roydon Common Nov 4th and Buxton Heath Dec 31st, 2 Titchwell Nov 21st, Brancaster Hbr Nov 25th and Buxton Heath Dec 15th, and singles Dilham, Halvergate Marshes, Holme, Lynford Arboretum, Nar Valley Fisheries, Shotesham and West Walton.

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

A poor first winter period with counts of 30 or more from only 6 sites (13 in 2005): Breydon/Berney 30 Jan and 32 March, Cantley Marshes 142 Jan and March, Claxton Marshes 71 March, Holme 76 Feb and 30 March, Welney 125 Feb and 36 March, Whitlingham CP 50 Jan.



Breeding reported from just 7 sites (9 in 2005) with equally poor total of 63 drummers (95 in 2005): *north coast* Holkham NNR 9 (11), Cley 1 (1); *Broads* mid-Yare RSPB 7 (4), Berney 1; *Fens* Welney 38 (68); *Inland* Castle Acre 1 (1), Great Cressingham 1, Roydon Common 5 (6). The overall downward trend of 43.5% is very sad, although this is partly due to a change in recording methodology at the species' stronghold at Welney (see Editorial). The reasons for the continued general decline are unclear, but regular spring flooding at Welney is not helping, whilst in contrast long dry spells early in spring along the north coast are becoming an increasing issue. It may be conceivable that this species could eventually be lost as a breeding species in the county and the sound of drumming Snipe could be a distant memory for the next generation of bird-watchers!

Visible migration (all west) observed from July 17th to at least Sept 28th, but as with 2005 numbers disappointing: Holme 74 Sept 17th; Scolt Head total 323 (827 in 2005) within above dates including 59 Aug 29th, 63 Sept 6th, 77 11th, 54 17th and 52 on 28th.

During autumn/second winter period counts of 30 or more from just 8 sites (16 in 2005): Buckenham Marshes 65 Sept, 70 Oct, Cantley BF 75 Sept, Cley 50 Aug, Hickling Swim Coats 52 Sept, 30 Oct, Titchwell 30 Oct, Welney 72 Aug, 30 Nov, Whitlingham CP 70 Nov and Wissington BF 118 Sept.

Passage migrant and winter visitor; breeder particularly in Brecks

Birds widespread throughout county during winter months mostly in small numbers apart from 40 flushed during a Pheasant shoot Swanton Novers Jan 21st, 8 Hickling Stubb Mill Jan 7th and Wolferton Jan 28th, 7 Strumpshaw March 24th, 6 Holkham Park Jan 16th, 5 Holme Dec 2nd, 4 Shouldham Thorpe, Titchwell, Tacolneston and How Hill, and 3 Blo' Norton, Blickling Park, Burgh Common, Catfield Hall, Foul登 Common, Roydon Common and Thornham. Also during winter one feeding in gutter along Kelling Road, Holt at midday oblivious to traffic Feb 5th and one in off sea Paston on same date.

Signs of spring passage March when one out to sea Horsey 23rd, singles in off sea Eccles 24th and Overstrand 26th.

During the spring/summer roding birds: Aylmerton, Barton Turf Fen 2, Catfield Fen 2, Cockley Cley, Dersingham Bog 7, Fishley Carrs, Foul登 Common 6, Gooderstone, Great Moulton 2, Holt Lowes 2, Honing Lock, Horning, Horning Hulver Ground, How Hill Reedham Marshes 2, Marsham Heath, Narborough Railway Line, Oxborough Hall, Ranworth Flood/Ward Marsh, Santon Warren 3, Sculthorpe Moor, Sharp Street Fen, Sutton Fen, Swanton Novers 7, Thompson and Upton Carr 2; also present during spring/summer and presumably breeding Brettenham Heath, Swaffham Forest and West Bilney.

Autumn passage from mid-Oct to late Nov, first in off sea Horsey Oct 14th, but main arrival not until Nov 2nd/3rd when 28 Blakeney Point, 7 Winterton, 5 Holme, 4 Hoveton and Trimingham, 3 Holkham and 1-2 Titchwell, Stiffkey Fen, Cley, Sheringham and Waxham; many of which seen to arrive directly in off sea. Further smaller arrivals Nov 8th/9th when 5 in off sea at five sites and Nov 18th when 3 in off sea Winterton.

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	-	-	15	90	25	3	710	615	240	146	4	-
Holme	1	-	32	62	38	16	26	40	34	14	6	7
Titchwell	13	6	40	25	38	106	513	529	168	90	32	70
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	40	45	120	180	1	220	70	379	380	55	20	17
Holkham NNR	27	26	17	22	24	-	28	5	-	14	-	-
Stiffkey Fen/SM	2	-	10	32	-	-	18	79	82	27	11	11
Blakeney Hbr/GM	-	239	13	3	-	-	31	33	-	-	20	-
Cley	283	331	478	275	70	135	225	260	312	294	165	234
Salthouse/Kelling	175	140	3	32	-	-	-	-	260	74	88	123
Hickling Broad	-	-	52	178	35	75	122	58	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	1634	1363	1082	700	122	292	623	1120	840	1036	807	849
Welney	746	2156	2116	2319	55	25	81	10	5	31	252	416

International importance (winter): 470; National importance (winter): 150

Additional counts elsewhere: Fritton Marsh 250 Jan, Belton Marsh 100 Feb, Ken Hill GM 64 April, Buckenham 95 July, Ongar Hill 730 July and 2720 Aug, Terrington 2733 Aug and 400 Sept. Also inland one Nar Valley Fisheries April 9th, 6 Earsham Aug 1st and one Johnson Street Buttle Marsh Aug 11th.

Overhead movements mostly poor, most noteworthy 21 east Sheringham May 13th and 8 east 16th, and at Weybourne 24 south-east July 3rd, 6 west over sea Aug 2nd and 19 west Sept 4th.

As usual virtually all records were of Icelandic race, most reports of nominate *limosa* birds from Cley where different adults April 20th, 26th, 30th, May 15th and July 7th, 1st-summer May 28th-June 3rd and different juvs July 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th-31st, Aug 23rd-Sept 5th, Sept 3rd-5th and a third Sept 5th; elsewhere only record juv Titchwell Aug 19th.

At usual site 3 pairs of *limosa* birds bred, enjoying good success with 2 pairs fledging 4 young (2 each), the third failing.



Black-tailed Godwits (*Robert Gillmor*)

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

Passage migrant and winter visitor; a few non-breeders in summer
Monthly max at main sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	3000	1508	1800	450	80	120	200	3250	2500	2148	2480	2692
Holme	100	680	420	25	5	13	123	69	1191	1597	112	240
Thornham	-	178	-	17	4	-	16	-	1	-	5	416
Titchwell	430	315	250	133	40	116	135	340	1208	1168	732	422
Brancaster	100	26	31	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	27	37
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	275	280	145	102	120	11	69	300	236	213	217	237
Wells Hbr	161	205	-	146	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	30
Stiffkey SM	14	490	177	267	130	6	-	6	11	-	342	-
Blakeney Hbr	17	1	115	-	-	-	2	71	5	-	1	109
Breydon	51	51	64	26	36	3	3	7	12	7	39	21

International importance (winter): 1200; National importance (winter): 620

Few counts of note away from tabulated sites apart from 18 Cley May, 77 Ongar Hill July, 25 Warham SM Sept and 35 Holkham Bay Nov.

A good scattering of inland records throughout year including: singles Welney Feb 4th, 26th-28th and March 9th, 2 Hickling Rush Hills March 13th-22nd and April 21st, 3 May 1st, 2 4th and 4 11th, Hickling Swim Coots May 4th, Buckenham May 3rd, 2 7th/8th, one 11th, and 2 28th, and singles Strumpshaw May 3rd, Sennowe Park July 15th, Buckenham Marshes July 29th, Hickling Broad 2 Sept 5th, and an impressive 65 over Buckenham Marshes Dec 24th.

Coastal movements included in spring 46 west Scolt Head April 22nd and 41 east Mundesley May 1st and 78 on 7th, and in autumn 20 west Scolt Head June 30th and 156 Scolt Head, 90 Weybourne, 68 Sheringham and 52 Walcott (all west) Aug 3rd, and 64 west Walcott and 32 north California 4th.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Passage migrant in spring and autumn; rare in winter

Peak counts of grounded/feeding flocks at main sites:

	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
Snettisham	4	4	-	24	-
Holme	30	8	-	20	-
Titchwell	5	4	57	-	-
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	15	60	35	82	5
Holkham NNR	6	25	-	2	-
Blakeney Hbr/Point	2	7	52	40	-
Cley	14	3	9	11	-
Salthouse	20	20	-	-	-
Horsey	11	52	-	-	-
Hickling Rush Hill/Broad	28	92	7	6	-
Breydon/Berney	31	100	5	6	2

Following a wintering record Burnham Overy Feb 4th, first of spring Thornham March 26th, Heacham 27th, Overstrand 29th, Hickling Rush Hills April 1st, Happisburgh 3rd, Breydon 4th, Leziate Ashwicken Heath 7th/8th and Holkham GM 12th/13th, after when increasingly widespread.

Strong spring passage noted, especially between mid-April and first 10 days of May, when additional feeding flocks on or near coast with 7 Warham SM April 16th, 11 Horsey 26th, 15 Brograve Level May 3rd, and 32 Halvergate Marshes and 10 Burnham Overy Dunes 10th. Also many more inland records than usual during spring when in April one Massingham Heath and 2 Swaffham 16th, 7 east Pensthorpe 21st, one Aylmerton 22nd and 14 Blackborough End GP 24th; in May 23 Blackborough End GP, 20 Upton Marshes, 3 Sparham and 2 Pentney GP 4th, 22 Wormegay 5th and 19 there 6th, 10 Roydon Common 10th, 2 Sparham 12th and one Earsham 13th.

Best overhead movements in spring 9 west Blakeney Point April 23rd, 39 west Scolt Head, 20 west Salthouse and 6 south Horsey May 2nd, 6 south Hunstanton 3rd, 10 south Winterton 4th, 23 east Scolt Head 7th and 15 north out to sea Blakeney Point 8th.

Spring passage continued until at least mid-June, with 15 Salthouse 2nd and 1-2 at 9 other sites until 19th. At How Hill Reedham Water 2 June 22nd could have been spring or autumn birds, but 5 west Scolt Head 24th and 10 north Hickling Broad 26th were definitely autumn birds.

Autumn passage fairly poor with only additional flocks 26 on reefs Sea Palling July 19th and 13 Terrington July 28th.

Overhead passage in autumn also poor with 40 west Holme July 15th, 40 over Caister 25th, 32 south Yarmouth 26th, 20 west Brancaster Thompson Farms 29th, 77 west Titchwell 30th, and in Aug 14 south California 12th, 58 west Holme, 53 west Scolt Head, 16 south Salthouse and 40 west Kelling WM 17th, 17 south Blakeney 20th, 20 west Titchwell 21st, 19 west Holme 23rd, 34 west Scolt Head also 23rd with 33 west 25th, and few Sept. Only inland autumn records 6 north Horning Waterworks July 19th, 15 west Whitlingham CP Aug 18th and 3 west Holt 23rd.

Late birds in Oct Scolt Head 3rd-8th, Morston 8th, 2 west Salthouse 8th and one 9th, Holme 13th and 23rd, and an exceptionally late bird Titchwell Nov 19th.

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew)*Numenius arquata****Passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce breeder***

Monthly max at main sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington	-	241	180	127	23	-	501	1318	1475	867	-	190
Ousemouth	55	42	54	41	-	3	33	602	330	820	45	56
Snettisham	1000	233	170	80	84	84	650	1155	600	961	143	194
Heacham	334	227	206	20	-	-	300	-	3	53	30	13
Holme	244	209	313	100	6	10	42	63	165	145	165	180
Thornham	7	80	-	-	-	1	21	36	170	-	4	15
Titchwell	148	44	54	11	6	1	66	21	50	110	6	91
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	660	885	320	508	76	525	1252	1335	861	890	650	681
Holkham NNR	238	149	259	44	-	-	-	74	73	63	72	139
Warham SM	68	59	54	3	2	3	23	39	106	-	-	77
Wells Hbr	20	31	8	28	4	5	20	39	33	-	-	33
Stiffkey SM	86	90	45	63	7	8	-	156	-	-	41	-
Blakeney GM	48	34	18	4	-	-	-	-	-	24	16	48
Blakeney Hbr	42	99	66	114	38	99	420	158	234	325	30	121
Cley	76	115	68	6	2	-	21	43	26	32	5	42
Salthouse	-	-	46	5	8	3	14	26	-	-	11	46
Breydon/Berney	1152	1151	1161	267	64	192	334	726	890	899	757	799

National importance (winter): 1500

Elsewhere 22 Hickling Broad Jan and 42 Burnham Overy Hbr Feb.

Inland flocks feeding mostly on winter cereal or stubble: 100 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 26 Massingham Heath Jan, 46 Roydon Common Feb, 99 Hillington, 68 Great Bircham, 62 Bagthorpe and 59 West Walton March, 72 Cantley BF and 48 Massingham Heath April, 22 Upton Marshes Sept, 174 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 81 Castle Rising and 78 Hillington Oct, 55 North Wootton, 50 Sandringham, 47 Castle Rising and 39 Cantley BF Nov, many if not all of these birds returning to roost on coast each evening.

On fine days during April birds noted departing north-east, including 14 Blakeney Point 17th and 33 23rd, and at Scolt Head 40 18th, 86 19th, 128 22nd and 101 25th.

Breeding records included 25 pairs Stanford TA, 4-5 Brettenham Heath, 3 Roydon Common and single pairs/displaying on territory Cockley Cley Warren, Fowlmere, Grime's Graves and Hilborough.

Return westerly passage in autumn from at least mid-June, when at Scolt Head 31 18th, 52 24th, 37 27th, 42 29th, 23 July 1st and 27 25th; elsewhere 19 Sheringham June 27th.

Spotted Redshank*Tringa erythropus****Passage migrant; small numbers over-winter***

During first winter period regularly reported from Holme-Scolt Head (5 Jan, 14 Feb, 6 March), Cley/Salthouse (5 Jan, 6 Feb, 4 March) and Breydon/Berney (1 Jan, 2 Feb). Only two records elsewhere, singles at Morston Jan 3rd and Holkham GM Jan 15th. The 14 at Brancaster Feb 4th represents a record midwinter count; the species has only occurred regularly at this season since 1975.

Start of spring passage difficult to isolate from over-wintering individuals but one Horsey Mere April 5th was perhaps an early harbinger. Upturn in number of sightings from mid-April but passage remained very light with 1-3 at familiar localities and larger counts of 5 Cley April 22nd, 8 Burgh Castle 26th, 6 Titchwell 27th and 4 Cley May 3rd. As always at this time, scarce inland with only reports from Welney where 2 April 27th and singles April 30th-May 3rd and May 9th. Last of spring Titchwell May 11th and Cley next day.

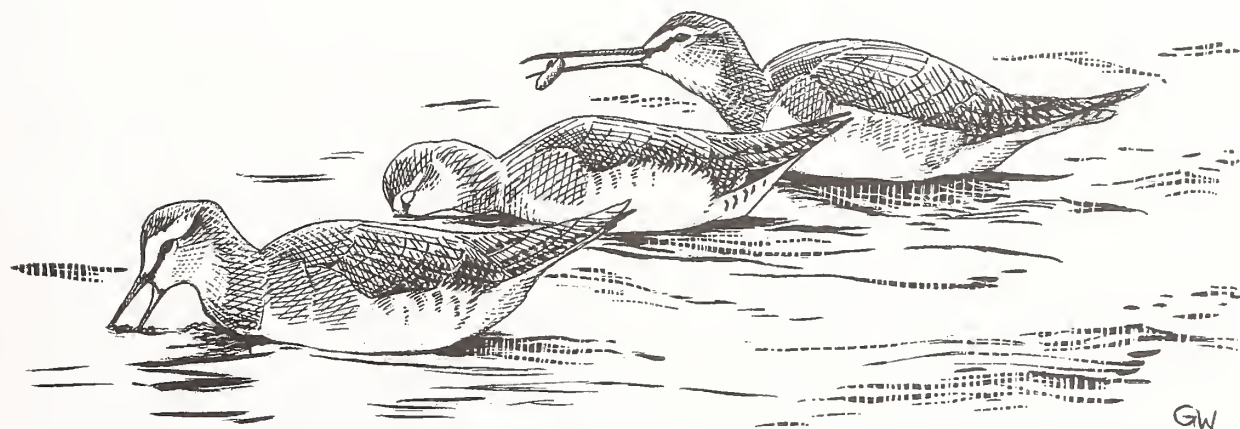
Two records from Cley on May 22nd and 31st suggest over-summering but could relate to late northbound or early returning adults. First certain returning failed breeding birds at Cley June 8th and records from both Snettisham and Titchwell before month end.

Monthly peaks from key localities during autumn passage:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Snettisham	1	34	77	25	44
Holme	-	2	1	6	1
Thornham/Titchwell	11	30	33	19	37
Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse	9	13	11	107	13
Hickling	-	5	5	-	-
Breydon/Berney	2	1	2	3	5

Very few elsewhere with only reports from Lynn Point, Scolt Head, Stiffkey Fen (9 Aug 24th) and West Runton (west Aug 27th).

As always autumn withdrawal difficult to identify with certainty due to increasing numbers of wintering birds. Records during Nov/Dec: Snettisham (4 Nov, 1 Dec), Holme-Scolt Head (15 Nov, 20 Dec), Cley/Salthouse (5 Nov, 3 Dec) and Breydon/Berney (2 Nov, 2 Dec). Just ten months after Brancaster count a further midwinter record set with 20 Titchwell Dec 8th.



GW

Spotted Redshanks (Gary Wright)

Redshank (Common Redshank)*Tringa totanus****Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder in some areas***

Monthly max at main and most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington Marsh	-	197	90	249	106	-	858	1115	211	720	-	197
Ousemouth	1096	307	289	407	61	130	6	660	57	953	44	355
Snettisham	80	40	45	230	99	120	730	1060	1080	630	193	279
Holme	72	98	180	82	17	14	16	223	240	102	184	208
Titchwell	31	50	105	28	15	12	108	88	87	30	65	92
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	520	495	320	240	203	150	1126	1182	773	573	455	375
Burnham Overy Hbr	70	46	29	25	-	36	2	13	3	13	11	55
Wells Hbr	40	26	199	30	6	20	7	53	137	8	14	43
Warham SM	15	51	8	13	8	7	3	78	68	85	12	31
Stiffkey SM	134	89	58	74	39	67	-	159	-	-	160	-
Blakeney Hbr	86	101	113	93	40	72	59	100	107	2	155	116
Cley	41	100	31	46	28	79	56	72	110	44	38	49
Breydon/Berney	967	973	1318	1330	164	143	979	810	1478	1216	871	813

National importance (winter): 1200

Note the high numbers using Breydon throughout year and good counts during late summer and autumn at Snettisham and Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr.

Additional counts elsewhere: 39 Brancaster Jan, 151 Welney March and 154 Holkham GM May.

Only movements of note during year 11 in V formation over South Lopham Jan 18th and 190 in 3 flocks high north-west during evening Scolt Head April 20th.

Breeding data incomplete, with total of 593 pairs at 13 sites (601 from 11 in 2005), with declines noted at Holkham and Welney. Numbers of pairs/territories (2005 data in brackets): Wash Ken Hill Marsh 11 (16), Snettisham 145 (143); north coast Titchwell 30 (45), Brancaster GM 3, Scolt Head 65 (59) good success, Holkham NNR 105 (126), Blakeney Point 7 (6), Blakeney GM 19, Cley 25 fledged 24+ young (8); Broad's mid-Yare RSPB 48 (43), Upton Marshes 2, How Hill 1, Berney 79 - record year; Fens Welney 72 (117).

A leucistic bird present Cley June 18th-23rd.

Greenshank (Common Greenshank)*Tringa nebularia****Passage migrant in spring and autumn; scarce in winter***

During early months of year regular records from 3 localities with singles wintering at Holme (Jan), Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr (Jan-March) and Morston/Blakeney (Jan-March).

First hints of spring migration with individuals at 'new sites' in late March, Snettisham 23rd and Sheringham 25th (west with Lapwings). Spring passage light as in recent years with widespread reports of 1-5 at both coastal and inland wetlands and larger April counts of 8 Holkham GM 16th and 7 Cley 30th.

More records in May and clear peak in second week when max 13 east Scolt Head 5th, 6 Breydon 6th, 11 east Cley 7th, 6 Buckenham and 14 Burgh Castle 8th, and 12 Breydon 10th. Final notable count of spring 9 Berney May 21st.

Presence of birds during first ten days of June at Holme, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, Hickling Broad and Buckenham renders differentiation between seasons impossible. Subtle increase in numbers/sightings from June 13th when 3 Titchwell and similar number at Cley 26th before peaks of 7 Terrington Marsh and 6 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr at month end.



Kestrel - a male at Winterton. (*Murray Smith*)

Hobby - a scarce summer visitor which breeds in small numbers. (*John Miller*)

Killdeer - possibly last year's bird, it spent three days on Blakeney Freshmarsh. (*Alan Tate*)





Dotterel - this bright male was at Salthouse for several days. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

White-rumped Sandpiper - one of several juveniles in the Cley/Salthouse area between October and December. (*John Miller*)

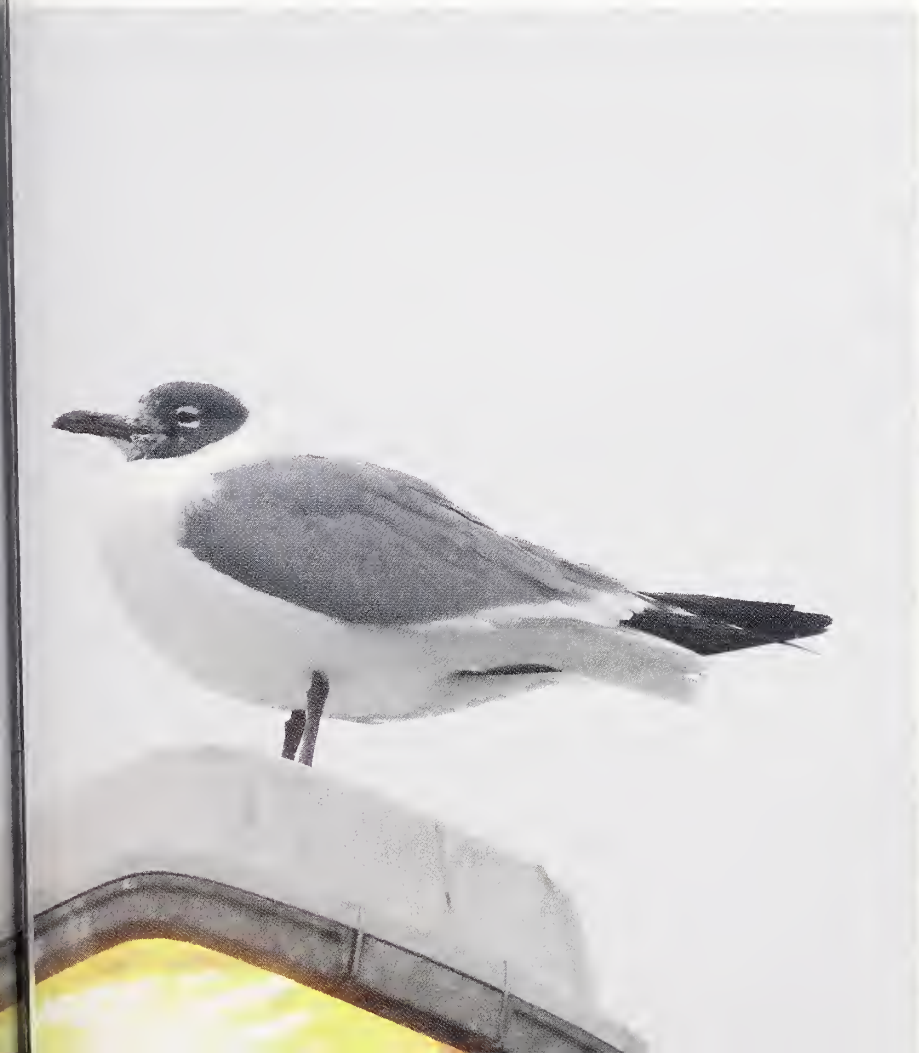




Woodcock - this exhausted migrant landed on the beach at Cley in November. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Laughing Gull - this individual at Cromer was part of a large national influx. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Caspian Tern - a brief visitor to Breydon Water. (*Murray Smith*)





Whiskered Tern - an extremely obliging juvenile at Titchwell. Both: (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Black Tern - a juvenile at Paston. (*Bob Cobbold*)



Monthly peaks at well-counted key sites during protracted autumn passage:

	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Terrington	45	45	-	-
Snettisham	30	54	34	13
Holme	2	13	9	5
Thornham/Titchwell	8	15	25	22
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	53	72	45	29
Stiffkey SM	10	18	14	17
Blakeney Hbr	2	3	19	5
Cley/Salthouse	15	35	14	19
Hickling Broad	4	4	-	-
Breydon/Berney	11	6	3	1
Cantley BF	2	5	-	-

Only double-figure count elsewhere 17 Burnham Norton Aug 22nd.

Majority of late autumn passage migrants disappeared in mid-Oct but some appeared to linger into first half of Nov. Only records during remainder of Nov and Dec from Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr (3 Nov/Dec), Titchwell (1 Nov), Morston (1 Dec) and Cley (1 Nov) suggesting a wintering population of 4-6 birds.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

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

During first winter period recorded at 22 localities Jan to mid-March (29 in 2005) with most reports of inland singles on isolated dates but 2 Beechamwell, Horsey, Magdalen RC and Whitlingham CP. As in previous years only sighting from coastal parish at Horsey.

Barely any increase during usual paltry spring passage from late March until last of season at Titchwell May 13th. Singles at 14 localities (6 coastal) plus 2 Dereham, Hockwold Washes, Pentney GP and Scolt Head with max 3 Nar Valley Fisheries April 20th. Interestingly only 5 sites held birds on more than one date and none on consecutive days suggesting a rapid northbound passage.

Expected early return with first of autumn at Buckenham June 6th and records from 10 sites by month end.

Fewer reports from Cantley BF this year reflecting observer coverage and weaker passage:

	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Cantley BF	17	39	14	4

Peaks at Wissington BF of 24 Aug 20th and 31 Sept 3rd suggest regular watching at this site may challenge monopoly of Cantley BF. Elsewhere double-figure counts restricted to 10 Sennowe Park July 23rd, 14 Cley Aug 4th, 10 Stiffkey Aug 18th and 12 Leziate Aug 22nd.

Stragglers remained into Nov and usual spread of wintering birds in evidence mid-Nov/Dec with up to 7 Cantley BF Nov 19th and 2 Earsham Dec 2nd. Further 11 sites (3 coastal) held unobtrusive singles in same period.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Passage migrant in spring and autumn

First of year Welney April 30th with regular reports thereafter. Spring passage recorded at 14 sites (11 in 2005) of which only Earsham, Hickling Broad and Welney away from north coast.

Most sightings of 1-2 birds as expected with peaks in May of 3 Titchwell 2nd, 7 Breydon 6th and 3 Burnham Norton 8th. A bird noted in song-flight at Hickling Broad May 11th. Passage ended abruptly with only three records after May 16th, Earsham 19th-21st, Cley 26th and late bird Hickling June 6th presumed to be northbound migrant.

First of autumn again Hickling Broad June 17th and records at both Titchwell and Cley by month end. Low key autumn passage of this elegant wader at 19 sites (7 inland). Most sightings of 1-3 with higher counts in early autumn restricted to 5 Titchwell July 20th. During Aug passage remained unremarkable with peaks of just 7 Cley 13th and Hickling Broad 18th, 6 Welney 21st/22nd and finally 4 Cley Aug 27th.

Early withdrawal with last of year 2 Cantley BF until Sept 22nd.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

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

No records early in year with first of spring at Holme April 15th and Pentney GP 17th followed by regular sightings thereafter. Spring passage witnessed at 24 sites throughout May with many records of 1-4 and more impressive counts in first half of month: 5 Titchwell 1st, 7 Holkham Park 3rd, 5 Stiffkey Fen 6th, 6 Snettisham 8th and 6 Cley 12th. Last straggler of season, Titchwell June 5th.

Usual heavier autumn passage noted at many localities after first Snettisham June 27th. All double-figure counts listed: 12 West Lynn July 27th, 11 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 30th, 25 Sparham Lakes Aug 3rd, 10 Holme 11th, 11 Barton Broad 12th, 15 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 15th with 17 on 17th, and 19 Cantley BF 20th.

Last reports of year, 7 on beach Beeston Regis Oct 2nd and 5 Snettisham next day with no records in second winter period.



Common Sandpiper (Martin Woodcock)

Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone)

Arenaria interpres

Passage migrant and winter visitor; some summering non-breeders

Peak monthly counts from key localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	18	25	12	128	31	17	700	395	245	213	75	44
Holme	20	51	113	6	22	2	2	48	100	63	6	29
Thornham Hbr	8	13	1	21	3	8	-	1	7	-	3	7
Titchwell	35	104	277	41	46	17	38	41	10	62	102	44
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	175	223	171	282	247	63	188	430	376	268	208	229
Wells Hbr	26	38	20	1	-	-	-	1	35	-	6	32
Stiffkey SM	29	25	14	59	66	33	-	2	-	-	49	50
Blakeney Hbr	48	108	57	65	57	10	42	179	101	62	87	113
Cley	1	38	10	10	25	9	4	13	-	-	43	20
Salthouse	20	6	12	5	11	-	-	1	-	-	5	8
Walcott	45	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	88	85	43
Breydon/Berney	7	7	10	5	12	1	3	6	9	4	4	3
Yarmouth/Gorleston	34	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	48

National importance (winter): 500

Obviously some overlap from adjacent sites but few significant counts elsewhere with 20 Waxham Jan the best. No counts received from traditionally important King’s Lynn this year.

No reports of visible spring departure but again healthy number of inland records particularly from Hickling Broad where becoming a regular albeit scarce visitor. All records (singles unless stated): Buckenham 2 June 5th, Cantley BF Nov 18th, Choseley Jan 1st and 6 on 22nd, Hickling Broad 3 May 6th, May 20th and 23rd, 2 June 2nd, June 4th-6th and 11th-13th, 2 June 14th/15th, July 28th and 3 Aug 13th, Pentney GP May 4th and Welney Feb 26th.

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Scarce passage migrant

An impressive showing with records in both spring and autumn.

Female at Holme May 31st followed by further females at both Cley and Hickling Broad June 1st. After three years without a record a welcome influx of perhaps 3 individuals in two late spring days.

Presumed early returning bird at Cley July 1st followed by three typical autumn records: female Titchwell July 20th-24th, juv Wissington BF Aug 14th and finally long-staying juv Hickling Broad Aug 30th-Sept 7th.

Numbers recorded in past 10 years:

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
Spring	1	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	3
Autumn	-	4	7	4	1	1	3	3	5	4
Total	1	4	8	5	2	4	3	3	5	7

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare at other times

An erratic year for a species whose occurrence is often dictated by onshore northerly winds during autumn seawatch season.

After early report at Sheringham Aug 10th, four typical Sept records from Cley and Salthouse 9th, Blakeney Point 10th and Titchwell 26th perhaps involving only 2 individuals.

Single Cley Oct 7th was only record during that month but was followed by two clear Nov influxes. In first few days of month reports from Holme (2) and Cley 1st, Holme, Titchwell and Cley 2nd, and finally Cley again 3rd suggested a continued presence in the area. The only lingering bird of year on a small pond in centre of a caravan park at Snettisham Nov 19th/20th was sadly brief and followed by birds west at Blakeney Point and Cley 21st, presumably same.

Despite Dec records in three of past five years, this species remains a rare find in midwinter and therefore 3 west Burnham Overy and one Holme Dec 17th are especially noteworthy.

Pomarine Skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

Passage migrant during autumn; small numbers at other times

A few winter records: Holkham Bay Jan 31st, and in Feb Hunstanton 21st, Titchwell 24th and Cley 28th. The only spring bird passed Cley May 25th.

Autumn passage recorded from Aug 1st to year end, mostly from north coast watchpoints, although numbers generally small. Only reports of more than 1-2: 8 Horsey Aug 8th, 3 Holme 12th, 4 west Scolt Head Sept 7th, 4 Eccles 10th, 6 Cley 15th, 4 south Horsey 23rd, 3 Sheringham Oct 4th, 3 juvs east Cley 24th, 6 juvs Sheringham 29th and 3 Holme Nov 1st.



Pomarine Skua (John Geeson)

Arctic Skua

Stercorarius parasiticus

Mainly autumn passage migrant, scarce at other times

During first winter period 3 Jan records from Holme 4th, Sheringham 5th and Titchwell 26th, plus another Titchwell Feb 19th.

A very early spring bird passed Mundesley April 3rd, followed by a typical trickle of May and June reports of 1-2 birds, mostly along north coast. Spring blurred imperceptibly into autumn with small numbers also recorded through July, although towards end of month 9 Snettisham and 10 west Blakeney Point 28th, and 15 Holme on 29th. Larger numbers recorded from beginning of Aug with 40 Holme on 1st. Further substantial counts during Aug included: 3rd 30 Holme (incl 27 west), 52 east 26 west Scolt Head, 98 east Sheringham and 22

California; 7th 23 Sheringham; 11th 46 east Scolt Head and 30 Sheringham; 12th 34 west Holme, 34 west Scolt Head and 20 Cley; 14th 26 Sheringham; 19th 35 south (1230-1400) Winterton; 24th 20 Sheringham; 25th 25 Sheringham. In Sept, apart from 7th when 36 Holme, 24 Titchwell and 22 Cley, fewer recorded until end of month when 15 past Sea Palling on 26th. Oct began slowly but latest significant passage occurred during last week: 24th 21 Cley, 21 Sheringham and 13 south Winterton; 29th 18 south Winterton; 31st 12 Sheringham and 13 south Winterton. Although 16 Sheringham and 13 Winterton Nov 1st, only trickle of records (1-4 birds) from north coast sites during remainder of Nov and Dec.

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus

Autumn passage migrant increasingly identified in recent years

In autumn records from Aug 3rd, when 2 adults 3 juvs Holme and single adults east Blakeney Point, Cley and Sheringham. Further Aug records of single adults Weybourne and Sheringham 11th, 2 (1 adult) Cley and single adult Gorleston 12th, one Winterton 14th and one Cley 30th. Sept records, mostly of juvs: 2nd Sheringham and West Runton; 3rd Winterton; 7th 3 west Scolt Head, 2 Cley and one Sheringham; 8th 2 Cley; 10th Holme, Blakeney Point and Eccles; 11th west Scolt Head; 15th Sheringham and West Runton; 16th Cley and West Runton; 26th Titchwell; 29th Titchwell. In Oct Eccles 4th, Mundesley 5th and Sheringham 24th. Nov records from Holme 1st and Eccles on 12th.

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua

Passage migrant mostly in autumn; small numbers at other times

Only winter record Holkham Bay Jan 5th and a single spring record east Sheringham May 29th.

Autumn passage from July 23rd when single off Titchwell. Small numbers recorded throughout Aug with highest counts on 12th, when 9 Holme, 7 Cley and 8 Sheringham; also 5 Titchwell 26th. In Sept more significant numbers: 7th 12 west Holme, 11 Titchwell, 41 west Scolt Head and 11 Sheringham; 8th 13 Titchwell, 17 west Scolt Head and 8 south Horsey; 15th 13 Titchwell and 26 east Blakeney Point; 26th 17 Titchwell and 22 west 11 east Scolt Head. Numbers of both records and birds during Oct unspectacular until end of month. The largest passage of year began with 57 Sheringham Oct 31st, followed by 31 Holme, 57 Cley, 20 Weybourne, 45 (incl 40 east) Sheringham and 22 south Winterton on Nov 1st. Few recorded during remainder of Nov and Dec, with last Titchwell Dec 30th.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

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

Continued upward trend in post breeding and wintering numbers not yet reflected in an increase in breeding numbers with 3 pairs (split between 2 coastal localities) each rearing a single young. This popular gull was observed at numerous coastal sites with peak numbers during late summer post breeding dispersal. Remains scarce inland with 1-2 recorded at just 17 sites.

For the first time a three-figure gathering occurred and a large influx of juvs again witnessed. Initial arrival of juvs July 21st when 5 Scolt Head and 2 Sea Palling. Good numbers of birds of this age continued to pass through into August with max 15 in Breydon roost Aug 15th.

Estimated number of individuals per month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	28	-	-	-	-
1st-year	3	1	12	8	10	9	5	3	4	20	5	18
2nd-year	3	1	6	6	5	2	6	1	1	8	3	13
Adult	6	7	28	15	11	16	13	11	6	9	7	29
Unaged	53	45	2	6	-	3	16	90	16	2	60	31
Total	65	54	48	35	26	30	53	133	27	39	75	91

Yarmouth’s wintering flock reached a new high towards year end with monthly peaks: 53 Jan 25th, 41 Feb 14th, 25 March 12th, 12 July 26th, 10 Aug 26th, 20 Oct 22nd, 64 Nov 26th and an impressive 73 Dec 22nd. Breydon held 73 (roost) Jan 16th, 10 July 10th, a county record 102 (roost) Aug 15th and 14 Sept 10th. Other counts included: max 6 Snettisham and Titchwell March, max 12 Scolt Head April (with 8 13th), max 10 Snettisham and 6 Scolt Head May, max 8 Titchwell June (with 6 on 10th), max 10 Scolt Head July (with 7 inc 5 juvs 21st), 14 Caister GC Sept 22nd and 7 Winterton Oct 21st.

Laughing Gull

Larus atricilla

Vagrant from North America

A near adult in summer plumage gave very close views on a lamp standard Cromer May 7th/8th (JVB RJJ et al); also seen Cley both dates, Salhouse on 8th and finally Blakeney on 9th. The fifth county record.

Little Gull

Larus minutus

Non-breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor

Small numbers during first winter period when coastal max of 11 south Horsey Jan 8th and inland singles at Hickling Broad Jan 13th-end Feb, Ranworth Broad Feb 18th and Colney GP Feb 21st-28th.

Spring passage most evident at 9 inland sites April 13th (single Ranworth Broad) through to early May. Larger flocks 4 Pentney GP April 14th/15th, 20 Barton Broad and 5 Ranworth Broad April 21st, 7 Wissington BF May 1st and 4 Hickling Broad May 11th; also 20 (9 adults) east Breydon April 21st.

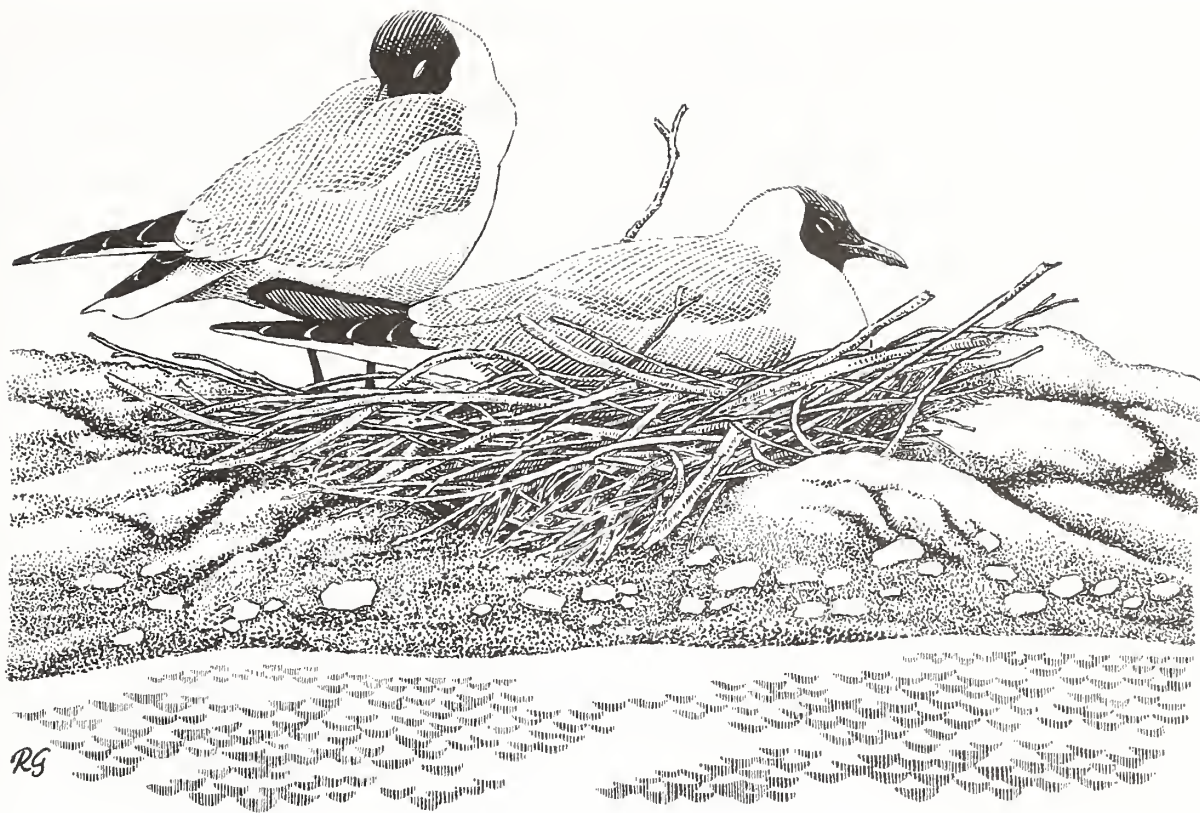
The late spring build-up at Titchwell saw peaks of 29 May 30th and 33 June 12th with 15 (all 2cy) still present July 1st. Also during this period 8 Hickling Broad June 26th and an adult observed in display flight at a Black-headed Gull colony May 26th.

First juv Scolt Head Aug 3rd but as usual numbers remained low until Oct when first big movement 277 east Sheringham 8th. Notable subsequent counts: 162 California 21st, 400 Mundesley and 304 south Winterton 22nd, 754 Cley 24th, 500 Mundesley, 100 Walcott and 113 Winterton 25th, 132 Sheringham 26th, 820 Sheringham 28th, 480 west Kelling 29th when an impressive 3000 feeding and moving slowly west Sheringham, 2000 lingering off Sheringham and 238 (152 south 86 north) Winterton 31st.

Nov saw 100 both Sheringham and Eccles and 94 west Mundesley 1st with 238 Winterton 2nd. Although numbers generally dwindled the north-west coast saw an increase with some seemingly set to winter. Peak counts: 106 Holme Nov 19th with 123 there 22nd, 71 Dec 3rd, 50 Titchwell 26th; also 4 Terrington Marsh Dec 9th.

Table shows largest count at any one locality each month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	11	3	1	20	29	33	15	4	17	3000	238	71



Black-headed Gulls (Robert Gillmor)

Sabine's Gull

Larus sabini

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

Despite various reports in autumn only one accepted record, juv west Salthouse Sept 7th (NRR).

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

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

Peak numbers at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scolt Head	-	-	1100	5000	3500	2000	2364	4000	5600	820	-	1000
B End Tip	3500	2000	2000	50	-	-	-	100	150	-	-	1000

Large counts elsewhere included: 5000 Pentney GP Jan 1st, 5000 (roost) Breydon 7th, 1500 Aldeby Tip 15th, 1000 Whitlingham CP 16th, 4500 (roost) Wroxham Broad 28th, 3000 Hockwold Washes 29th, 1575 Holme Feb 1st, 1400 Whitlingham CP 14th, 1400 Saddlebow 17th, 5000 Hockwold Washes March 5th, 1200 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 20th, 2000 Wissington BF April 13th, 1093 Blakeney Hbr 16th, 3500 Snettisham 22nd, 1019 Blakeney Hbr May 14th, 1000 Lynn Point Aug 12th, 2360 Titchwell Aug 29th, 1500 Waxham Oct 1st, 2000 Lynn Point 9th, 1271 Titchwell 18th, 1400 Cley Nov 3rd, 1153 Titchwell (beach) Dec 15th and a massive 17,250 (roost) Hickling Broad Dec 16th. Also 'tens of thousands' offshore Cley March 5th.

Spring movements picked up at Overstrand where 200 March 16th, 110 20th and 60 21st (all east). Strong east passage also observed Scolt Head March 20th (no count) where 167 west April 6th and 335 west April 7th.

Breeding - total of 5364 pairs recorded at 13 localities: 1554 Snettisham, 209 Holme, 202 Titchwell, 1460 (c1000 fledged) Scolt Head, 595 Holkham NNR, 1000 (c700 fledged)

Blakeney Point, 13 Blakeney GM, 144 Cley, 12 How Hill, one (first ever) Breydon Water, 30 mid-Yare RSPB, 70-80 Wissington BF and 74 Nar Valley Fisheries.

Autumn passage Scolt Head from June 9th, peaking 290 by 29th. July saw 2611 west Scolt Head including 1205 20th followed by 116 west Aug 5th and 258 west 25th. Continued westerly immigration evidenced by 2931 Scolt Head Sept (peak 567 27th), 845 Holme Sept 18th, 763 Scolt Head Oct 3rd, 844 Holme 11th and 1300 there 12th.

A wing-tagged adult of Dutch origin visited Hockwold Washes Jan 28th followed by leucistic bird there Feb 4th. A leucistic individual Heacham Dec 24th-26th and rarer was a melanistic bird there Dec 24th-30th.

Common Gull

Larus canus

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

Concentrations included: 500 Aldeby Tip Jan 15th, 3380 Holme 16th, 500 St Benet’s Level 20th, 4000 (roost) Wroxham Broad 28th, 500 Hockwold Washes 29th, 700 Holkham Park Lake and 320 Wells Hbr Feb 4th, 2-3000 offshore Cley and 1750 Hockwold Washes March 5th, 300 (following plough) Ringstead Courtyard Farm 20th, 3200 Scolt Head April 13th with 1800 (99% 2cy) there May 17th and 1100 June 12th with 320 July 25th, 845 Aug 29th and 1990 Sept 28th, 501 Holme Nov 2nd, 1100 Cley 3rd, 800 Wells Hbr Dec 9th and 1460 (roost) Hickling Broad Dec 16th.

Breeding attempted at 3 sites: pair Scolt Head, 10 pairs Holkham NNR and 2 pairs Blakeney Point but success was low.

Visible migration barely in evidence this year, perhaps a result of the settled weather during summer and early autumn? A movement of 215 west Scolt Head April 7th was followed by typical autumn immigration there of 82 west July 20th and 14 west July 23rd. Later 250 west off Holme Oct 12th.

A leucistic 2cy dropped into Hockwold Washes Jan 28th/29th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Passage migrant and migratory breeder; increasing in winter
Monthly max at some regular sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Saddlebow	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	150	1400	800	572	-
Blackboro’ End Tip	3	30	50	250	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Largest gatherings elsewhere: 2500 Hockwold Washes Jan 28th with 1200 there Feb 10th and 1000 March 5th, 360 Feltwell Tip March 11th, 60 Hickling Broad July 13th, 173 Cley 14th, 85 Blakeney Hbr 16th, 150 Cley Aug 22nd, 450 Barford Sept 16th, 604 west (morning flight) New Costessey Oct 7th, 105 Swaffham Oct 25th and 550 Hockwold Washes Nov 18th.

Westerly passage along north coast in spring evidenced off Scolt Head where 99 west April and 78 May while Sheringham saw a notable 200 May 18th.

A full survey of roof-nesting gulls at Great Yarmouth/Southtown/Gorleston revealed no less than 790 pairs (see article page 329). Elsewhere 200 pairs Holkham NNR, min 3 pairs on roofs in Norwich and 13 pairs, again on roofs, King’s Lynn Docks (no data for Wash Outer Trial Bank).

Very many birds resembling *L f intermedius*, and perhaps so called Dutch integrades, in Saddlebow area during late summer. Also 8 *intermedius* Hockwold Washes Jan 29th and 90 Blackborough End Tip July 15th. A leucistic individual Saddlebow Nov 2nd.

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

Increasing visitor from southern Europe

Well represented in first winter period when relatively high numbers amongst Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Hockwold Washes. No surprise that numbers generally peaked July through to Oct when a particularly strong influx of juvs also noted. Aldeby Tip saw first juv July 6th after which sightings increased towards month end with 5 Blackborough End Tip 31st. During Aug at least 8 juvs present at latter site 5th, a min of 8 visited Cley, 4 Eau Brink 8th and 6 Saddlebow 26th. A colour-ringed juv Titchwell Aug 1st/2nd was found dead on 9th.

Estimates of numbers and age breakdown per month:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	33	-	-	-	-
1st-year	8	10	9	6	4	7	8	5	11	8	4	8
2nd-year	4	4	4	2	1	4	11	4	3	4	1	1
3rd-year	2	6	4	-	-	-	2	6	3	4	-	1
4th-year/adult	12	15	3	1	1	2	37	50	38	38	5	5
Unaged	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	16	2	13	4
Total	26	36	21	9	6	14	71	99	71	56	23	19

Monthly max at favoured localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Cley	-	-	-	-	2	2	20	30	14	5	4	3
Blackboro' End Tip	1	1	3	3	3	8	11	10	8	-	2	2
Saddlebow	-	6	-	-	-	-	27	40	39	49	4	1

Largest gathering of year 49 Saddlebow on fairly late date of Oct 9th with numbers at Cley reaching 30 on Aug 9th. Other notable counts: 15 Hockwold Washes Jan 28th, 6 Aldeby Tip Feb 14th, 9 Hockwold Washes and 6 Saddlebow Feb 19th, 9 Aldeby Tip March 7th, 10 Thornage Aug 3rd, 7 Topcroft 7th and 11 Eau Brink 8th.

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

Herring Gull L (a) argenteus/argentatus

Increasing breeder, late summer migrant and winter visitor

Highest counts at selected sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Scolt Head	6000	60	-	1800	850	425	218	405	345	335	215	-
Wells Hbr	-	329	1433	581	888	629	310	183	-	-	-	431
Blackboro' End Tip	2000	600	400	750	400	150	250	500	800	-	2200	1300

A big gathering of 6000 at Scolt Head Jan 15th, also large counts of 2200 Blackborough End Tip Nov 11th and 3534 Holme Nov 18th. Other flocks of note: 500 Aldeby Jan 15th, 420 Saddlebow Feb 17th, 430 Cley March 6th, 500 Snettisham April 16th, 354 Titchwell April 28th and 331 there Aug 11th, 345 Cley Nov 10th, 1500 Saddlebow Nov 11th and 762 Holme Dec 4th.

Spring movements 30 east Overstrand March 16th and 60 east there on 20th. Westerly passage along north coast evidenced by 259 Sheringham March 26th and at Scolt Head 1083 April 7th and 815 on 9th. Later 376 headed north Winterton April 30th.

Numbers of breeding pairs: Titchwell 1, Holkham NNR 400, Blakeney Point 8 and 250 recorded in the full survey in Yarmouth (see page 325). Also bred on Scolt Head but no young fledged. No records from Wash Outer Trial Bank.

Nominate *argentatus* peaked at 30 Blackborough End Tip Jan 7th and 40 Nov 11th; also 15 Cley Feb 28th.

A wing-tagged bird Blackborough End Tip March 18th proved to be of German origin.

Caspian Gull

L (a/michahellis) cachinnans

Increasing visitor from eastern Europe

Clearly another excellent year with perhaps 67 individuals recorded although maybe fewer given possible movement between sites. Numbers peaked late winter (Feb/March) and again late summer (Aug/Sept) suggestive of birds moving through county. Birds in their first year formed 59% of records, 2nd year 21%, 3rd year 5% and older 15%. A crèche of young birds at Blackborough End Tip held 2 juv *cachinnans* Aug 12th.

Estimates of number of individuals per month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All localities	8	11	13	1	2	4	5	10	6	5	4	4

As usual certain sites favoured, estimates of numbers of birds: 19 Blackborough End Tip, 15 Aldeby Tip, 10 Saddlebow, 9 Hockwold Washes, 6 Holt and 5 Cley. Peaks included 5 (new county record) Aldeby Tip March 8th, 3 Hockwold Washes Feb 23rd and 3 Blackborough End Tip June 3rd. A couple of long-stayers roosted Cley through Aug into Sept but elsewhere coastal records few. Sightings away from above localities: 2cy Burgh St Peter Feb 10th, 2cy Welney Feb 26th, 2cy Hickling Broad June 11th, 3cy Earsham July 1st, 3cy Salthouse Aug 4th and 2cy Blakeney Point Dec 4th.

A colour-ringed 2cy Blackborough End Tip May 27th was ringed as a pullus in Poland May 27th 2005. Two further birds (both 2cy) with green rings, presumably of Polish origin, occurred at Hockwold Washes Jan 28th/29th and Blackborough End Tip Aug 26th.

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucooides

Annual but very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

In a poor year for white-winged gulls just 3 records: 2cy Blackborough End Tip March 4th-13th, 3cy Snettisham CP April 1st and 1cy both Holme and presumed same Titchwell Nov 12th.

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

Winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; rare in summer

Fairly lean times with up to 9, perhaps fewer, individuals making an appearance and no long-staying birds recorded.

Table shows estimates of number of individuals per month:

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

All records listed: 2cy Breydon Jan 4th, 2cy west Salthouse Jan 17th, 2cy Titchwell Feb 26th, 2cy west Overstrand March 12th, 2cy Blakeney Point April 1st, imm north Winterton May 4th with presumed same (aged as 2cy) there May 8th, imm Cley and 1cy Holme Nov 2nd (same?), unaged west Salthouse Nov 8th, and probably a single unaged individual Breydon Nov 11th, then Yarmouth and Strumpshaw Nov 19th.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor

Monthly max at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scolt Head	80	-	-	39	73	47	85	233	255	111	67	-
Blackboro' End Tip	100	-	-	50	75	-	-	-	64	-	-	200

Other concentrations included: 100 (roost) Breydon Jan 7th, 60 Cley March 6th and 60 again July 16th, 74 Breydon Oct 3rd, 98 Blakeney Hbr and 240 Snettisham Oct 8th, 90 Breydon Nov 4th and particularly notable 540 (roost) Berney Nov 28th. First juvs arrived Blackborough End Tip Aug 19th.

Ross's Gull

Rhodostethia rosea

Vagrant from the Arctic

The bird present the previous day pleased many observers when it remained at Cley Jan 1st.

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Mainly passage migrant; occasional non-breeding concentrations in summer

Summer movements were on a small scale, most notable being 70 Eccles July 30th, 126 north California Aug 4th and 171 Gorleston Aug 6th.

Most activity came Oct/Nov but counts were overall unexceptional. Following 1064 west Mundesley Oct 5th the month saw 750 Cley and 472 (436 south) Winterton 29th and 313 east Sheringham 31st. Many birds past north coast Nov 1st evidenced by 851 Holme, 391 Titchwell, 150 Cley, 500 east Sheringham and 208 Cromer. Nov also saw 412 north Winterton 13th and 144 north there 20th. Highest Dec counts 275 Gorleston 3rd, 104 Cley 8th and 350 off Burnham Overy Dunes 17th.

No inland records this year.

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

Local migratory breeder

First of spring 2 Scolt Head April 17th/18th, 5 Holme and 5 west Titchwell 19th, Breydon 21st and 4 north Winterton 23rd; build-up to 30 Scolt Head 26th and 80 there 30th.

Min 600 breeding pairs fledged 708 young, the most successful season ever in terms of fledged young, but that statement is misleading in terms of the county as a whole.



Little Tern (Richard Johnson)

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Holme	11	2
Titchwell	-	-
Brancaster Hbr	-	-
Scolt Head	82	5
Holkham NNR	82	11
(Burnham Overy	32	11)
(Wells	1	0)
Bob Hall Sands	18	0)
(Wells New Ridge	24	0)
(Little Binks	7	0)
Blakeney Point	56	17
Eccles	-	-
Winterton	-	-
Yarmouth North Beach	369	673

At Scolt Head poor success due to predation, flooding and especially a lack of food, with many clutches deserted. At Blakeney Point only 56 pairs with eggs or chicks at any one time but there may have been 70+ pairs attempting to breed throughout the season; losses caused by bad weather and a family of stoats. At Eccles max count of 32 in colony June 1st but none settled to breed.

The Yarmouth North Beach colony had its most successful season ever, with all but 35 of the county total of 708 fledged young from this one site. Success was greatly helped by 24-hour wardening by the RSPB, Great Yarmouth Borough Council for allowing the fencing to be extended to the shoreline this year to prevent disturbance from visitors and passers-by from the seaward side of the colony (where the adults and young spend time loafing outside the breeding area) and an electric fence around the colony preventing access by foxes, cats and hedgehogs. Kestrels hunted only occasionally over the colony due partly at least because of supplementary diversionary feeding of the local pair as part of a study being carried out by the RSPB. As a result only 27 chicks were seen to be predated by Kestrels, with a possible further 14, with no other predation recorded. An expensive operation but well worth it from a fledging success point of view.

Largest midsummer counts 94 Blakeney Hbr June 11th and 141 Scolt Head July 16th. At Yarmouth North Beach 82 still present Aug 24th, 27 Sept 2nd, 21 6th and 9 on 7th.

Inland: 2 Pentney GP May 4th, 2 Hickling Broad May 6th, 18th, 21st, June 5th and 29th, and Strumpshaw Aug 22nd.

Latest Gorleston Oct 1st and Yarmouth on 8th.

Caspian Tern

Hydroprogne caspia

Vagrant from southern and eastern Europe

Breydon Water and Hickling Broad must be the best two sites for this species in Britain with singles Breydon July 15th (MS) and subsequently Hickling Rush Hills 19th/20th (PJH JRW *et al*). Whilst not appearing every year it must be speculated whether it is the same returning bird.

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybrida

Vagrant from southern Europe

A juv, first seen at Brancaster GC Oct 12th (RS), remained Titchwell 13th-20th, apart from a brief visit to Blakeney FM, Cley and Salthouse on 19th.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Regular double passage migrant in variable numbers; has bred

First recorded Colney GP April 16th followed by Barton Broad 21st, 2 Ouse Washes/Welney and 2 Pentney GP 22nd, and 2 Breydon and one Hockwold Washes 25th. Very small movement May 1st-15th with just 1-2 at 10 localities totalling 24 birds; no other May records.

In June 10 east Scolt Head 9th, 3 Breydon and one Buckenham 10th, Snettisham 17th and Titchwell 28th. In July singles Titchwell 10th, Hickling Broad 15th, Gorleston 23rd, Cantley BF 28th and 8 Gorleston 29th.

In autumn steady but light main passage commenced Aug 2nd with mainly 1-4 at 15 localities by month end, exceptions being 6 Gorleston 6th, 8 Terrington Marsh 27th and 5 Blakeney Point 29th. Passage continued Sept 3rd-28th with mainly 1-4 at 17 localities apart from 5 west Holme and 10 Wells 5th, 6 Kelling 7th, 17 west Holme and 6 offshore Cley 13th, 8 west Scolt Head 14th, and an amazing 68 high west calling between Wells East Hills and Warham Greens 23rd.

Latest 2 Winterton Oct 1st and 5 Blakeney Point 8th.

White-winged Black Tern (White-winged Tern)

Chlidonias leucopterus

Vagrant from south-east Europe

An adult Snettisham briefly then west June 16th (JSc).

Sandwich Tern

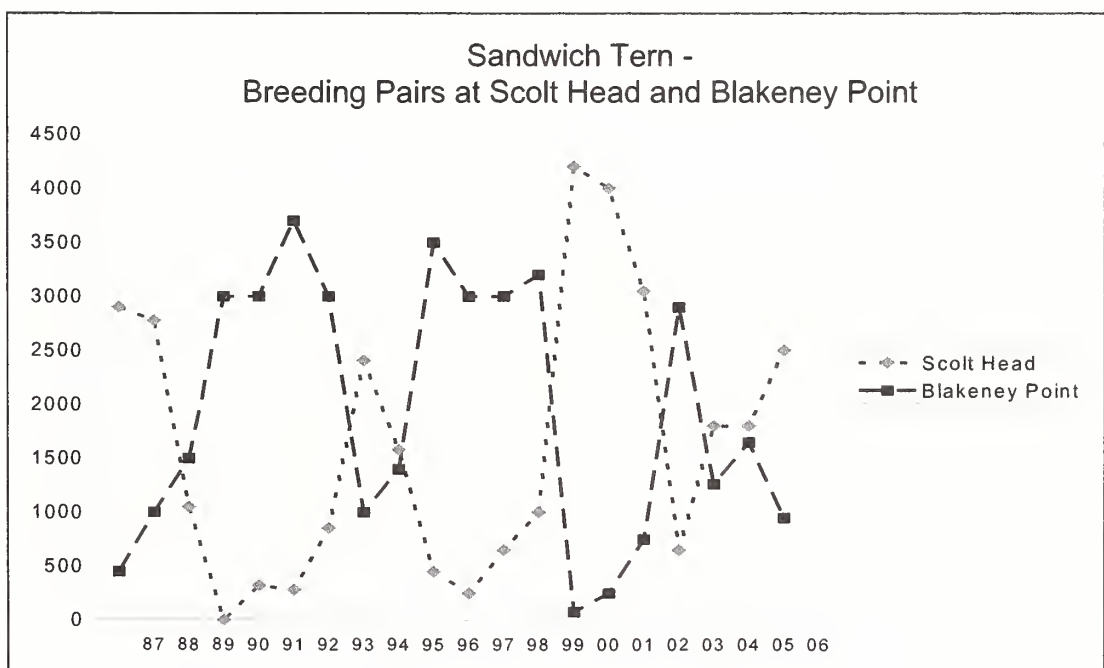
Sterna sandvicensis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

First record 2 Terrington Marsh March 18th followed by Titchwell 26th, 10 Cley and 2 Scolt Head 27th, with 30 at latter site by 31st. In April at Scolt Head 100 by 7th, 500 11th, 1000 22nd, 2500 27th, 3500 30th and 4200 all May.

Best spring counts elsewhere 86 Titchwell April 22nd, 151 south Winterton May 3rd, and 200 Cley 4th, 525 5th, 800 8th and 650 on 10th.

Breeding: 950 pairs at Blakeney Point fledged 820 young, a successful year, despite the relatively low number of pairs due to the majority favouring Scolt Head. At Scolt Head nesting sites occupied by April 26th, 10 days earlier than usual, and 2500 pairs fledged 2000 young. The first nest found May 1st, but unlike past years very little synchronised laying was noted



with birds laying almost daily in small numbers between May 1st and mid-June. The combined total of fledged young at Blakeney Point and Scolt Head was slightly up on 2005.

Sandwich Terns usually breed at just 2 sites, Scolt Head and Blakeney Point with the majority of breeding pairs alternating between the 2 sites. Data suggests this occurs roughly every 3-4 years but what controls this is not known; habitat availability, disturbance and presence of predators are probably influential factors. Total population in last 20 years has fluctuated between low of 2550 pairs in 1989 and high of 4600 in 2002, with mean of just over 3600 pairs 1987-2006.

Notable coastal movements/gatherings: 1122 east Mundesley and 600 Breydon July 9th, 9000 Scolt Head 12th, 1000 Blakeney Hbr 16th, 500 Snettisham 24th, 600 Breydon roost Aug 1st, 800 Scolt Head 8th, 245 Holme 27th and 320 there Sept 3rd, 190 Blakeney Hbr Sept 24th and 115 east in 2 hrs Weybourne Oct 7th.

Inland: 2 in from south Aylmerton then north-east over Felbrigg Park April 16th, 5 Strumpshaw and 7 Hickling Broad 22nd, 3 north How Hill Aug 3rd, 2 Hickling Broad 15th and one 16th, Strumpshaw 22nd and 2 Whitlingham CP Sept 17th.

Latest records Cley, Sheringham and Winterton Nov 1st, and Mundesley 9th.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Migratory breeder and passage migrant at both coastal and inland sites

First arrival Ranworth Broad March 26th followed by 3 Thetford Nunnery Lakes on 28th. A single at Ranworth Broad and 2 Wroxham Broad April 2nd were only other records before 9th when 13 Barton Broad and 8 Ranworth Broad. First north coast Scolt Head April 11th.

Notable spring counts: 85 Welney April 23rd and 50 May 3rd; 80 Scolt Head April 28th, 100 30th and 250 by May 1st until mid-month when a large arrival with 450 18th; 100 Blakeney Hbr May 14th and 140 Snettisham on 19th.

Breeding: at least 803 pairs, just 12 down on 2005, fledged min of 451 young, an increase of 279 so a successful season by comparison.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Snettisham	65	1
Holme	1	0
Titchwell	5	0
Scolt Head	230	100
Holkham NNR	55	0
(Stiffkey Big Binks	29)	
(Stiffkey Little Binks	18)	
(Wells New Ridge	8)	
Blakeney Point	135	100
Cley	2	4
Yarmouth South Denes	2	0
Breydon	201	215
Ranworth Broad	18	unknown
Barton Broad	36	unknown
Sparham Lakes	6	unknown
Pentney GP	17	25-30
Sennowe Park	8-9	unknown
Welney	22	1

At Snettisham an almost complete failure, cause not known; with all pairs breeding on the pits rather than the beach, high tides and human disturbance are not a problem and other species breeding there seem to be successful. The RSPB is considering taking measures in 2008 to attempt to establish a cause for the continued recent failures there. The pair at Holme failed at the egg stage, the first breeding at this site for around 40 years. All failed at Titchwell, 2 hatched but disappeared, presumed predated. A good increase in success at Scolt Head compared with 2005. A total failure at Holkham NNR was probably caused by flooding. A good season at Blakeney Point despite a reduction in the number of pairs, the selective culling of 4 Herring Gulls this year appears to have made a big difference. First-ever breeding on roofs in the county at Yarmouth South Denes (see article page 329). At Breydon Water the 4 platforms out on the estuary continued to be the most successful site in the county. Also for the first time a pair of Black-headed Gulls nested on one of the platforms, successfully raising one chick; the mess made by this pair probably explains why this platform raised fewer young than the others. A pair nest-scraping at Hickling Broad June 11th/12th was evicted by Black-headed Gulls.

1st-summer birds at Breydon June 28th, 29th (2), July 9th (2), 11th, 16th and 24th, and 4 Scolt Head July 15th-20th.

Unprecedented numbers in Aug and Sept coinciding with massive movements at Spurn in Yorks. At the Breydon roost 8000 Aug 1st, 2180 7th, 6000 10th, 2200 20th and 8000 on 28th (mostly juvs) many flocks still arriving when observers leaving in darkness on latter date. At California 1250 south flighting over the sea/beach towards Breydon roost late pm Aug 28th, 4724 Sept 2nd, 4187 3rd and 2160 on 4th (all doing same); 1000 over sea Cley Aug 28th, 1000 Blakeney Point Sept 10th and 1167 south Horsey (1115-1415) 20th.

Last Mundesley Nov 28th, the latest since 1982.

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Uncommon summer visitor; has bred

Another reasonably good year with 1-3 birds early July-late Sept. No breeding or attempted breeding for sixth successive year.

All records: Blakeney Point July 2nd; Breydon (all adults) 2 July 7th, one 9th, 2 10th, one 11th/12th, 2 15th, 1-2 16th and 2 Aug 1st; Cley Aug 2nd; adult west Sheringham Aug 11th; juv Lynn Point Aug 12th; adult south Gorleston Sept 3rd; 2 adults and juv west Scolt Head Sept 16th and remarkably on same day an adult and 2 juvs Titchwell FM; Salthouse Sept 20th.

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Double passage migrant; a few pairs breed

First of spring Barton Broad April 15th followed by light passage of mainly 1-4 at 10 localities to 26th, the exceptions being 15 west Scolt Head 19th, 19 north Snettisham and 10 Welney 23rd. Main increased passage April 28th-May 25th with 3 Filby Broad and 20 Scolt Head 28th, 21 north Blackborough End Tip, 30 west Colney GP, 36 north Holme and 27 north Lynn Point 29th, 2 Hardley Flood 30th, 3 Hickling Broad, 20 Lyng Easthaugh GP, 4 west Mundesley, 30 west Scolt Head and 2 Titchwell May 1st, 15 Scolt Head 7th, 10 Blakeney Hbr 14th, 2 Ousemouth 16th and 3 Cley 25th.

Breeding: 2 pairs Scolt Head but no young fledged; 10 pairs Blakeney Point fledged 2 young, an improvement on previous years but many still succumbed to flooding or predation; at Holkham NNR 2 pairs nested on Wells New Ridge but both failed when tides washed over the ridge.

An influx of 8 adults and a 1st-summer at Scolt Head June 27th remained until end of month. In July 4 adults all month at Scolt Head and 2 1st-summers 12th-25th, an adult and 3 1st/2nd-summers Breydon 9th, adult and 4 1st/2nd-summers 11th and a 1st/2nd-summer on 16th at Titchwell, and a 1st-summer Hickling Broad 15th.

A good autumn passage with mainly 1-5 at 21 localities, the exceptions being 8 Cley and 9 north Gorleston Aug 3rd, 10 past Paston 4th, 8 west Sheringham 8th, 30 Cley 12th and 6 Sept 4th, 22 south Horsey (1115-1415) Sept 20th and 8 south California 23rd.

Latest Cley and Winterton Nov 3rd.

Guillemot (Common Guillemot)

Uria aalge

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional wrecks

Few records received in Jan, but 50 Sheringham Feb 25th. A larger than usual number of auk records in early summer included 35 east Cley and 127 east Mundesley May 8th, 400 east Sheringham May 29th and 38 east Weybourne June 26th.

During Aug an unusual total of 25 dead juvs found on Scolt Head, and several live juvs with parents seen on north coast between Holme and Sheringham. In Sept 164 on sea California 18th and 200 feeding off Scolt Head 20th.

Substantial movements recorded at Winterton in late Oct with 2464 south and 1248 north on 29th and 1124 south on 31st; 359 also logged north there Nov 20th. During first half of Dec large numbers present off north coast included counts of 500 Blakeney Point and 2000 Cley on 9th, 500 Blakeney Point 13th and 1000 there 16th, and 1000 Burnham Overy Dunes 17th.

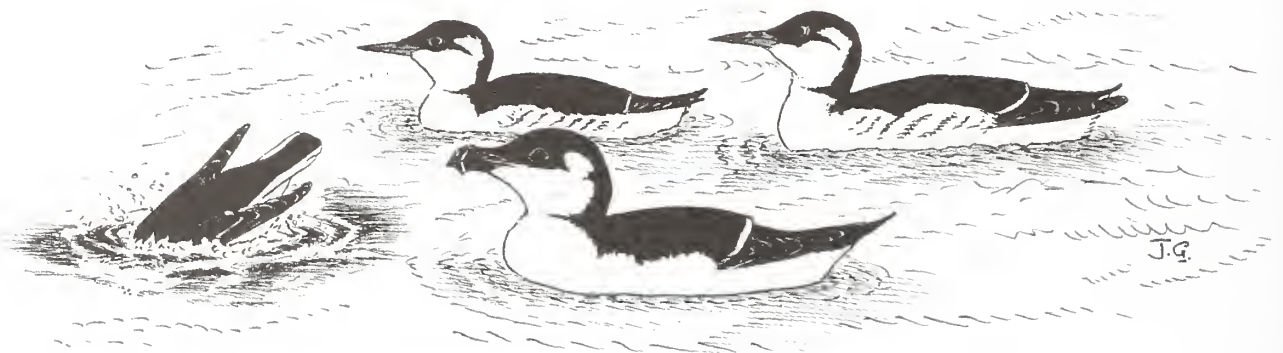
Razorbill

Alca torda

Passage migrant and winter visitor

One to 3 birds at several north coast sites during Jan. Spring movement included 4 Holme May 19th, 28 east Scolt Head and 20 Sheringham 29th, and 9 west Holme 31st; 15 presumably non-breeding birds also east Sheringham in 1 hr June 26th.

Few birds reported during July and Aug, but 300 present feeding off Scolt Head from Sept 20th until mid-Oct. Large autumn auk passage recorded throughout Oct included specifically identified counts of 1211 west Mundesley 6th, 300 Salhouse and 533 (incl 477 north) Winterton 6th, 300 Sheringham (0645-1020) and 350 West Runton 7th, 190 Blakeney Point 8th, 143 (incl 104 south) Winterton 15th, 470 Cley 26th and 810 there 28th, and 184 south 146 north Winterton 29th. Few records in Nov, but a further large auk movement in Dec with highest counts of 250 Blakeney Point and 396 Cley 13th.



Guillimots and Razorbill (John Geeson)

Guillemot/Razorbill

In first winter period 50 Sheringham Feb 25th and 55 east there March 11th. Largest counts in spring 129 Scolt Head and 516 east in 3 hrs Sheringham May 29th, with 140 at latter site following day.

A large autumn passage of unidentified auk sp on Oct 3rd, when 335 east Scolt Head, an estimated peak of 2300/hr in afternoon east in light westerly winds Cley, 1600 mostly east Sheringham, 1300 Beeston Bump (0715-0915) and 200 south Walcott; 715 passed Sheringham (0930-1130) on Oct 28th. The last substantial movement began Dec 8th when 313 passed Eccles in 1 hr 30 mins, with a max of 1500/hr (est total of 10,000, comprising 90% Guillemots) west Cley and 7000 west Sheringham (0900-1600) on 9th.

Black Guillemot

Cepphus grylle

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period one Titchwell Jan 2nd, and possibly same Hunstanton Jan 7th and 9th; a 1st-winter bird Eccles Feb 2nd.

A sequence of autumn records involving at least 5 birds: Cley Sept 26th, a long-staying individual off Sheringham Oct 15th-Nov 1st, Holkham Bay Oct 28th-30th, Titchwell Nov 2nd/3rd and Hunstanton Dec 28th.



Little Auks (Gary Wright)

Little Auk

Alle alle

Passage migrant, most during northerly gales; occasional wrecks

The only record outside late autumn 3 off Titchwell Jan 21st.

Following singles Weybourne Oct 4th and Holme 7th small numbers reported around coast between Holme and Yarmouth from 24th to month end, with largest counts 9 west Holme 24th, 9 Holme 25th and 6 Yarmouth (1000-1300) 26th.

Northerly gales on Nov 1st produced a large movement with 59 Holme, 44 Titchwell, 186 Cley, 17 Weybourne, 175 east 125 west Sheringham, 64 Cromer, 25 Mundesley and 37 Eccles. However, these numbers eclipsed by substantial re-orientation on 2nd, when (west along north coast and north along east coast) 365 Holme, 406 Titchwell, 461 (incl 305 between 0815-1000) Cley, 71 Kelling, 752 Sheringham, 70 Cromer (0800-0900), 130 Overstrand, 398 Mundesley (0640-0900), 652 Eccles and 456 Winterton. Re-orientation continued on 3rd with 31 Holme, 119 Cley, 16 Kelling, 27 west Weybourne, 85 Sheringham (0730-0845), 157 west Walcott (0630-0900) and 156 north Winterton, with residual small numbers around coast on subsequent few days. Up to 4 settled on Snettisham Pits in early Nov, with 2 remaining until 13th, and one until Dec 17th. During this period a few inland records noted: 2 heading inland from Weybourne on 1st, singles at King's Lynn Fisher Fleet, Fakenham (dead on A148) and

flying south with Starlings Hickling Stubb Mill 2nd, and on the river at Thurne on 3rd. In Dec total of 8 records from north coast, with 2 Cley 8th.

Puffin

Fratercula arctica

Passage migrant and winter visitor

None recorded during first winter period, and the only spring record 2 east Sheringham May 29th.

Autumn movements from Aug 3rd when single east Scolt Head, and other singles Cley and Walcott early in month. Single birds also passed Scolt Head, Blakeney Point and Cley during first half of Sept. Reports of 1-3 birds, mostly moving east, more regular at north coast sites between Titchwell and Overstrand Sept 26th-Oct 8th. During early Nov 1-2 birds on 9 dates at several sites between Holme and Paston, with counts of 6 east Sheringham both on Nov 1st and 7th largest of year. Singles again reported between Titchwell and Eccles early Dec, with latest Holme Dec 28th/29th.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon (Rock Pigeon)

Columba livia

Introduced/escaped resident in most urban areas

Peak counts came from King's Lynn Fisher Fleet with 200 May 28th increasing to 400 by Nov 18th, 118 Winterton Sept 24th, 240 Swaffham Nov 20th and 170 at Wroxham Dec 2nd. Undated counts came from Norwich and Thorpe St Andrew, where 250 were present at each. As usual present all year Beeston Cliffs where max 32 Sept 26th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 37% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 8 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Stock Dove (Stock Pigeon)

Columba oenas

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Highest counts in first winter period: *Jan* 200 North Wootton Marsh, 110 Brograve Level and 100 Waxham; *Feb* 63 Stiffkey Fen, 50 West Beckham; *March* 260 Ringstead Courtyard Farm.

Spring passage heavier than last year starting with 27 south Winterton Feb 13th. This site reported a strong spring migration generally with 452 north and 370 south March 22nd-May 13th including 64 south 6 north March 28th, and in April 49 north 8 south 13th, 43 north 5 south 14th, 27 north 14 south 17th and 41 north 3 south 18th. Elsewhere 77 west Overstrand March 25th with 60 west there on 26th, 57 west Sheringham also 26th, 25 north Caister April 1st and 32 west Beeston Bump April 18th with 22 west there 19th.

Breeding season reports included a pair which fledged 3 young in roof of old Lifeboat House on Blakeney Point. NBA results showed the species was present in 8% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

The first autumn migrant came in off sea Blakeney Point Oct 1st but autumn migration was light, the only notable count being 38 Holme Oct 28th.

Reports in second winter included 120 Flitcham Nov 6th, 88 Hethel Nov 24th and 55 roosting Titchwell Dec 1st.

Woodpigeon (Common Wood Pigeon)

Columba palumbus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Largest counts in first winter: *Jan* 1500 Tacolneston, 900 Stiffkey; *Feb* 8000 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 3500 Cley-Glandford, 3000 Bunwell; *March* 1100 Cockley Cley, 3000 Aylmerton.

Spring passage began March 7th with 16 west Beeston Bump. Other counts included: *March* 1268 west Overstrand 25th, 3673 there plus 3259 Hunstanton, 1052 west Sheringham, 2500 east Paston and 1203 mostly south Winterton all 26th, 1850 west Brancaster Staithe 27th, 2246 mostly south Winterton 28th, 1977 west Overstrand 30th; *April* 1617 south Hunstanton in 2 hrs 30 mins, 1596 west Titchwell in 1 hr 30 mins and 1360 mostly east Paston all 1st, 2792 south Hunstanton in 2 hrs and 1053 north Winterton 9th, 1060 west Overstrand 19th; *May* 1000 Sustead 3rd, 690 Norwich Heartsease School 21st. At Winterton total of 16,076 on passage March 26th-May 13th with 8784 north and 7292 south.

Reported breeding from both Blakeney Point (2 prs) and Scolt Head (10 prs). NBA results showed the species was present in 98% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 124 pairs per occupied tetrad. Many Wood Pigeons remain in non-breeding flocks for much of summer and these included in this data.

Autumn passage generally poor; at Hunstanton only 1042 south Sept 30th-Nov 10th. Elsewhere counts of 1500 Holme Oct 27th and 2300 mainly east Beeston Bump Nov 10th. At New Costessey in Tud valley total of 6613 moving mainly between south and east Oct 27th-Dec 17th with peaks 1305 Nov 4th and 1635 Dec 9th.

Only other significant count in second winter period 2000 Brancaster Thompson Farms Nov 29th.

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove)

Streptopelia decaocto

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

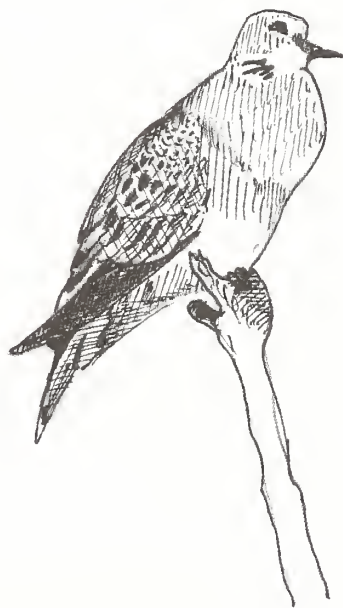
Max counts in first winter period: *Jan* 81 Langham, 45 Terrington St Clement; *Feb* 42 Wighton; *March* 71 Langham, 50 Colkirk. Newly fledged young also noted last week March at both Fakenham and Little Walsingham.

Coastal movement noted from March 7th when 7 west Beeston Bump but was lighter than last year, with only double-figure counts: Hunstanton 10 south April 26th and 36 south May 16th; Beeston Bump (all west) 21 May 3rd, 18 16th and 12 on 17th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 86% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 10 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage again noted from 2 sites. At Hunstanton 19 south Oct 12th and 15 south on 13th. At California totals of 138 south and 117 north Sept 19th -Nov 24th with 13 south 9 north Sept 30th and 13 south 7 north Oct 8th.

Max counts in second winter period: *Oct* 75 Beeston Bump, 70 Langham, 62 Frettenham; *Dec* 160 King's Lynn Fisher Fleet, 70 Ormesby St Margaret, 61 Langham (in private garden), 41 Castle Rising.



Turtle Dove (Andy Benson)

Turtle Dove (European Turtle Dove)

Streptopelia turtur

Migratory breeder and passage migrant; evidence of recent decline

First reported on April 13th from Brancaster Thompson Farms and Eccles, with additional April reports from 16 sites with max 8 Poringland on 26th.

Spring movements continued into May with double-figure counts from Hunstanton, where 11 south 3rd in 4 hrs and 11 south 16th in 2 hrs, and Choseley 10 on 8th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 55% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

June and July records were again widespread, although in apparently declining numbers, 7 singing birds at Brancaster Thompson Farms being most significant.

Autumn passage was poor with no more than 5 reported anywhere. There were however 2 late records: Eccles, one with Collared Doves from Sept 6th to at least Nov 11th, and Ormesby St Margaret Dec 16th to year end.

Cuckoo (Common Cuckoo)

Cuculus canorus

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

Spring arrivals on typical date of April 12th when singles at Merton and Poringland. Thereafter increasingly more regular throughout April and May but no more than 3 at any site. Total of 10 migrants reported Winterton April 18th-May 3rd.

Again reported widely throughout summer with up to 6 at Welney and 5 at Stoke Ferry in June. NBA results showed the species was present in 53% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage from July 9th when juv in off sea Gorleston with 1-3 reported from a further 12 sites including 2 records in Sept, Sheringham 10th and 15th, and Holkham Park also 15th.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Resident, continental race has appeared as a vagrant

Recorded across whole county with reports from 316 localities, an increase of 13 on 2005. Several reports of multiple counts, highest being 7 Holkham GM Jan 15th, Feb 4th and April 14th. Elsewhere counts in excess of 3: 6 Hickling Stubb Mill Feb 4th, Snettisham CP Aug 13th and Blakeney GM Sept 27th; 5 Holkham GM Jan 22nd and mid-Yare RSPB July 21st; 4 Terrington Marshes Jan/Feb, Hickling Broad Jan 6th, Strumpshaw Jan 9th, Hickling Stubb Mill Feb 17th, St Benet's Level Feb 18th, Blakeney GM April 8th and Hickling April 10th. Three interesting reports of counts made during road journeys give an indication of population density within county: 9 in daylight between Fakenham and Themelthorpe (including one freshly dead) March 4th, 7 between Thornage and Cley March 22nd and 5 between Wells and Fakenham Jan 21st.



Barn Owl (*Robert Gillmor*)

Breeding reported at only 26 sites with min of 51 pairs involved. Young were noted at only 4 of these sites. This figure is well down on last year but it is assumed this merely reflects lower observer coverage rather than a true reduction in numbers. Notable nest concentrations at both Hickling Broad and Hindringham with 5 in area first mentioned and 5 within a 3 km radius of latter.

Two reports of interest were of a bird eating a Wren at Egmere Jan 29th and another which was robbed of its prey by a Kestrel at Gooderstone May 5th.

One record of continental race *guttata* involved a probable 1st-winter found dead at Fram, near Redgrave, Feb 3rd. This bird is now in Norwich Castle Museum.

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Introduced resident

Reports from 131 sites, a decrease of 7 on 2005. Most refer to one or 2 birds but 3 noted at Burgh St Peter Jan 22nd, Fornsett St Peter May 13th and Narborough July 3rd. At Foxley one March 21st was first record at site for 7 years.

Breeding confirmed at 12 sites, a similar figure to last year, with fledged young seen at 5 of these. Pairs with breeding unconfirmed were reported at a further 18 sites and birds present during breeding season at another 18 localities. In an area between Norwich and Halvergate, bounded by the A47 to north and the R Yare to south, an estimated 12 pairs were present. This gives some indication of the breeding density likely in suitable areas. NBA results showed the species was present in 20% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad; the only one of the three common species of owl that can be reasonably accurately surveyed during day-time visits.

One report of a dead bird found near Thetford Football Club probably relates to a road casualty.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Widespread resident

Reports from 126 sites, an increase of 13 on 2005. Most records relate to calling birds and were of one or 2 individuals but 4 noted Brancaster Thompson Farms Aug 26th and Sept 2nd, Hanworth Common Jan 11th and Oct 12th, and West Bilney (no date given), with 3 at Cley Village March 22nd, Hanworth Common Jan 1st, 19th and Feb 17th, and West Bilney May 1st. At Brancaster Thompson Farms one observer reported that many calling in area at 0400 hrs May 13th made an impressive sound.

Fewer records of breeding than last year with reports from 16 sites involving min of 24 pairs. Highest numbers 5 Swanton Novers NNR and 3 Felbrigg and Brancaster. Young noted Brancaster, Brockdish (one), Ditchingham (2), Hickling, Little London, Martham (2), Scole (2), Stowbridge (2) and Winterton (3).

Two reports of road casualties at Newton Flotman Sept 16th and Hethel Oct 29th.

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Scarce and local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

It appears that winter roosts of this species are a thing of the past with single birds reported at only 6 sites during first 3 months of year: Caister Jan 29th, Cley Feb 14th, Holme 15th, Dersingham 16th, Strumpshaw 23rd and Hickling Broad March 1st. April opened with one in off sea Caister 1st with other coastal records at East and West Runton 15th and Walsey Hills 19th. Just one further spring sighting at Wells East Hills May 7th.

Breeding confirmed at only 2 sites, one in north-west of county and other in northern Brecks, with 2 well-grown young seen July 27th at first site and 3 juvs heard calling Aug/Sept at the other. At another site up to 2 on 3 occasions May/June may have related to a breeding attempt. Just one other summer report of one seen in car headlights at Foulden July 20th. Aug produced two surprising records, singles Rockland Broad/Marsh 22nd-29th and Wells East Hills 23rd.

Autumn was equally poor with just a single record of one arriving in off sea at Winterton Nov 3rd although Nov reports of 'eared' owls Sheringham (2) 2nd and west far out to sea Cley 3rd may well have been of this species. Elsewhere at this time singles noted in Oct at Terrington Marsh 11th, Sheringham 13th and Holme 14th, with another Welney Nov 19th.

Dec completed a lean year with birds noted Kelling WM 8th/9th and King's Lynn 9th.

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

Rare breeder, regular passage migrant and winter visitor

Less numerous in first winter period than at corresponding time last year. Most reports of singles but in Feb 3 noted Holkham Bay 4th, Snettisham 18th and Roydon Common 24th. Records of 2: Jan Snettisham 14th, Hockwold Washes and Holkham 15th, Chedgrave Marshes 29th, Thurlton Marshes 30th; Feb Welney 8th, Morston and Titchwell 13th; March Snettisham all month, Cley 2nd/3rd, Horsey 3rd, Blakeney GM and Hockwold Fen 5th, Chedgrave Marshes 6th, Winterton 26th. Elsewhere at this time noted Blakeney Point, Breydon, Burnham Overy GM, Denver, Dersingham Bog, Eccles, Haddiscoe, Heigham Holmes, Hemsby, Holme, King's Lynn BF, North Wootton, River Nar between Highbridge and Setchey, Salthouse, Sculthorpe Airfield, Stiffkey SM, Stiffkey WM, Stokesby with Herringby, Stowbridge, Terrington Marsh, Warham Greens, Warham SM and Wells East Hills.

During April/May sightings of singles reported widely with records of 2 (all April) from Snettisham 1st-14th, Lynn Point 10th, Winterton 19th, Hockwold 23rd and Terrington Marshes 26th. Definite migrants noted flying out to sea Overstrand April 19th, in off sea Scolt Head May 2nd and west Sheringham May 13th. At Blakeney Point an injured bird, which had been shot, found April 25th; sadly its injuries were such that it had to be put down. Sites with records in this period where none seen during winter were Beeston Bump, Caister, Cantley Marshes, Clenchwarton, Colney GP, Gorleston, Hempstead, Hempstead Marshes (Lessingham), Hopton, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, Paston, Snettisham CP, Stanford TA, Waxham and Wormegay.

No repeat of breeding at the site in north-west of county and no other reports suggestive of breeding were received. However reports in June from Cley 1st and Terrington Marsh 14th and 26th, and in July from Terrington Marsh 18th, Scolt Head 26th and Titchwell 31st.

Records late Aug from Blakeney Point 26th and Terrington Marsh 29th followed by a further 6 reports in Sept from North Wootton Marsh 8th-10th, Burnham Overy Dunes 9th, Terrington Marsh 12th, Ongar Hill 13th and in off sea California 24th. Increase in records during Oct when Breydon 3rd, in off sea Cley 6th, 2 Holme 10th, 2 Blakeney Point 11th, Holkham GM 19th, Blakeney GM, Breydon and Winterton 20th, in off sea California, Salthouse and Titchwell 21st, Eccles (where regular into Nov), Holme and Welney 23rd, and in off sea Sheringham 24th. At Welney largest concentration of year with 4 on 27th.

Migration much in evidence Nov when birds in off sea Sheringham (2) 1st, Caister and Winterton 2nd, and Titchwell 18th, with other east/north coast records from Blakeney Point, Kelling (long/short eared) and Trimingham 2nd, Cley, Eccles, Sheringham, Weybourne (west several miles offshore) and Winterton 3rd, West Runton and Winterton 4th, Holme 5th, Holkham GM (2 sparring with Marsh Harrier) and Salthouse 7th, Holme 9th, Blakeney Point

and Holme 10th, Blakeney GM and Holme 12th, Cley 14th and 15th, Cley and Holme (2) 16th, Holkham GM 17th and Cley 19th.

Widespread sightings in second winter period mainly of singles but 2 Breydon Nov 26th/27th, Belton Marshes Dec 2nd and Warham Greens 9th. Sites additional to those at start of year were Cromer, Great Moulton, Langham, Northrepps and St Benet's Level.

Nightjar (European Nightjar)

Caprimulgus europaeus

Local migratory breeder and rare passage migrant

First records May when 2 churring males at site in Brecks 1st, one West Bilney 3rd, 4 churring males west county site 4th and migrant Blakeney Point 7th.

Reports of churring males: *north* 12 at 5 sites; *east* 2 at one site; *west* 39 at 6 sites; *central* 10 at 5 sites; *Brecks* 5 at 4 sites (undoubtedly under-recorded). At the 2 major sites in west of county numbers were down on previous year with total of 32 (48 in 2005). One lucky observer in north had a bird perched on his house June 9th.

In late Aug records from sites in east and north with 5 at first site 21st and 4 at second 23rd. Last reports of year from Brecks where 2 churring males still Sept 4th with juv seen at same site 7th, and male flushed from beside a footpath in north, also Sept 7th.

Swift (Common Swift)

Apus apus

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

Very early arrival in April with first spring bird Blickling Park Lake 6th followed closely by singles at Caister, Eccles and Horsey 8th (possibly same bird?). A week elapsed before next report at Overstrand 15th with further records from Titchwell 16th, 2 Holme and Titchwell 18th, and Beeston Bump, Guist, Guist Common, Hunstanton, Lenwade and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 19th. Reported almost daily during rest of month with highest counts 13 Scolt Head 25th with 24 there 26th, and 20 Filby Broad 28th.

Peak movement occurred May although at Scolt Head passage much lower than in previous years with birds completely absent on many dates; best counts (all west) 1059 2nd, 852 3rd, 597 15th, 120 18th, 135 28th and 213 29th. Elsewhere on coast totals of (all west unless stated) 250/hr (0900-1400) and 75/hr (1400-1650) Cley 2nd, 299 south in 4 hrs Hunstanton 3rd and 182 south in 2 hrs there 18th. Also gatherings at Titchwell of 320 18th and several hundred in a dense feeding frenzy 20th, both in heavy rain storms.

Just 4 reports relating to breeding with 7-10 pairs Little London (Corpusty), 3 pairs in one house Edgefield, 20 pairs on one house Martham and 8 pairs with good breeding success on one house Southrepps. NBA results showed the species was present in 81% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 22 birds per occupied tetrad. Most records included in the data refer to birds recorded in flight and not entering nest sites.

Coastal movements, all westerly, throughout June with total for month at Scolt Head of 3813; best day counts 1765 18th, 485 19th, 463 20th and 463 29th. Elsewhere at this time 200 south in 15 mins Trimmingham 11th. These totals, however, were completely overshadowed by a massive early morning movement at Mundesley 10th when 7280 east between 0400 hrs and 0800 hrs. July was another poor month at Scolt Head with only 950 west, two best days being 8th with 437 and 11th with 117. Only other coastal movement reported from Sheringham where 585 west 5th. The end of month saw an early departure for some breeding birds with those at Wells leaving on evening of 25th and morning of 26th.

Numbers remained high during Aug in comparison with recent years with three-figure counts of 100 Cley 8th, 150 Kelling Heath 10th, 200 feeding over Scolt Head 15th, 100 west Holkham Meals 16th, 350 west Holme 23rd and 127 west Scolt Head 27th. Much smaller

numbers Sept when 10 Salthouse 2nd and 12 west Sheringham 3rd were only double-figure counts. Singles noted regularly until 13th after which one East Barsham 22nd and 3 Holme 30th were only records. One south Winterton Oct 2nd was last definite report of this species but 'swifts' at Sheringham (2) Oct 26th and in Nov at Cromer 8th, Overstrand 10th and Wells 22nd may have been either Common or Pallid.

Alpine Swift

Apus melba

Vagrant from southern Europe

One Whitlingham CP/Thorpe St Andrew April 2nd (JGi *et al*).

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher)

Alcedo atthis

Resident, numbers fluctuating in response to severity of winters

Reported at only 80 sites, a reduction of over 50% on 2005. It is hoped that this is merely a case of under-recording rather than a true reflection of the status of this species. During first winter period all sightings, apart from 2 Brancaster Hbr and 3 Strumpshaw, both Jan 15th, related to single birds.

Breeding reports also much reduced on 2005 with just a single record of confirmed breeding. Behaviour suggestive of breeding noted at 2 further sites with pairs or singles present during breeding season at another 5 localities. No reports of young received. NBA results showed the species was present in 13% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

An increase in records through second half of year, notably during Oct, with multiple sightings of 7 Barton Broad Oct 8th, 4 Holme Oct/Nov, 3 Martham Broad Oct 31st and 2 at Barnham Broom, Belaugh, Brancaster, Cley, How Hill, Narborough, Ranworth Broad, Scolt Head and Titchwell on various dates.

Bee-eater (European Bee-eater)

Merops apiaster

Vagrant from southern Europe

Following singles west Sheringham May 3rd (GED DHS) and Winterton May 19th/20th (TT), a flock of at least 5 over Hoveton Hall (SAW) and subsequently Caister (TEB) June 2nd.



Bee-eater (Alan Burtenshaw)

Annual vagrant in very small numbers

A fairly good year with 7 records, 5 in spring and 2 in autumn. First for year Holme April 26th/27th followed by 3 in May at Rockland Marsh 3rd, Aldborough 5th and Winterton 27th. Final record of spring one at Dersingham Bog for several days from June 2nd. The 2 autumn records occurred within 2 days of each other, at Cantley Aug 26th and Winterton 27th.

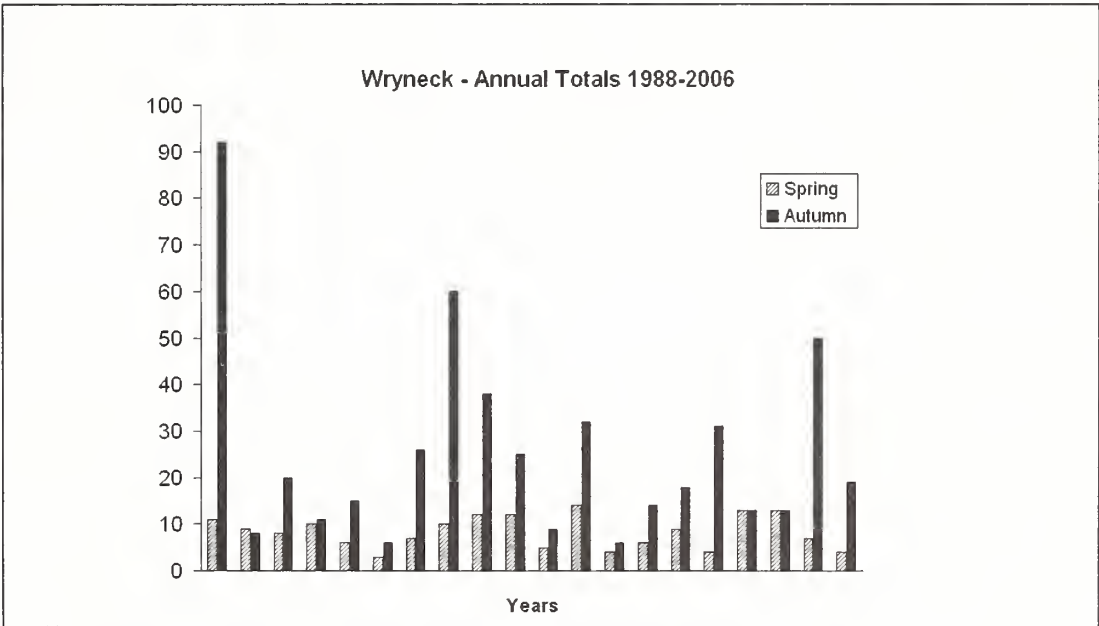
Wryneck (Eurasian Wryneck)

Jynx torquilla

Former breeder; now scarce annual passage migrant, mostly in autumn

A poor spring with only 4 records: April Yarmouth 15th, Hoe Rough 26th; May Dereham 2nd, Horsey 3rd.

Autumn passage was reasonable with 19-21 birds involved, half in three days Sept 16th-18th. All records: Aug Scolt Head 25th and 27th, Welney 27th; Sept Cranwich and Winterton 7th, Snettisham CP, Holme, Scolt Head (3), Burnham Norton, Warham Greens and Blakeney Point 16th, Scolt Head and Warham Greens 17th, Itteringham and Scratby 18th, Beeston Bump 21st, Winterton 22nd, Sheringham and Yarmouth 26th.



This former breeding species now only occurs as a scarce, but annual, passage migrant in both spring and autumn; numbers occurring are dependent on favourable winds during migration periods and most are thought to originate from declining populations in Scandinavia. There has been little change in numbers appearing during spring over the last 20 years; most occur between mid-April and mid-May, averaging at just over 8 per spring 1987-1996 and 7 in second 10 years, with best spring 14 in 1998. Autumn passage has averaged 30 in first 10 year period and 10 in second, best autumn was 1986 with at least 92. If one ignores this exceptional year there seems to have been little change in numbers occurring in the county over the last 20 years.

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

Resident

Reported from 44 sites including Beeston Regis where 3 pairs bred with a count of 4 at Fordham June 7th. NBA results showed the species was present in 67% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Common resident; birds of the northern race occasional in autumn

NBA results showed the species was present in 76% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Total of 14 coastal migrants: *Sept* 3 singles west West Runton 30th; *Oct* in off sea then west Sheringham 1st, in off sea and 2 west Holme 3rd, in off sea California 9th and other singles south 14th, 17th and 21st, in off sea Horsey and west West Runton also 14th, in off sea Beeston Bump 17th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos minor

Declining local resident

Recorded at 23 sites: Barnham Broom, Beetley, Blickling Park, Brancaster Thompson Farms, Cantley BF, Denver, Foxley, Holkham Park, Lynford Arboretum, Necton, New Costessey, North Elmham, Santon Downham, South Lopham, Stanford TA, Strumpshaw, Swanton Novers NNR, Thetford, Tottenhill GP, West Runton, West Tofts Mere, Weybourne and Wheatfen.

Sightings of more than one: pair Holkham Park Jan 12th and 16th, 2 West Runton Roman Camp March 3rd, 3 Strumpshaw March 21st, pair Stanford TA in April, pair displaying Santon Downham April 15th, 2 at Denver June 13th, female and juv in garden at Barnham Broom June 23rd-30th. Only sighting of year at Swanton Novers NNR in Little Wood Oct 9th.

The decline of this species is borne out by the NBA results which showed the species was present in only 3% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of only one pair per occupied tetrad.

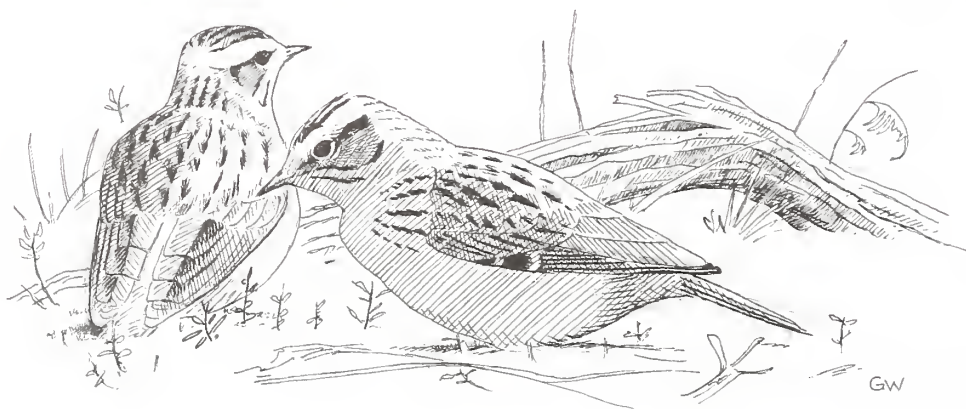
Woodlark

Lullula arborea

Uncommon migratory breeder, recently increasing; also scarce passage migrant

During first two months wintering flocks of 10 near Grime's Graves on barley stubble Jan 15th, 11 Feltwell on arable Jan 29th, 8 Stanford TA Feb 8th and 8 Ickburgh on set-a-side Feb 27th. No repeat of the large flocks present last year in Beechamwell area with just 2 reported Jan 11th.

Spring migration apparent from late March when reports from Winterton of (all south) one 27th, 2 28th and one 30th. At same time one west Overstrand 31st with further reports of migrants in April when (west unless stated) singles Brancaster Staithe and Winterton (north)



Woodlarks (Gary Wright)

13th, Scolt Head 19th, Muckleburgh Hill and Weybourne 20th, Scolt Head 21st and Winterton (north) 23rd. A late spring or early autumn migrant west Overstrand June 15th.

Singing males on territory reported from as early as Jan 23rd when one in north of county with further reports from Brecks Feb 11th and in west Feb 13th. By late Feb singing males widely reported. In Thetford Forest slight increase in breeding numbers after a decline of 48% over the five years since peak in 2000. A total of 287 singing males/pairs of which 158 in Norfolk. A total of 39 nests found throughout forest of which 27 successful, resulting in a min of 94 fledged young. Numbers of singing males/pairs from other parts of county: north 8, central 8, west 11. Fledged young noted at one site in north and one in central.

In Oct male singing still in north 13th whilst away from breeding areas reports of 3 Yarmouth 12th with another 23rd/24th, Holkham Meals 17th and Gorleston 25th. After this date no further reports received to end of year.

Skylark

Alauda arvensis

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Numbers in first winter period similar to 2005. Best totals: Jan 240 Tacolneston, 84 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 60 Choseley, 55 Sprowston and 50 Hickling Broad; Feb 66 Titchwell, 44 Warham SM and 41 Stiffkey SM. Only report of migration was 8 south in 2 hrs 30 mins Hunstanton April 1st.

More records relating to breeding than last year with singing males/pairs: 97 Scolt Head, 57 Blakeney Point, 40 Blakeney GM, 17 Cley, 20 on coastal strip west of Sheringham and 42 Sparham area. NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 12 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migration evident at Hunstanton and California from late Sept with totals south of 201 Sept 30th-Nov 10th and 153 Sept 26th-Nov 18th respectively. Best day counts elsewhere on coast: Oct 137 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 50 Titchwell 8th, 100 Holme 13th, 29 south Hunstanton in 2 hrs both 12th and 25th, and 46 south California 21st; Nov 47 west Sheringham 2nd, 123 west Holme 3rd, 238 west Holme, 220 (incl 80 north) Happisburgh 4th and 26 south in 3 hrs 30 mins Hunstanton 6th.

Highest counts in second winter period: Nov 180 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr; Dec 100 Sporle, 85 Needham and 50 Roydon Common.

Shore Lark (Horned Lark)

Eremophila alpestris

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; exceptional in summer

Scarce during first 3 months with only 6 at main wintering site of Holkham Bay until March 26th. Elsewhere recorded at just 2 sites with singles Salthouse Jan 1st and Overstrand Jan 13th. Reported more widely as spring migration got under way from March 31st when 6 south Yarmouth. In April noted Holkham Bay 3rd, Hunstanton GC 17th, and in May West Runton 9th and Titchwell 15th/16th.

First autumn returning bird Holme Oct 13th followed by further records in Oct of 2 south Blakeney Point and one Salthouse 14th, 2 Kelling WM 19th, inland at Hethel (with Skylarks) 20th, 2 Horsey and south California 21st, 2 Snettisham 23rd, 4 Kelling WM 25th, 4 Snettisham 26th (increasing to 6 on 28th), 2 Caister 26th-30th, west Sheringham 28th, 5 Holme 29th (until Nov 1st), 6 in off sea Overstrand 29th and 9 Titchwell 30th. Further movement Nov when 5 west Blakeney Point 2nd, 4 north Eccles 3rd, one west Sheringham 4th and 2 north California 19th.

In last two months of year noted much more widely than for several years with small groups remaining at several sites throughout period. At Snettisham 7 present Nov 1st

increased to 8 by 14th and 10 by Dec 10th. On north coast 8 Holkham Bay Nov 2nd increased to 17 by Dec 23rd, whilst on Blakeney Point 16 Nov 10th and Dec 2nd reduced to 9 by Dec 31st. At Caister 7 present from Nov 20th to end of year. Elsewhere at this time: Nov Breydon 2nd, 4 Cley 2nd increasing to 13 21st with 12 still 25th, 5 Salthouse 3rd with 14 29th and 7 still 30th, 3 Winterton 18th with 7 28th, 3 Horsey 19th, Burnham Norton 20th, 2 Blakeney GM 22nd and Yarmouth 26th; Dec 10 Salthouse 4th with 2 still 23rd, and Winterton 7 on 28th.

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Local migratory breeder and common passage migrant

First spring arrivals 4 Wroxham Broad March 17th. No reports then until 25th when 10 south Snettisham, 15 west Holme, Titchwell, west Sheringham GC, Horsey Mere and 3 Rockland Broad. Further March arrivals west Hunstanton and 4 Cromer 26th followed by widespread reports 27th when on coast 6 west Scolt Head, 9 west Brancaster Staithe, 5 Stiffkey Fen, 3 west Blakeney Point, 4 Cley and 5 west Weybourne, with inland reports of 220 Beetley, 30 Nar Valley Fisheries, 20 Tottenhill GP, 6 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 4 Fustyweed (Elsing), 4 Ormesby St Margaret and 2 Whitlingham CP. Good numbers at inland sites in final days of March with 100 Tottenhill GP 29th and 70 Rockland Broad 29th/30th.

Migration continued through April with best day counts Scolt Head of 1026 20th and 1052 on 25th. Elsewhere on coast 66 west Overstrand 13th, 23 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton on both 15th and 18th, 43 west Holme 21st, 54 south Heacham 22nd, 23 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton and 31 south 21 north Winterton 23rd, and 50 south in 1hr 30 mins Hunstanton, 450 west Holme, 150 west Brancaster Staithe and 29 west Blakeney Point 25th. Inland at this time gatherings of 150 Barton Broad 5th, 100 Pentney GP 10th, 250 Barton Broad 21st, 100 Filby Broad 28th, 200 Stanford Water 29th and 250 Hardley Flood 30th. Numbers moving tailed off in May with 232 west Scolt Head 3rd and inland only three-figure count 150 Blackborough End GP 13th. At Scolt Head spring total of 3071 west March 27th-May 18th.

Breeding records from just 3 sites with occupied burrows/pairs: 5-6 Pentney GP, 125 Beetley GP and 310 at 2 sites (170 and 140) Stanford TA. NBA results showed the species was present in 12% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 16 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Post breeding movements noted Scolt Head from June 12th when 6 west followed by 2 west 29th and in July (all west) 63 8th, 139 10th and 33 on 23rd. Also at this time notable gatherings Cley with 300 July 25th/26th, 200 29th, 300 Aug 1st and 200 2nd.

An early departure evident with few reports after mid-Aug. Only movements noted Aug when 43 west Scolt Head 19th, 10 west Holme 23rd and 5 south Hanworth Common 26th. Single figures only Sept when noted west Scolt Head (8) 6th, Horsey 20th and Cantley BF 21st and 25th (5). Usual stragglers Oct when west Sheringham and south California 9th, with final report of year Titchwell 19th.

Swallow (Barn Swallow)

Hirundo rustica

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

First reports March 25th when 2 Titchwell, one Cley and 2 Welney, the latter being earliest-ever record at site. Subsequently 2 Snettisham, Hunstanton, 2 west Sheringham and Cromer 26th, Terrington Marsh, 2 Titchwell, west Brancaster Staithe, west Blakeney Point, 4 Barton Turf and 2 Ingoldisthorpe 27th, 2 Snettisham, west Holme, west Scolt Head, Cley, west Sheringham, Sheringham Park, 2 Scratby, Colney GP and 2 west New Costessey 28th, 3 Snettisham, 2 Hunstanton, 2 Titchwell, 4 Warham, 4 Stiffkey and 2 Winterton 29th, Brancaster Staithe 30th and west there 31st.

Low numbers continued through first week April but from 8th migration increased with several three-figure counts during final fortnight. At Scolt Head total of 4544 west through month with highest counts 260 16th, 238 17th, 482 18th, 1046 20th, 1462 25th and 297 on 26th. At Hunstanton max 184 south in 2 hrs 18th. Elsewhere on coast reports of (all west) 50 Brancaster Staithe and 124 Overstrand 19th, and 850 Holme, 40 Brancaster Staithe and 83 Blakeney Point 25th. Inland counts during month of 30 Pentney GP 9th, and 300 Filby Broad and 55 Rollesby Broad 28th.

Heavy passage continued in May although at Scolt Head numbers poor compared with recent years; best day counts there (all west) 792 2nd, 4225 3rd, 263 5th, 178 15th, 113 17th and 73 28th. At other coastal sites 400 south Horsey (0600-0800) and 1462 south 157 north Winterton 3rd, 127 east Cromer, 300 south Horsey (0900-1100) and 1319 south 44 north Winterton 4th, 140 south Horsey (0700-0930) 6th and 419 south Winterton 8th. Last spring migrants noted early June Scolt Head when 400 west 3rd and 150 4th; at this site spring total 11,151 west March 27th-June 4th. At Winterton totals of 4254 south and 922 north March 30th-May 13th.

Breeding records included following pairs: 5 Blakeney Point where several young lost due to falling nests, 12 Caister stables, 3 Cley Coastguards, 7 Little London (Corpusty) and 106 Stanford TA. Most pairs seemed to be double brooded with at least 2 raising 3 broods. NBA results showed the species was present in 92% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

First post breeding coastal movement Scolt Head where 135 west July 20th with further passage in month (all west) of 163 22nd, 107 23rd and 98 27th. Also at this time 100 High Kelling July 29th. In Aug continued westerly passage noted Scolt Head with 275 6th, 177 25th and 168 26th, plus a feeding flock over island of 400 24th. Movement also evident elsewhere with 100 south Hickling 21st, 200 west (1630-1900) plus 100 in dunes Holme 23rd, 100 east (1330-1400) Salthouse 25th and 1000 west (1030-1300) Great Ryburgh 28th. Notable concentrations at this time of 300 Lynn Point 12th, 300 Cley and 80 roosting Boughton Fen 15th, 80 Ranworth Broad and 500 roosting Burgh Castle 21st, 150 on wires Hickling, 100 Harpley Dams and a mixed hirundine flock of 850 Welney 22nd, and 200 Holme 26th.

Marked passage throughout Sept when counts west at Scolt Head of 318 6th, 220 18th, 150 19th, 172 20th and 158 28th, and at Holme 100 west 1st, 175 7th, 200 10th and 100 28th. In east of county notable movement of 648 south Caister and a large roost of 1250 Horsey Mere both 1st. Other three-figure gatherings in month of 100 Holkham GM and 315 roosting Brayden Marshes (Horsey) 28th. Oct began with 200 south Sea Palling and 400 Welney 1st, but 23 west Scolt Head next day was last double-figure count of year. Apart from 8 in off sea Titchwell 16th and 9 south Breydon 21st all other records in month were of singles. Sightings of late individuals continued into Nov when noted Blakeney and Waxham (2) 5th, Brancaster Staithe (2) 10th and Holme 16th. A series of very late records, including several inland sightings Dec at Great Witchingham 4th, Walcott 8th, Little Plumstead 15th, Blofield Heath 17th and last of year Blakeney 18th.

House Martin

Delichon urbicum

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

First of year Titchwell March 25th with another there 27th on which date also 6 Cley, 2 Barton Turf Fen and 2 Strumpshaw. Further March records Scratby and Tottenhill GP 28th, 3 Hunstanton and 2 Tottenhill GP 29th, 2 west Sheringham 30th and Sheringham GC 31st. Single figures only during first fortnight April when highest counts 5 south Hunstanton and 6 west Scolt Head 13th. Numbers picked up from 17th when 13 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton with

30 south in 2 hrs following day. Rest of month saw counts at Scolt Head of (all west) 51 21st, 51 25th and 39 26th. Inland at this time 100 Filby Broad 28th and 50 Tottenhill GP 29th. In May passage much lighter than at corresponding time last year with totals west at Scolt Head of 163 2nd, 870 3rd, 98 5th, 189 15th, 104 18th and 237 29th, and at Hunstanton (south) 103 in 4 hrs 3rd, 51 in 2 hrs 30 mins 5th and 97 in 2 hrs on 15th. Elsewhere 60 south Horsey 3rd was only other coastal count submitted. Westerly movement continued in June at Scolt Head with highest total 100 3rd; here spring total of 2205 west April 8th-June 24th. At Winterton totals of 216 south and 96 north April 17th-May 13th.

Min breeding totals of occupied nests/pairs: 6 Edgefield, 10 Fleggburgh, 30 Great Ryburgh, 17 Hickling, 8 Hindringham, 20 Horning Hall, 15 Oby, 6 Old Catton, 4 Shernbourne, 8 South Creake, 13 Gooderstone Warren Farm and 6 Wroxham. In addition 69 possible nests at Doddshill St George's School and at Aylmerton good numbers throughout summer and early autumn. Only report regarding breeding success from Hindringham where all nests had only one brood, with each fledging 2 young, even although adults present until Oct 4th. NBA results showed the species was present in 77% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Large gatherings during summer months: *July* 150 High Kelling 29th; *Aug* 120 West Acre 4th, 150 Cockley Cley 12th, 70 Old Catton 17th, 200 Cley 19th and 425 Cantley BF 31st. Further congregations early Sept when 500 feeding over Swanton Novers Great Wood and 300 Winterton 2nd, and 100 Holme 10th.

First reports of birds on return passage Aug 1st when 500 west Great Ryburgh with 400 west there both 4th and 25th. At Scolt Head movement noted from Aug 10th when 197 west followed by (all west) 77 11th and 41 20th. At other coastal sites during month 820/hr (0630-1030) Paston 20th and 150 east (1330-1400) Salhouse 25th. Very little visible migration Sept/Oct with Scolt Head reporting a very poor Sept with highest counts of 55 west 2nd and 77 west 20th, and birds noted as being very scarce at Beeston Bump in Oct with just 7 on 10th. The most significant report came from California where totals of 523 south and 17 north Sept 1st-Oct 22nd. Widespread reports during Nov mainly of singles until third week when 3 Cromer 21st/22nd, 3 Bacton 22nd and 7 Cromer 25th increasing to 9 on 27th with 3 still 28th. Reports continued into Dec with individuals Cromer 1st-8th, Hunstanton 2nd, Aylmerton 4th and last of year Holkham GM 16th.

Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica

Vagrant from southern Europe

Four coastal records, none of which lingered: west Scolt Head May 3rd (NML), Burnham Overy Staithe May 13th (PCL), west Beeston Bump Sept 28th (GED) and west Cley Nov 7th (S&PM).

Richard's Pipit

Anthus novaeseelandiae

Virtually annual autumn migrant from western Siberia; rare in spring and winter

One spring record at Burnham Overy Dunes May 3rd (JRMc).

Numbers in autumn poor with only twenty records, all of single birds, with majority seen briefly or as flyovers, so some possibility of duplication. First at Blakeney Point Sept 16th, then Waxham and Cley 17th, and latter site again 24th. During Oct reported from Yarmouth 2nd and 17th, Burnham Overy Dunes and Burnham Overy Staithe 10th, Scolt Head and Waxham 11th, Salhouse and West Runton 15th, Wells Greens and Weybourne 17th, California 21st, Sheringham 28th and Horsey 29th. Two Nov records at Sheringham 15th and Haddiscoe Island 19th.

Tawny Pipit

Anthus campestris

Scarce migrant from southern Europe

Two records: Sheringham BO May 8th/9th (APB *et al*) and Blakeney Point Sept 14th (AMS *et al*).

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

First returning coastal migrants noted Overstrand April 2nd (3) and Kelling WM April 9th, with a singing bird back on territory at Thetford Olly's Farm 4th. Birds then recorded almost daily April 15th-May 10th at various coastal localities. Larger numbers as follows: *April* 12 west Scolt Head 20th, 3 west 23rd and 14 west 25th, 4 Kelling Heath 25th, 3 Hunstanton GC 26th; *May* 18 south Hunstanton 3rd, 7 south 4th and 9 south 5th, 12 west Scolt Head 3rd and 4 west 5th, 3 south Horsey 3rd, 3 Winterton 7th. Elsewhere 1-2 also recorded at Beeston Bump, Blakeney Point, Burnham Overy Dunes, Cley, Cromer, Holkham Meals, Holme, Hopton, Horsey, Overstrand, Snettisham CP, Titchwell, Waxham and Weybourne. Last migrants Scolt Head, with singles west 13th and 15th.

Singing males/territories during breeding season: Brettenham Heath, Thetford Olly's Farm, Croxton Heath (4), Cranwich (4), Dersingham Bog (8), Grimes Graves, Kelling Heath (2), Roydon Common (7), Sandringham Cats Bottom (2), Weybourne Heath (3) and Wolferton. NBA results showed the species was present in 6% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage commenced Paston Aug 19th, followed by singles over Holme 23rd, Blakeney Point 26th and Breydon 27th. During Sept notable numbers 16th/17th when 3 Holme, 5 Scolt Head, 2 Blakeney Point, 5 Waxham, 3 Winterton and one Breydon. Subsequent singles Winterton 18th/19th, Holme 22nd and 24th, and latest Burnham Overy Dunes 25th.

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Locally common migratory breeder and passage migrant with small numbers in winter

Largest flocks in first winter period 80 Kelling WM, 67 Feltwell Anchor, 51 Saham Toney Hills and 50 Great Walsingham.

Return passage evident from early March with 47 Holkham Bay 18th and 60 Holme 25th. As usual good numbers noted moving over coastal sites including an exceptional total of 24,833 west Scolt Head during April, including 5236 19th and 6827 on 20th. Elsewhere counts of note included total of 3765 west Overstrand March 14th-April 23rd with 305 March 29th, and in April 780 1st, 368 7th, 379 11th and 393 on 23rd. At Hunstanton 1928 south March 26th-April 26th, including 269 April 12th and 225 on 15th.

Elsewhere notable counts included 250 west Holme March 28th, 122 west Beeston Bump April 16th with 342 west there 18th and 292 west 19th, 395 west Holme April 21st and 1850 west Sheringham (0530-1100) April 23rd. Latest spring migrants 8 west Scolt Head May 3rd. By comparison passage light on eastern part of coast with only 160 (87 north 73 south) Winterton March 26th-April 30th.

Singing males/breeding pairs during breeding season: 103 Scolt Head, 84 Blakeney Point, 26 Welney and 10 at Blakeney GM, Brancaster GM and Cley. NBA results showed the species was present in 33% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Largest post breeding flocks: *July* 80 Scolt Head; *Aug* 120 Scolt Head, 60 Blakeney Point; *Sept* 215 Caister, 200 Waxham, 66 Holkham Bay; *Oct* 250 Scolt Head, 120 Roydon Common, 50 Holkham Bay.

Overhead passage in autumn commenced early Sept, numbers increasing mid-month. Best sites: *Hunstanton* 335 south Sept 30th-Nov 10th with max 73 in 2 hrs Sept 30th; *Scolt Head* 93 west with further 250 in off the sea Sept 17th and (all west) 159 18th, 218 20th, 135 28th, 101 29th and 97 Oct 3rd; *California* total 3366 (3331 south 35 North) Sept 11th-Nov 24th with peaks (all south) 504 Sept 20th, 812 24th and 526 27th. Other counts: Waxham (all south) 105 Sept 17th and 115 23rd, 110 south Winterton Sept 30th, and Holme (all west) 100 Oct 13th and 50 Nov 3rd.

Only flock of note at end of year 98 Welney Dec 18th.

Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus

Winter visitor and passage migrant, most probably of the Scandinavian race littoralis

Under-recorded in first winter period (Jan-March) with highest counts 107 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 30 Holkham Bay, 15 Titchwell, 10 Thornham Hbr, 7 Breydon and 5 Wells Hbr. Inland singles Felbrigg March 19th and Pentney GP April 9th, with latest Scolt Head April 16th and 20th.

First returning migrants in Sept when one Blakeney Point 16th, 3 west Scolt Head 17th, one east Sheringham 23rd, 2 west Holme 28th and at California total of 17 south 5 north Sept 24th-Nov 10th, max 3 per day. During Oct/Nov other passage counts: at Holme (all west) 16 Oct 10th and 27 13th with 10 Nov 2nd, 8 4th and 7 on 17th, 19 south Hunstanton in 2 hrs Oct 11th, and 4 south Horsey Oct 14th with 5 south 21st. Inland 2 Cantley BF Oct 21st with one Nov 19th. Only counts on coastal saltmarsh of 135 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Oct 8th with 85 there Nov 25th.



Rock Pipit (Martin Woodcock)

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Local winter visitor

In first winter period total of around 65 reported from 18 localities, including 17 Buckenham Marshes, 9 Strumpshaw, 8 Horning Hall Marshes, 5 South Walsham, 4 Claxton Marshes, 3 Potter Heigham, 3 Titchwell, and 1-2 Barton Turf Fen, Belton Marshes, Cantley Marshes, Cley, Hickling Broad, Hockwold Washes, How Hill Reedham Marshes, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, St Benet's Level and Welney. In April birds noted at 3 sites, 2 Hickling Swim Coots 2nd, single Pentney GP 9th/10th and 3 Buckenham 11th.

First back in autumn Hickling Swim Coots Sept 22nd, followed by others during Oct at Upton Marshes 1st, Hickling Rush Hills 11th, Cley 17th and Strumpshaw 26th. Best site Nov/Dec Strumpshaw with peak count of 15 Nov; elsewhere during this period 5 Haddiscoe Island, 5 Johnson Street Buttle Marshes, 4 Cantley BF, 3 Hickling Rush Hills and 1-2 Buckenham Marshes, Cantley Marshes, Cley, Hickling Swim Coots, How Hill and Salthouse.

Citrine Wagtail

Motacilla citreola

Vagrant from western Russia and Siberia

One Stiffkey Fen Sept 4th (SJA), bringing the county total to seven and recorded for third year in succession.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Yellow Wagtail *M (f) flavissima*

Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant

First arrivals Snettisham March 25th, west Sheringham and 7 south Snettisham 26th, and Heacham 27th, followed by singles at five localities to April 6th. Light spring passage started April 11th when one Hunstanton and 7 west Scolt Head 12th, followed by 6 south Hunstanton 13th, 5 Snettisham CP, 12 west Scolt Head and 3 Cley 14th, 40 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton 15th, 10 Cley 16th and 7 Pentney GP 17th. Main passage: *18th* 18 Titchwell, 60 Blakeney GM, 12 west Overstrand, 65 Waxham and 250 pre-roost Hockwold Washes; *19th* 20 Holme, 12 Titchwell, 54 west Scolt Head, 17 west Beeston Bump, 22 west Overstrand, 20 Waxham and 10 Wissington BF; *20th* 31 west Holme, 151 west Scolt Head, 40 Felbrigg, 26 Waxham and 14 Pentney GP; *21st* 35 west Scolt Head, 33 Waxham and 23 Pentney GP; *22nd* 29 Ken Hill Marsh, 60 west Holme and 21 Waxham; *23rd* 16 Snettisham CP, 58 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton, 74 west Scolt Head, 73 west (0530-0930) Sheringham, 35 Beeston Regis-West Runton, 44 west West Runton, 20 west Paston and 30 Waxham; *24th* 51 Waxham; *25th* large movement saw 120 Snettisham CP, 60 south Hunstanton, 210 west Holme, 26 Titchwell, 377 west Scolt Head, 20 west Brancaster Staithe, 65 west Blakeney Point, 75 Blakeney FM, 60 Cley, 25 west Weybourne, 144 west Overstrand, 20 west Paston, 51 Waxham and 12 Wissington BF; *26th* 100 south Hunstanton, 21 west Scolt Head, 31 west 2 east Overstrand and 29 Waxham; *27th* 60 Holkham GM; *28th* 35 Holkham GM.

Passage continued to May 28th with best counts 32 south in 2 hrs Hunstanton and 20 west Scolt Head 2nd, 56 south in 4 hrs Hunstanton and 86 west Scolt Head 3rd, 21 south in 2 hrs 30 mins Hunstanton and 37 west Scolt Head 5th, and 21 west Scolt Head 17th. At Scolt Head spring total 986 west April 11th-June 6th.

Confirmed breeding pairs at 10 localities: Berney 2, Brancaster Thompson Farms, Burnham Market, Cantley Marshes 5-6, Choseley several, mid-Yare RSPB 12, Terrington Marsh 6, Upton Marshes, Welney 9, Wissington BF. Breeding suspected at two other sites. NBA results showed the species was present in 15% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad.

No July movements recorded. Best Aug counts 100 Welney 8th, 244 Burgh Castle Glebe Marsh reedbed roost 21st and 25 Cley 22nd.

Light Sept passage with only double-figure counts 12 Cley and 12 Wissington roost 6th, 10 Snettisham 10th and 15 Holme 15th. In Oct singles Winterton 1st, west Brancaster Staithe 12th, west Sheringham and West Runton 14th, Kelling WM and Sheringham 15th, 4 North Wootton 19th and one Holme 22nd.

Blue-headed Wagtail *M (f) flava*

Regular migrant from continental Europe, mainly in spring

A good spring movement compared with recent years April 15th-May 14th associated as usual with main Yellow Wagtail passage. Mainly 1-3 at 18 localities totalling 55 birds, the exceptions being 5 Waxham April 18th with 6 there 19th, and 4 Blakeney GM 25th.

Two autumn singles, Cley Aug 24th and Earsham Sept 22nd/23rd.

Grey-headed Wagtail *M (f) thunbergi*

Scarce spring migrant from North Fenno-Scandia

Just 5 singles in May, at West Runton 6th, Hopton 10th, West Runton again 13th, Titchwell 14th/15th and Cley 20th.

Ashy-headed Wagtail *M (f) cinereocapilla*

Rare spring migrant from Italy/southern France

Single birds showing characteristics of this race Pentney GP April 9th/10th (DEB PMW *et al*) and Cley 25th (MAG *et al*).

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Local breeder, fairly common passage migrant, less common in winter

Mainly singles recorded at just 20 localities Jan/Feb, 15 down on 2005. In March light spring passage of singles at just 7 coastal localities with 2 south Hunstanton 26th.

Birds on territories from early April with at least 18 confirmed breeding pairs (again a reduction in numbers, with 4 down on 2005): Bayfield Hall, Bintree Mill, Buckenham Tofts (3), Corpusty, Cringleford Mill, Ebridge Mill, Guist Common, Gunton Park, Langford Bridge, Nar Valley Fisheries, Santon Downham, Sparham (2), Stoke Holy Cross Mill, Thetford Nunnery and Thompson Water. At least 15 more pairs at traditional and other suitable localities where some may have bred. NBA results showed the species was present in 8% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Post breeding dispersal noted from second week Sept, with a steady but light passage throughout month at mainly north and east coast localities; mainly singles with 2 Winterton 17th, 2 west Scolt Head 18th, 2 west Brancaster Staithe 27th and 3 west Scolt Head 30th. The light passage continued throughout Oct, still mainly singles but 3 Sidestrand 15th, 6 Holme and 2 west Brancaster Staithe 16th, and 3 south California 20th.

In second winter period recorded at just 18 widespread localities Nov/Dec.

White/Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Pied Wagtail *M (a) yarrellii*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

At beginning of year 100 roosted Hoveton Riverside Shopping Centre Jan 2nd with 60 on 10th, 486 Feb 23rd and 200 March 2nd. Roosts elsewhere: 150 in tidal reedbed Brancaster Hbr Jan 4th, 95 Norwich Rampant Horse St 22nd, 105 25th, 100 Feb 1st and 143 8th, 15 ringed from a roost at Weybourne Jan 31st, 118 Titchwell Feb 14th, 200 Norwich Drayton Rd March 1st and 55 Hickling Weavers Way 22nd. Other notable winter gatherings 60 Cley STW Jan 15th and 45 Hickling 29th.

Main westerly spring passage from late March with 42 Overstrand 25th, 17 Hunstanton, 43 Sheringham and 27 Overstrand 26th, 18 Overstrand 27th and 21 28th, 6 Cromer 29th and 18 30th, 19 also Overstrand 30th, 10 Cromer and 11 Overstrand 31st. Equivalent southerly

movement at Hunstanton in April where 23 on 1st in 2 hrs 30 mins followed by 2 hour counts of 11 2nd, 16 15th, 12 18th and 11 on 23rd. Also total of 151 *alba* wagtails west Scolt Head in April.

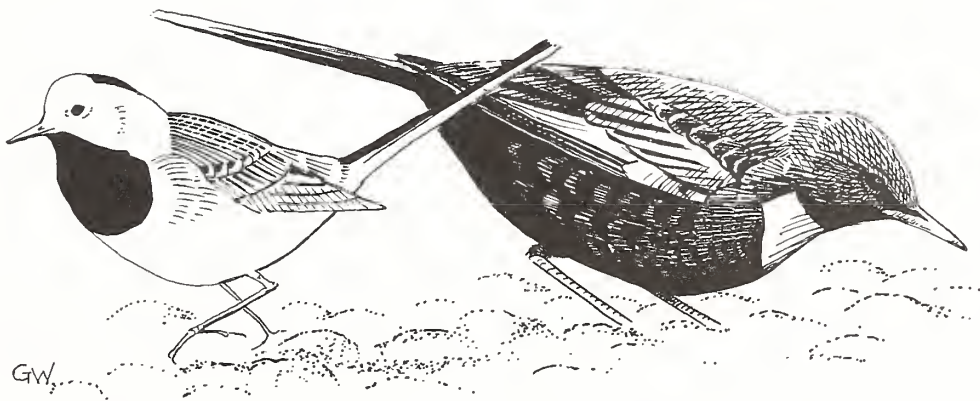
Other notable April movements/gatherings: 18 Pentney GP 3rd, 60 4th, 23 5th and 16 10th, and 84 roosting in reedbed Thetford Nunnery Lakes 27th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Summer/autumn counts of note: 62 Scolt Head July 16th, 40 Hickling Rush Hills and 50 on farmland Thornham Farms 28th, 40 Cley 30th, 46 Aug 28th and 50 Sept 11th, 70 Hickling Broad Aug 1st until mid-month when forced off by rising water levels, 18 Frettenham 8th, 80 Cantley BF 26th, 145 Hickling Swim Coots Sept 4th, 350 in reedbed roost Brancaster Hbr 20th and 54 Waxham 23rd.

Only autumn movements noted at California where 127 south and 6 north Sept 20th-Nov 10th, with peak of 16 south Oct 9th.

The Norwich Rampant Horse St roost remained unoccupied at end of year. Elsewhere 180 Cley Nov 5th, 108 6th and 161 11th, a peak of 170 in two trees in Norwich Rose Lane Dec 7th but deserted by Christmas, 50 Wymondham STW Dec 7th and 80 in reedbed Brancaster Hbr 23rd. Other gatherings 34 Waxham Nov 6th, 36 Wissington BF 12th, 25 Cley 14th, 28 in beetfield Brancaster Thompson Farms 27th and 30 in cut beetfields Sharrington Dec 26th.



White Wagtail and Ring Ouzel (Gary Wright)

White Wagtail *M (a) alba*

Regular passage migrant from continental Europe; has bred

A single Breydon March 4th was earliest since 1997, other than the exceptionally early bird at Sheringham Feb 13th 1998, which was considered a very early migrant and not a winter record. No more until singles Aylmerton and Sheringham 19th followed by main spring passage March 24th-May 6th of up to 217 birds. Mainly 1-5 at 35 localities but 10 Heacham and 12 Waxham April 18th, 18 Scolt Head 20th and 6 there 23rd, 7 Titchwell 20th, 6 west Scolt Head and 7 Sheringham 25th, with 8 Stiffkey Fen May 1st. Just two further May occurrences, single Snettisham 13th and a pair nest building at Paston on 15th but not seen after that date; in June one Cley 25th.

In autumn a good series of sightings at Hickling Broad, where single adult males Aug 6th-10th, 13th-16th and 27th with 2 on Sept 7th; also one Cley Sept 6th.

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing)*Bombycilla garrulus****Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor***

Less numerous in first winter period than at corresponding time last year with only one flock exceeding 20 and few others in double figures. Highest totals: *Jan* 25 Yarmouth Gapton Hall Ind Est 11th-14th, 10 Norwich Edinburgh Rd 4th, 10 Catfield Sharp Street Fen 26th, 10 How Hill Reedham Marshes 30th, 9 Bowthorpe 31st, 8 Malthouse Broad/Ranworth Broad 20th and 7 Hellesdon 15th/16th; *Feb* 10 Horning Hall Marshes 10th, 9 Norwich Edinburgh Road area to 19th and 8 Colney GP 27th; *March* 16 Thorpe St Andrew Dussingdale Drive 2nd-26th, 8 Norwich Earlham Road 8th and 6 Horning 12th. Other sites where reported Jan-March: Beetley, Brumstead, Grimston, Hillington, Holme, Horning, How Hill Staithe, Marsham, Norwich Liberator Road, Postwick, Rackheath, Reedham, Stalham, Strumpshaw, Titchwell, Watlington, Welney, Weybourne and Winterton. Few reports thereafter with just singles Aylmerton April 13th and King's Lynn April 24th.

First records in second half of year Nov 3rd when one Stiffkey Fen and 3 Downham Market, increasing to 5 on 6th. Small numbers only through rest of Nov with 2 Burnham Deepdale 5th and singles Titchwell 8th, Snettisham 10th and Titchwell Village 12th-15th. None reported Dec until 14th when 2 Outwell followed by one west along north coast 18th, being noted at Wells, Holkham Meals and Titchwell. More records over Christmas period when 3 Overstrand 21st increasing to 5 on 24th and 6 25th. A flock of 10, largest of period, was at Thornham 26th with 6 High Kelling 28th/29th and 5 Cromer 31st. Also at this time singles Brancaster Staithe 22nd, Kelling and Kelling WM 28th, and Cley and Holme 29th.

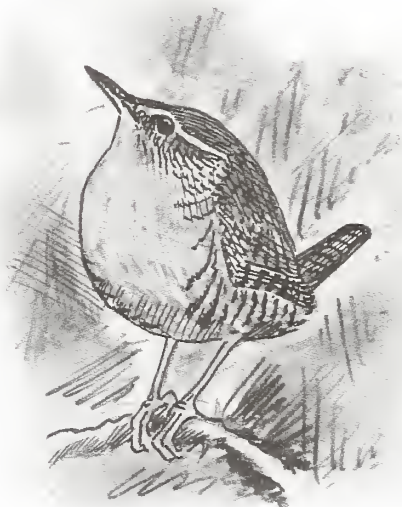
Dipper (White-throated Dipper)*Cinclus cinclus****Almost annual winter visitor in very small numbers***

An unusual record of a bird circling high then heading off east early morning Overstrand April 19th (BJM) only report of year.

Wren (Winter Wren)*Troglodytes troglodytes****Very common resident and passage migrant in small numbers***

Breeding records of territories/pairs/singing males (2005 totals in brackets): 4 Blakeney Point, 26 Brancaster GM, 69 Dersingham Bog (27), 47 Scolt Head (40), 66 Swanton Novers NNR (80). NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 20 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn counts from Scolt Head where 35 Sept 16th and Holme where peak count 15 Oct 12th.



Wren
(Andy Benson)

Dunnock

Prunella modularis

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn

In early spring interesting report from Kettlestone where 5 new 1st-winter birds ringed March 29th. Most resident birds at site already ringed so likely that these were birds on passage. The ringer also commented that it is unusual that 1st-winter birds can be aged so readily this late in winter.

Breeding data of territories/pairs/singing males (2005 totals in brackets): 9 Blakeney Point (10), 5 Brancaster GM, 13 Dersingham Bog, 60 Scolt Head (62). NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 8 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migrants noted Sept at Scolt Head where (all west) 7 11th, 7 17th and 9 29th, with 75 present 16th. At California totals of 66 south and 5 north Sept 11th-Oct 21st with best day counts of (all south) 11 Sept 27th and 7 on each of Sept 23rd and 30th, and Oct 5th and 13th. Only other reports from Holme where 20 Oct 14th and 10 Nov 2nd.

Robin (European Robin)

Erithacus rubecula

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn

Very few discernable spring migrants, in April 3 Blakeney Point 15th and at Scolt Head 3 22nd and 4 25th.

Breeding: 42 territories Dersingham Bog and 102 Swanton Novers NNR, also 9 pairs Brancaster GM and 27 Hoveton Hall. NBA results showed the species was present in 96% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 15 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage evident Sept 16th-Nov 10th mostly counts up to 10, but pronounced influx along north coast Oct 8th-18th with peaks of 19 Muckleburgh Hill 8th, 35 Cley 11th, 22 California Cliffs 13th, 100 Holme, 35 Burnham Overy Dunes and 35 Blakeney Point 14th, 25 Wells East Hills 15th and 28 Winterton 18th.

Nightingale (Common Nightingale)

Luscinia megarhynchos

Local migratory breeder and very scarce passage migrant

After last year's early arrivals a return to more usual pattern with first returning bird Pentney GP April 16th, followed by other singles Salthouse Heath 18th, Holme and Hockwold Washes 19th, and at 8 other sites by month end with max 6 Salthouse Heath on 26th; singles Hunstanton GC May 5th and Wiveton 7th possibly on passage.

Between May 1st and June 14th singing males on breeding territories at Barnhamcross Common, Hilborough, Narborough (3), Pentney GP (5), Pott Row, Roydon Common, Salthouse Heath (5), Sheringham Park, Stanford TA (2), Stoke Ferry (2), Strumpshaw, Swanton Novers NNR, Thetford, West Acre (4), West Bilney and Wormegay. NBA results showed the species was present in 7% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Single autumn record of Nightingale sp Winterton Aug 26th.

Bluethroat (Red-spotted Bluethroat)

Luscinia svecica

Scarce passage migrant

Single seen briefly Titchwell Oct 16th; only the fifth record in past 5 years.

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

Rare migratory breeder, regular passage migrant and occasional in winter

In first winter period singles Heacham-Hunstanton Jan 7th-end Feb and Wolferton Jan 28th/29th. Notable increase in March with singles at 9 sites and 2 Eccles on 31st. Passage in April and early May (to 7th) produced singles at 16 sites and 2 at 3 other sites in April, Paston 9th, Horsey 15th and Yarmouth 20th. At latter site 3 pairs present during summer and 2 young raised successfully.

Midsummer records of singles Blakeney Point June 11th, Holme and Hunstanton July 14th, Titchwell 16th, Tilney All Saints 17th and Heacham 28th, and in early Aug Frettenham 1st and Hindringham 6th. At Beeston Bump single Aug 3rd-Oct 3rd with 2 Sept 10th and 16th, possibly indicating breeding nearby?

Autumn passage very light with up to 2 at 21 sites most on Oct 15th/16th when max 5 Scolt Head and 4 Eccles on 16th. In second winter period singles Caister Nov 9th and Cromer Dec 20th and 31st.

Redstart (Common Redstart)

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Local migratory breeder (most in Brecks), common passage migrant

First of year singles at Holme and Sheringham April 14th, followed by Paston 15th, Thetford 16th, Eaton 18th and Winterton 19th; passage to end of May light with singles at 12 sites max 2 Holme 21st and 3 Snettisham CP 22nd.

At East Wretham Heath 4 April 30th with 2 singing males present during May and early Aug; elsewhere singing male Felbrigg May 16th and throughout spring Brettenham Heath. One pair bred Swanton Novers NNR and in Brecks 50+ pairs Stanford TA maintains the high numbers present in 2005.

Single midsummer record away from breeding areas Buxton Heath July 21st.

Autumn passage fairly light beginning Aug 13th with single Holme and 2 Scolt Head, continuing with singles at 14 sites and small influx Sept 12th-17th with 6 Blakeney Point 12th increasing to 10 on 16th (max for autumn), 6 Scolt Head, 6 Burnham Overy Dunes, 3 Sheringham and 4 West Runton 16th, and 6 Holme 17th. Last of year single Cley Oct 17th.

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Common passage migrant; has bred in past

Earliest Holme April 14th and Cley 15th, almost a week ahead of main passage from 21st (Kelling WM); passage from then to May 25th very light with up to 3 at 24 sites with max 5 West Runton May 3rd, 8 Scolt Head 4th and 4 West Runton 15th.

Autumn passage began almost a week later than in recent years with single inland at Castle Acre and 2 Blakeney Point Aug 13th. Movements mostly in low numbers (up to 7) at 35 sites, mainly along north and east coasts peaking Sept 10th-16th, with 8 Blakeney Point 10th, 20 Holme 12th, 10 Caister GC and 8 Happisburgh 15th, and 14 Scolt Head 16th. Subsequently 8 Holme 23rd and 9 Eccles 26th. Elsewhere inland Sparham Aug 27th, Roydon Common Sept 8th, Aylmerton 17th and Welney Oct 16th. Last of year Cley Oct 17th.



Whinchat (Alan Burtenshaw)

European Stonechat *S (t) hibernans****Small but increasing breeding population; regular passage migrant, local in winter***

During first winter period pairs present at 17 sites and singles at 15 other mainly coastal sites; inland present Blackborough End, Fincham, Hockwold Washes, King's Lynn BF, Potter Heigham, Roydon Common (max 4), Setchey and Welney.

Passage in March and early April fairly light with up to 4 at 17 sites and max 5 Horsey 8th, 6 Holme 14th and 5 Kelling 15th. As in previous years most birds on territory by mid-April; individuals considered to be *S t rubicola* Titchwell March 25th and 3 Horsey 29th.

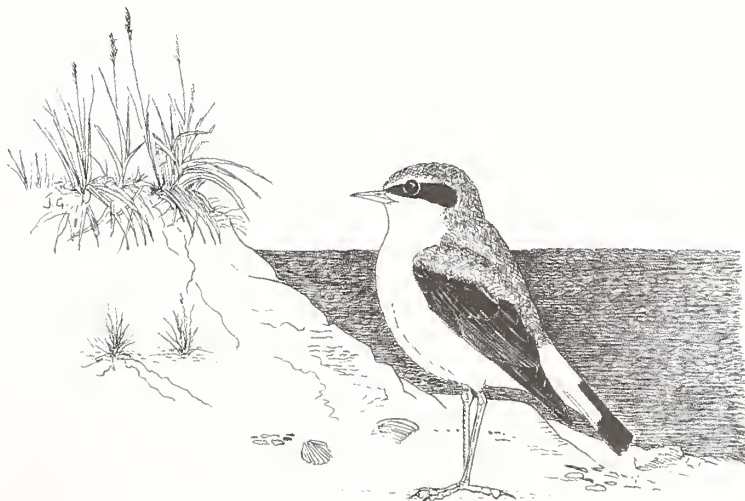
In breeding season widely reported and breeding population of 41 pairs/territories, almost equalling that in 2005: Cranwich Heath, Dersingham Bog (2), Grime's Graves (2), Horsey Gap-Waxham (3), Kelling Heath (2), Roydon Common (3), Stanford TA (10+) and Titchwell; in Thetford Forest 30 pairs, 17 in Norfolk. One pair with fledged young at Dersingham Bog on relatively early date of May 20th; polygamy (male + 2 females) recorded at Dersingham Bog and Thetford Forest.

Autumn passage began with singles Blakeney Point Aug 10th and 2 Holme 13th; passage very light or unremarkable with up to 3 at 22 sites and max 9 Horsey Sept 20th, 5 Holme Oct 13th, 6 Thornham 17th and 5 Sheringham 28th. In second winter period present at 19 coastal and 11 inland sites, peaks of 5 Scolt Head Nov 5th, 8 Welney 6th and 6 Roydon Common Dec 1st.

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)*Oenanthe oenanthe****Increasingly rare migratory breeder and common passage migrant***

One at Holme March 24th was first of year, slightly later than in recent years, but quickly followed by another Salthouse 25th and 12 Sheringham 26th ahead of small influx 28th/29th with peaks of 9 Holme, 8 Cley, 7 Salthouse, 6 Kelling WM and 13 West Runton.

Widespread passage April and May with first influx mostly April 21st-25th with peaks of 55 Snettisham CP, 23 Titchwell, 27 Scolt Head, 15 Stiffkey, 21 Cley, 20 Salthouse Heath, 86 Sheringham, 47 West Runton, 25 Overstrand, 38 Paston, 26 Winterton and 19 Yarmouth. Second main influx May 3rd/4th including 11 Hunstanton GC, 33 Scolt Head, 10 Blakeney Point, 43 West Runton, 15 Eccles and 14 Caister GC. Late singles Scolt Head June 2nd-11th with 2 on 10th, and a very late individual Salthouse 25th. In breeding season up to 6 pairs at Stanford TA, a slight increase on recent years.



Wheatear (John Geeson)

First of autumn singles Snettisham July 29th, Holme Aug 7th and Blakeney Point 10th; passage during rest of Aug fairly light with up to 3 at 12 sites and 5 Sheringham 13th. Main movement Sept 15th-17th with peaks of 21 Scolt Head, 50 Blakeney Point, 10 Cley, 23 West Runton, 50 Happisburgh, 19 Eccles and 13 Winterton. Following 6 Blakeney Point Oct 11th most passage over by 20th with only singles to end of month. In Nov singles Waxham 4th and Caister 12th.

Rock Thrush (Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush)

Moticola saxatalis

Vagrant from southern Europe

2004 Correction: One Blakeney Point May 1st now considered not proven after re-consideration by BBRC.

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; exceptional in winter

First of spring Paston March 28th quickly followed by singles Holme, Nar Valley Fisheries and North Walsham following day. At a further 12 mainly coastal sites 1-2 present in first half of April with main movement from 15th when highest counts 6 Cromer, Overstrand and Sheringham, and 5 Beeston Bump and Holme. A singing bird Dersingham Bog 18th. Second wave of migrants 20th-23rd when peak counts 13 Holme, and 9 Beeston Bump and Salhouse Heath. Continued movement into May when 1-3 at a further 12 sites with last of spring Sheringham 13th/14th. In spring recorded inland at: Aylmerton, Blickling, Bodney Camp, Burgh Castle, Burnham Thorpe, Cantley BF, Dersingham Bog, Felbrigg, Glandford, Hickling, Little Barningham, Nar Valley Fisheries, North Walsham, Potter Heigham, Ringstead, Roydon Common, Stowbridge, Sustead and Upton Broad.

Autumn passage from Oct 7th when single Brancaster Thompson Farms. Main passage from mid-month with peak counts 15th/16th when 10 Wells East Hills, 8 Blakeney Point, 5 California, and 4 Trimingham and Holkham Meals. With exception of 5 Holme 25th just 1-2 at a further 8 sites during rest of month. Three late birds in Nov: Horsey 8th, and North Walsham and Walcott 9th.

Blackbird (Common Blackbird)

Turdus merula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Only evidence of return passage 35 Waxham March 27th, 3 Scolt Head April 2nd and one there May 4th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 26 pairs per occupied tetrad; at Hoveton Hall 17 pairs, up from 15 in 2005.

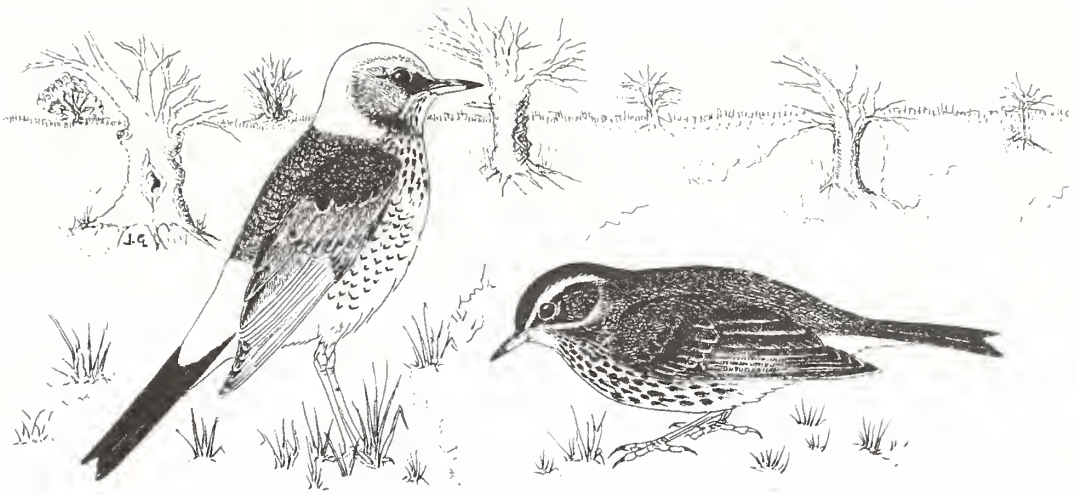
Coastal passage from Oct 11th when 40 Blakeney Point followed by 50 Holme, 112 California and 44 Caister next day. Increase in numbers from mid-month when 300 west Wells East Hills 15th but peak counts 25th/26th when 1125 Holme, 390 Scolt Head and 550 Sheringham. Second wave of migrants Nov 3rd with 3000 Stiffkey/Warham Greens, but only other significant count to year end 105 California Dec 16th.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

In Jan peak numbers 1050 Saham Toney Hills and 1000 Holme 1st with three-figure counts at a further 12 sites. Some significant flocks during Feb/March including 600 Felbrigg Feb 1st, 600 How Hill Feb 9th, 400 Massingham Heath March 11th and 700 Sennowe Park March 12th.



Fieldfare and Redwing (John Geeson)

Build-up in east of county at same time with 588 Haddiscoe Marshes 12th and 400 Wheatfen 18th. In April highest numbers 200 Tittleshall 7th and 250 Quidenham 8th, with final birds of spring 10 Hickling May 1st and singles Horsey 3rd and Stiffkey 6th. An intriguing report of 2 Blakeney GM June 26th - were they on their way back to Scandinavia or did they choose to over-summer somewhere in the county?

An early returning bird Holme Aug 17th followed by 2 at same site Sept 18th, but no further records until Oct when 40 Roydon Common 25th with peak count 1373 south Hunstanton in 2 hrs 30 mins 30th. Main movement in first half of Nov when 2632 New Costessey and 800 west Frettenham 1st, 4077 New Costessey and 1000 west Bawdeswell 2nd, 1921 New Costessey 3rd and 5986 south Hunstanton in 2 hrs 30 mins 10th. Autumn totals from well-watched sites included 9648 west/south-west New Costessey (Tud Valley) Oct 25th-Nov 19th and 7549 south Hunstanton Oct 26th-Nov 10th.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

Common resident and passage migrant; recently decreasing

No evidence of hard weather movement, peak count being 24 in fields south of Snettisham Mill Feb 14th. Return passage noted only from Scolt Head, Blakeney Point and Waxham, with highest count just 5 birds.

NBA results showed the species was present in 88% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad; 15 singing males noted Wayland Wood and 8 pairs Hoveton Hall (up from 6 in 2005).

Autumn passage from Sept 13th when 5 Beeston Bump followed by 3 Blakeney Point 15th then 10-13 at five coastal sites until month end. Main movement Oct 11th when 700 Holme, 600 Scolt Head, 500 Blakeney Point and 350 Overstrand. Second influx Oct 15th when 75 Holme, 500 west Wells East Hills and 200 Blakeney Point. Only other significant movement 120 Sheringham Oct 25th.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak counts in first winter period 450 Holme Jan 1st, 200 Croxton Jan 25th/26th, 200 Felbrigg Jan 30th and 300 Holkham Park Feb 22nd. Build-up in east of county in March prior to return passage with 200 Wheatfen 18th, Yarmouth 27th and Catfield 29th; also 124 west New Costessey 30th. Peak count in April 40 Norwich Sweet Briar Marshes 1st but then just 1-2 at 5 coastal sites with last of spring well inland at Scoulton 30th.

First of autumn Holme and New Costessey Oct 5th but main movement commenced 11th when 300 Burnham Overy Dunes, 200 Brancaster Staithe and three-figure counts from Snettisham, Holme and Overstrand. Second wave Oct 15th when peak counts 350 Holme, 1500 west Wells East Hills and 700 Blakeney Point. Main movement Oct 25th/26th (mirroring that of Blackbird) when 3070 south Hunstanton in 2 hrs, 4700 Holme and 3100 Sheringham; inland 2650 Roydon Common and 2000 Horning Marsh Farm. Small-scale movement Nov 2nd when 175 Titchwell and 100 Bawdeswell but numbers quickly dwindled and only other major count 200 Aylmerton Nov 29th.

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Common resident and partial migrant

Only evidence of spring coastal movement singles Winterton March 29th and April 19th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 84% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad; usual post breeding flocks noted in Aug when 16 Rollesby 3rd and 40 Middleton 18th.

Autumn coastal movement from Sept 24th when 12 east Holme with peak count there 34 Oct 14th. Elsewhere in Oct, 9 Titchwell and 2 in off sea Thornham Point 11th, singles Beeston Bump 12th and Blakeney Point 15th, and 17 Sidestrand 16th. Inland flock of 31 Hethel Nov 24th.

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Broads breeding population established since 1974

Yet another mild winter allowed further increases in Broads and slow consolidation along north coast and Wensum valley.

Countywide total of 176 singing males March-July a gross under-estimate. Hugely under-recorded in Broads where only 137 noted, partly through access limitations but also because they are now so familiar they are almost part of the background.

Singing males along Wensum valley at Colney GP (2), Costessey Fish Farm Meadows, Lenwade, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley GP and Whitwell Common. On east coast again one Waxham and in west of county one singing Babingley April 30th.

Along north coast singing males at Holme, Thornham (2), Titchwell (7), Brancaster GM (3), Burnham Norton (2), Holkham Meals (3), Stiffkey Fen, Blakeney GM (3), Cley (6) and Salthouse (2). No breeding season records at Weybourne.

Several records of autumn migrant/dispersing birds with at least 3 Holme Oct-Dec, Weybourne Sept 1st, Oct 10th and Nov 7th, Winterton Oct 28th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Oct 4th-Nov 3rd and Dec 20th, and Welney Nov 13th.

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler)

Locustella naevia

Summer visitor and scarce passage migrant

First reeling birds of spring Norwich Caenarvon Rd April 10th, 2 Snettisham CP 12th, Strumpshaw 14th, and 3 Snettisham CP and singles Heigham Holmes, Horsey and Potter Heigham 15th, after when increasingly widespread and birds noted at 38 sites by month end. Difficult to determine migrants from territorial birds but singles Blakeney Point April 25th and an exceptionally late bird Scolt Head June 15th definitely migrants.

Impressive numbers of reeling birds reported during spring and summer when 177 singing males (113 in 2005 and 155 in 2004) reported from 67 sites. Singing males: Acle, Barton Turf Fen 2, Blakeney GM, Boughton Fen 2, Buttle Marsh, Brancaster GM 2, Buckenham Marshes, Catfield Fen 18, Cley, Cranwich Heath, Denver, Dersingham Bog 2, Earlham Marsh, Foulden



Grasshopper Warbler (*John Geeson*)

Common, Heigham Holmes, Hempton 2, Hickling Broad 4, Holkham NNR 3, Holme 3, Horning, Horning Waterworks 2, Horsey 4, How Hill Reedham Marsh/Little Reedham Marsh 8, How Hill Clayrack Marsh 2, Hulver Ground, Ingham, Irstead Fen, Irstead Hall Farm, Johnson Street Buttle Marsh, King's Lynn BF 2, mid-Yare RSPB 9 (sample count not site total), Morston, Overstrand, Paston 2, Potter Heigham, Rockland Broad 3, Rockland Island 3, Rockland Marshes 3, Roydon Common 3, Salthouse, Scolt Head 3, Sennowe Park, Smallburgh Wayford Bridge, Snettisham CP 12, Snettisham RSPB 2, Sparham Pools, Stanford Water, Strumpshaw 9, Surlingham Church Marsh, Surlingham Marsh 8, Sutton Broad, Sutton Fen 4, Thetford, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Thornage, Thornham 3, Thorpe Station Marsh 2, Thorpe Whitlingham Marshes 7, Titchwell 2, Upton Fen, Waxham 4, Welney, West Lynn, Winterton 3 and Wissington BF.

Autumn migrants Scolt Head Aug 26th and Sheringham 30th, Scolt Head Sept 16th, Winterton 17th, Cantley BF 22nd, and a late bird Blakeney Point Oct 11th.

Savi's Warbler

Locustella luscinioides

Rare migrant and summer visitor

One singing Burnham Norton June 3rd/4th (JGi *et al*).

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First of spring late March when Snettisham CP 29th and 31st, UEA Broad 31st, followed in early April by 2 Snettisham CP 1st/2nd, Strumpshaw 4th, Hickling Broad and Titchwell 5th, with 2 Snettisham and singles Cley and Hickling Broad 6th.

Numbers remained relatively small at most sites until final 10 days of month when 12 Titchwell, 4 Guist Common and good numbers Lenwade 19th, 11 Snettisham CP and 6 Holme 20th, 20 Snettisham CP and 20 Welney 24th, with most breeding birds back by first week of May. Also during spring migrants away from suitable breeding habitat Beeston Bump April 21st, Blakeney Point May 1st and 2 15th, Scolt Head 9th and 17th, and Hopton 12th.

During breeding season singing males: Blakeney GM 36, Brancaster GM 41, Cley 29, mid-Yare RSPB 133 (incomplete survey), Redgrave and Lopham Fens 45, Snettisham CP 20 and Welney 23. In Broads breeding numbers considered to be just 40% of those usually present. NBA results showed the species was present in 31% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Ringing data included 14 Thornham July 26th where 38 ringed during summer, and 20 present Chedgrave Marshes Aug 5th of which 15 ringed.

Small numbers of coastal migrants noted from mid-Aug when singles Scolt Head 13th, 2 Blakeney Point and one Paston 16th, Scolt Head 18th, 2 Holme 19th and one 31st. As usual very few Sept when Blakeney Point 5th and 2 16th, 2 Holme and Titchwell 10th, one Titchwell 11th, West Runton 16th and last of year Blakeney Point 24th.

Reed Warbler (Eurasian Reed Warbler)

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Summer breeder and passage migrant

Singing birds Titchwell April 14th, Snettisham CP 17th, Cantley 18th, 3 Titchwell and 2 Hockwold Washes 19th were first of year. New arrivals appeared most days during rest of month but only in small numbers, with best count 10 Holkham GM 27th. Fresh arrivals continued during most of May with small numbers continuing to move through well into June, best demonstrated by odd coastal migrants out of typical habitat with 2 Beeston Bump May 16th and one 21st, Beeston Common June 5th, Scolt Head 10th and one 20th/21st, and 2 West Runton 11th.

Good numbers of singing males reported during breeding season, including: Blakeney GM 40, Brancaster GM 16 (partial survey), Cley 7 (incomplete count), Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound Complex 172, Holkham GM 10, King's Lynn BF 10, Lopham and Redgrave Fen 38, mid-Yare RSPB 122 (singing males on sample plots, true total higher), Nar Valley Fisheries 11, Stoke Ferry Cut Off Channel 7, South Acre 5, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 4, Titchwell 52 and Welney 12. NBA results showed the species was present in 27% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Ringing data included 40 ringed Thornham Marshes July 26th out of total of 166 new birds ringed during summer, and 69 ringed out of 80 present Chedgrave Marshes Aug 5th.

Light passage through coastal scrub from mid-Aug when singles Blakeney Point 14th, Salthouse 15th and Scolt Head 16th and 18th. Small numbers reported during Sept with a small but widespread arrival 16th-18th, when 3 Cley, 2 Blakeney Point and Titchwell, with singles Scolt Head, Burnham Overy Dunes, West Runton and Paston. Odd birds reported up to end of Sept, but clearly most birds had departed by end of month and only Oct record Cantley BF 8th.

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

Summer breeder and passage migrant; winters in small numbers

Records from 17 sites in first winter period when 2 Docking, Garboldisham, Holme and New Costessey, and singles Beetley, Cromer, Hethersett, Hickling, Narford, Norwich Constitution Hill and Unthank Rd, Outwell, Roydon, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Winfarthing and Winterton.

First spring migrants probably at end of March when singles Titchwell 28th and Hoveton and Strumpshaw 29th. New arrivals continued to appear during much of April especially in final week, best counts 7 Narborough 12th, 8 Cley 24th and 10 Holme 25th. Passage continued during early May when 12 Cley/Walsey Hills 3rd, 4 Blakeney Point 8th and last migrant Scolt Head 14th.



Blackcap (Richard Johnson)

Ringling data suggests it was an excellent breeding season, with a total of 248 ringed Brancaster Thompson Farms, which compares favourably with 137 in 2005 and 188 2004. Other counts of singing males/territories: East Walton Common 18, Hoveton Hall Estate 15 and Swanton Novers NNR 53. NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Passage through coastal sites from mid-Aug to at least late Oct, highest counts in Aug when 10 Warham Greens 16th and 15 26th, 30 Titchwell 19th and 5 Sea Palling 27th. Numbers unremarkable during Sept, peaks 15 Titchwell 11th/12th, 10 Warham Greens 12th, 21 Winterton 26th and 24 there 30th. Numbers poor Oct when 11 California 12th, 7 Holme and Blakeney Point 16th, 4 Paston 18th and 8 Holme 23rd.

In second winter period 1-2 Aylmerton, Garboldisham, High Kelling, Holt, Kelling WM, Holme, Ormesby St Margaret, Sutton, Titchwell, Weybourne and Winterton.

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

Summer breeder and passage migrant

A singing male Dersingham Bog April 17th was the first of spring but no others until a week later when singles Roydon Common 22nd, Pentney GP 23rd, 2 Pentney GP and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 24th, and Blakeney Point, Titchwell and Walsey Hills 25th, and at 8 other sites by end of month. Main arrival during first half of May, during when light coastal passage also noted including 2 Blakeney Point May 15th.

Singing males during spring/summer: Aldborough, Bawsey, Beeston 3, Bodham Wood 3, Crostwick Common 2, Felbrigg 5, Hoe 2, Holt Lowes, Kelling Heath 3, Lynford Arboretum, Norwich Marston Marsh, Pentney GP 2, Ranworth Church, Roydon Common 4, Santon Downham 3, Shereford (Dunton), Sheringham BO, Sheringham Roman Camp, Swanton Novers NNR 17, Thetford Warren, Wayland Wood 3, West Acre 3, West Runton, Weybourne Heath 2, Whitlingham CP 3 and Wroxham. NBA results showed the species was present in 40% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Return passage from Aug 13th when 13 Scolt Head and 4 Blakeney Point, only other count of note during rest of month 6 Titchwell 19th. Few others reported until influx Sept 16th-18th in easterly winds when 8 Holme, 32 Scolt Head, 10 Burnham Overy Dunes, 20 Holkham Meals, 30 Blakeney Point and 20 Winterton. Numbers quickly declined, with few during rest of Sept and last of year Holme Oct 8th, and Beeston Bump 17th and 26th.

Barred Warbler

Sylvia nisoria

Scarce autumn migrant recorded only once in spring

A reasonable autumn, with total of 10 reported, first Aug 13th when singles Scolt Head, Wells East Hills and Blakeney Point where present until 15th. During rest of autumn singles Waxham Aug 19th, Holme 25th/26th, Beeston Bump 26th, Holme Sept 8th/9th, Titchwell 10th/11th, Waxham 16th/17th and another Oct 14th.

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First of year Snettisham CP where one April 15th, 2 16th and one 17th; no others elsewhere until Downham Market 20th, 4 Holme and singles Bunwell and Scolt Head 22nd, and 2 Hopton and one Pentney GP 23rd. Recorded at 23 sites by end of month, including 8 Holme, 3 Blakeney Point and 7 Waxham 25th, 3 Lynn Point 29th and 4 Snettisham CP 30th. Passage continued during first half of May when reported from 18 additional sites.

Singing males during breeding season: Beeston Bump, Bunwell, Brancaster GM, Castle Acre 4, Denver 2, Cley (village-Walsey Hills) 7, Crostwick Common, Ditchingham 2, East Rudham 2, East Walton Common, Forncett End 4, Forncett St Peter 3, Foulden Common, Gillingham 2, Haddiscoe, Happisburgh, Holkham Meals 2, Holme 4, Hopton, Hunstanton 2, Kelling WM 2, Newton 4, North Creak, Norwich Airport, Repps-with-Bastwick, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 2, Roydon Common, Salhouse 2, Salthouse Heath, Snettisham CP 4, Sparham 3, Sustead, Tacolneston, Thornham Farms 6, Titchwell, Wacton, Waxham 2 and Yarmouth. NBA results showed the species was present in 39% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Post breeding concentrations/migrants in Aug included 8 Sheringham 13th, 11 Warham Greens 16th and 12 Titchwell 19th. Few other counts of note until arrival of migrants Sept 15th-17th when 8 Holme, 10 Scolt Head, 10 Burnham Overy Dunes, 12 Blakeney Point and 4 Hopton. Few late migrants when singles Winterton Oct 11th/12th (which showed characteristics of one of the eastern races), Waxham Nov 4th-13th and Holkham Meals 7th.

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat)

Sylvia communis

Summer breeder and passage migrant

Earliest Stiffkey April 10th, followed by others Sea Palling and Winterton 14th, and Beeston Bump, Burgh Castle, Hoe and Snettisham CP 16th. Most breeding birds back by end of month with 8 Scolt Head and 7 Hopton 23rd, 17 Holme and 6 Blakeney Point 25th, 8 Cley and 15 Horsey 26th, 10 Scolt Head 27th, 8 Ashill 28th and 10 Waxham 29th.

Birds widespread throughout county during breeding season, singing males included: Thornham Farms 31, Scolt Head 14, Snettisham CP 11, Kelling Heath 10, Sparham 10, Roydon Common 8 and Horsey Gap 7. At East Tuddenham only one pair where normally 2-3 pairs. NBA results showed the species was present in 92% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad.

A reasonable passage noted through coastal sites during Aug when 21 California 8th, 30 Warham Greens, 16 Winterton and 26 Caister 16th, 10 Kelling WM 17th, 15 Sheringham 25th/26th and 21 California 29th. There was another smaller influx of migrants Sept 16th-18th when 8 Scolt Head and 11 Winterton; few during rest of Sept with last Blakeney Point Oct 10th.



Whitethroat (*Martin Woodcock*)

Dartford Warbler

Sylvia indata

Vagrant from southern England and the Continent

The two wintering birds present at Morston since Oct 2005 continued to be reported until at least March 4th.

Birds were once again resident at a site in north of county for much of year, where a female Jan-May at least, a male from Oct 11th, increasing to at least three birds during Nov and Dec including at least one singing male.

Elsewhere in autumn/second winter period male California Oct 7th present into 2007, 2 Winterton Oct 11th/12th and one again Oct 31st-Nov 4th, Hopton Nov 5th and Ormesby St Margaret Nov 8th and 14th.

A national survey found around 3000 pairs during 2006 and the county can hopefully expect many more records in future of this attractive heathland species. Observers are encouraged to check any heathland areas in the county, especially those holding a good amount of gorse.

Greenish Warbler

Phylloscopus trochiloides

Regular vagrant from eastern Europe and western Russia

2005 Additions: Holkham Meals Sept 11th (AIB) and Stiffkey Meals Sept 12th (CAH).

Pallas's Warbler (Pallas's Leaf Warbler)

Phylloscopus proregulus

Rare autumn migrant from Siberia

Another poor showing for third consecutive year with just two records: Salthouse Oct 17th/18th and Holkham Meals 18th. The recent downturn in numbers probably just represents a blip and no doubt this species will surprise us once again.

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

Scarce autumn migrant from Siberia

Although numbers well down on record numbers of previous year, still a respectable total with around 43 reported, first Sept when Cley 15th/16th, Holme 16th, different birds Holkham Meals 23rd, 24th and 26th-28th, and Holme and Eccles 26th. As usual most during Oct especially 12th-16th, when 4 Holkham Meals, 2 Holme, Titchwell and Warham Greens, and singles Brancaster Staithe, Burnham Deepdale, Warham Greens, Stiffkey Meals, Blakeney, Cley, Walsey Hills, Kelling WM, Sheringham, Cromer, Winterton, California, Caister, Caister GC and Yarmouth. Also during month one Winterton 1st, Holkham Meals 4th, 2 18th-22nd and another 29th, West Runton 7th/8th, Overstrand 11th, Sheringham (in private garden) 20th, Sheringham BO 21st, and 2 Stiffkey 22nd. Last of autumn with tit flock UEA Nov 16th.

Inland records Thetford Nunnery Lakes Sept 27th, Downham Market 30th, Beeston Common Oct 8th and Brancaster Thompson Farms ringed 14th with same or another 16th.

Hume's Warbler (Hume's Leaf Warbler)

Phylloscopus humei

Vagrant from Siberia

The first records since 2003 and both in winter, Holkham Park Jan 2nd-18th (JRMc *et al*) and Horsey Mere Jan 24th-Feb 6th (PJH *et al*).

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Passage migrant and rare breeder

Spring passage typical by recent standards with total of 10: Yarmouth April 18th/19th, Horsey 22nd, Titchwell 25th, West Harling Heath May 2nd, Titchwell and Holkham Meals 3rd, Yarmouth 3rd-6th, Marsham Heath 8th, Wiveton 10th and Blakeney Point 13th.

Just four in autumn when Scolt Head Aug 13th, Titchwell 18th, Stiffkey Meals Sept 18th and Wells East Hills 26th.

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff)

Phylloscopus collybita

Common summer breeder, passage migrant and scarce winter visitor

In first winter period 1-2 reported Cley, Cromer, Hickling Broad, Holkham Meals, Holkham Park, Horsey Mere, Outwell, Ranworth Broad, Snettisham, Stiffkey Fen, Strumpshaw, Sutton Fen, Swanton Novers NNR, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Thornham, Titchwell, Tottenhill GP, Welney and Winterton.

First spring migrants arrived two weeks later than in recent years, with none until March 25th when birds quickly appeared at many sites throughout county, including 4 Holkham Meals 27th, 4 Holme, 3 Felbrigg and Titchwell and widespread in the Broads 28th, 9 Kettlestone 29th, and 6 Cley, 5 Cromer and Roydon Common 30th. Passage continued throughout April and until at least May 9th (Scolt Head), highest counts in April 6 Holme 12th, 9 Scolt Head and 10 Holkham Meals 15th, 9 Hunstanton 17th and 25 Holkham Meals 21st.

Highest counts of singing males/pairs during breeding season: Brancaster GM 6, East Walton Common 10, Hoveton Hall Estate 10 and Swanton Novers NNR 19. NBA results showed the species was present in 84% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage from mid-Aug, but light until Sept 16th/17th when 15 Waxham and 12 Walsey Hills and smaller numbers at several other sites. Passage very light during Oct when best counts 3 Holkham Meals 12th and Blakeney Point 14th, and 4 Caister GC 16th. Also during Oct *abietinus* birds Sheringham 14th and Kelling 20th, with a Spanish-ringed bird Holme 14th.

During Nov/Dec 1-3 at Beeston Common, Bradwell, Breydon, Caister, Denver, Hapton, Holkham Meals, Holme, Kelling WM, Muckleburgh Hill, Saham Toney, Sheringham GC, Stiffkey Fen, Stowbridge, Titchwell, Weybourne and Winfarthing.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Common summer breeder and passage migrant

First of year during final few days of March when Holt Lowes 27th, Harleston and Ringstead Common 28th, 3 Hickling 29th and one Kelling Heath 31st. More widespread arrival April 1st-5th when 5 Overstrand, 4 Hickling and Winterton, 3 Snettisham CP and 1-2 Blakeney Point, Ebridge, Holme, Horning, Horsey, Necton, Roydon Common, Titchwell and Waxham. Spring passage continued until June when last Scolt Head 11th, but main passage between mid-April and mid-May when best counts 12 Winterton April 15th, 12 Snettisham CP and 14 Hunstanton 17th, 20 Winterton 20th, 25 Holme, 14 Titchwell, 19 Scolt Head and 30 Holkham Meals 21st, 15 Scolt Head 25th, 20 Scolt Head May 3rd, 22 Scolt Head and 15 Blakeney Point 4th, and 15 Blakeney Point 15th.

Only *acredula* bird reported in spring Sheringham April 25th.

Only breeding information received 44 singing males mid-Yare RSPB (sample count), 34 territories Dersingham Bog and 33 Swanton Novers NNR, where numbers down on previous years and very few juvs seen later in summer. NBA results showed the species was present in



Little Auk - a well-watched bird at Snettisham. (*Alan Tate*)

Turtle Dove - a declining summer visitor. (*Neil Bowman*)





Little Owl - an obliging bird at Choseley. (*Bob Cobbold*)



Nightjar - an early migrant on Blakeney Point. (*Julian Bhalerao*)



Short-eared Owl - an exhausted autumn migrant. (*Neil Bowman*)



Robin - a bird of the 'continental' race on Blakeney Point. (*Richard Porter*)

White Wagtail - a smart bird at Eccles-on-sea. (*Neil Bowman*)





Fieldfare - an unusually tame bird near Salthouse duck pond. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Grasshopper Warbler - an obliging bird at Snettisham coastal park. (*Julian Bhalerao*)



72% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage very poor, first Aug 13th when 4 Holme and Scolt Head; only other counts of note 4 Blakeney Aug 25th, 11 Caister GC Sept 10th and 4 Holme, 8 Scolt Head, 3 Walsey Hills and 12 Winterton (including northern-type bird) Sept 16th/17th. Late birds in Oct Holkham Park 4th, Blakeney 11th, Cromer 14th-16th, Warham Greens 16th-18th, Overstrand 17th and last Cley Coastguards Nov 10th.

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

Resident breeder and passage migrant

Spring passage virtually non-existent with no count exceeding 6 at Holme March/April and 3 Scolt Head April 15th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 63% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Only very small numbers of autumn migrants from mid-Oct when 8 Blakeney Point and 11 Caister GC 14th, with 20 at former site 15th. Highest count 85 Holme 23rd with further double-figure counts there in early Nov on 3 dates.



Firecrest and Northern Long-tailed Tit (Gary Wright)

Firecrest

Regulus ignicapilla

Spring and autumn passage migrant; scarce in winter; occasional breeder

During Jan-March up to 9 present at several localities along Holt-Cromer ridge and 1-2 Lynford Arboretum. Elsewhere singles Narford Jan 29th, Snettisham Jan 30th, Wymondham Feb 28th and Ringstead Courtyard Farm March 6th. First coastal migrants from late March when singles Winterton 27th, Trimingham 28th and Yarmouth 31st. In April 1-2 noted at 14 coastal sites with 2 well inland at Thetford Nunnery and UEA; in May 6 coastal migrants with latest Titchwell 13th.

As in 2005, breeding again centred around two extensive sites. In Brecks up to 17 males located while up to 23 singing males along Holt-Cromer ridge. Elsewhere 3 singing males at one site and 2 males holding territories at another.

First of autumn from Sept 10th when singles Caister GC and Holkham Meals followed by further singles mid-Yare RSPB 14th and Holkham Meals 26th. In Oct, 3 Holkham Meals 7th with 1-2 at a further 6 sites, and 1-2 in Nov at 7 widely scattered sites. In Dec Holkham Meals 17th and 31st, Lynford Arboretum 17th and Yarmouth Cemetery 24th.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant

First of spring Santon Downham April 29th followed by singles Holme, Titchwell, Scolt Head and Yarmouth Cemetery May 3rd. As usual, protracted passage in May with coastal migrants peaking at 6 Blakeney Point 15th; singing/displaying noted at inland sites from 10th.

Despite one observer in east of county commenting that 'more seen in spring/summer 2006 than for many years' the slow decline in number of breeding records continues. The number of pairs/singing males dropped from last year's 75 to 68, with singles at a further 12 sites between mid-June and end of July. Peak counts 4 pairs Hindringham and Dickleburgh but mainly just single pairs present. Successful breeding noted Binham for the first time in several years but evidence of decline at other sites. At Mannington Hall just 2 pairs in 2006 compared with 7 in 2005, while breeding was unsuccessful at Aldborough due to grey squirrel predation. NBA results showed the species was present in 29% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage from Aug 17th when single Beeston Bump. Small numbers mid-Sept at 7 coastal sites with peak count just 5 Scolt Head 16th; last of year Holkham Meals 26th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Ficedula parva

Scarce autumn migrant; rare in spring

An autumn total of at least 5: singles Yarmouth Cemetery Sept 15th/16th, and Burnham Overy Dunes Sept 15th with 2 at latter site following day. Also on 16th, singles at either end of Holkham Meals, the one to east present until 18th.

Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Passage migrant, scarce in spring, abundant at times in autumn; has bred

First of an average spring Winterton April 18th followed by singles Walsey Hills and Holkham Meals April 25th. Also on latter date a pair Dersingham Bog with male displaying throughout morning although neither bird subsequently seen. The only two previous breeding occurrences in county were at Felbrigg in 1978 and Holme 1996 although only former was successful. In late April, further singles Holme, Hunstanton GC and Winterton. In May noted on just two dates: Stiffkey 5th and Scolt Head, Blakeney Point (2) (see article page 334) and Framingham Earl 8th.

Autumn passage from Aug 13th when 3 Scolt Head and single Titchwell. Small influx 18th when 1-4 Holme, Titchwell, Scolt Head, Morston, Salthouse and Trimingham, with 10 arriving in evening at West Runton. Steady if unspectacular movement from mid-Sept until month end with 1-3 at a dozen coastal sites between Holme and Great Yarmouth. In Oct singles Blakeney Point, Kelling WM, Weybourne and Paston 11th, Holme 15th and Holkham Meals 16th.

Bearded Tit

Panurus biarmicus

Declining resident and partial migrant; periodic influxes from Low Countries

Only five double-figure counts Jan-May: Cley 20 Jan 14th, 17 April 2nd and 15 May 9th, 10 Chedgrave Marshes Jan 21st and 15 Titchwell March 29th.

Breeding pairs: *north coast* Holme 1, Titchwell 12, Brancaster GM 2, Holkham NNR 12, Blakeney GM 3, Cley unknown but family parties in July; *Broads* Hickling Broad complex 48, Sutton Fen 5, How Hill Reedham Water 1, mid-Yare RSPB no detailed figures available.

More widely recorded in post breeding season and second winter period with double-figure counts from 13 localities; max 30 Strumpshaw Oct 13th, 34 Holme Oct 14th

(including 11 high west) and 42 Hickling Broad Nov 26th. Other evidence of irruptive movements: *Sept* 2 west Holme 28th, 9 west Stiffkey Fen 30th; *Oct* 2 over Hoveton Hall 10th, 16 high west Brancaster Staithe and 5 high west Burnham Overy GM 12th, 2 Wells East Hills 14th and heard 16th, 15 west Titchwell and 11 east Brancaster Staithe also 16th, singles Downham Market 20th, Denver 21st and Wisington BF 22nd.

At Thornham Marshes total of 36 ringed during year. At Hickling Broad 25-30 on gravel track to Whiteslea Lodge on early mornings of Sept 10th/11th, presumably taking grit.

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Common resident breeder; Scandinavian white-headed race very rare in autumn

Max counts: *March* 30 Narborough; *July* 50 Hickling Broad; *Aug* 62 Beeston Common (single flock with 45 Blue Tits); *Sept* 53 Beeston Common (with 40 Blue Tits), 45 Foxley, 38 Horsey Mere; *Oct* 45 Sparham Pools, 38 Winterton, 35 Pentney GP, 35 Salthouse Heath, 30 Holme, 30 Lynford Arboretum; *Dec* 30 Norwich Mousehold Heath.

NBA results showed the species was present in 77% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Single white-headed birds showing characteristics of northern form in April at Waxham 2nd, Horsey 15th and Winterton 17th.

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

A series of spring coastal movements: *March* at Paston (all east) 3 25th, 3 26th, 9 27th and 6 on 29th with 16 south Winterton 26th; *April* at Overstrand (high west) 5 1st and 12 on 11th, 11 east Paston also 1st.

Breeding (pairs/territories): Swanton Novers NNR 55, Hoveton Hall 41, Dersingham Bog 14. NBA results showed the species was present in 95% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 13 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Only evidence of autumn movement 2 south Hunstanton Oct 13th.

Great Tit

Parus major

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

As with above species an interesting series of spring movements: *March* on 26th 13 south Hunstanton in 2 hrs, 9 west Overstrand, 11 east Paston and 48 south Winterton, then 4 east Paston 27th, 11 south Winterton 28th, 10 west Brancaster Staithe and 7 west Overstrand 29th, 4 east Paston 31st; *April* 7 south Hunstanton and 16 high west Overstrand 1st, 3 west Overstrand 3rd, 7 north Winterton 11th, one south Hunstanton 15th. Measurements of a long-dead bird Blakeney Point found May showed continental origin.

NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 10 pairs per occupied tetrad. At Swanton Novers NNR total of 39 territories. At Hickling Broad NWT car park a pair nested in a traffic cone.

Only autumn movement 2 south Hunstanton Oct 13th.

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Breeding resident and passage migrant

NBA results showed the species was present in 54% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad. Total of 34 territories Dersingham Bog and 24 Swanton Novers NNR.

Willow Tit

Poecile montanus

Breeding resident in decline

The decline continues with records from only 35 sites: Barnhamcross Common, Bintree, Blickling Park, Boughton Fen, Brundall, Castle Acre, Cockley Cley, Dersingham Bog, East Wretham Heath, Flitcham, Foulton Common, Grimston, Gunton Park, Hickling Broad, Hoveton, Kettlestone, Kimberley, Lynford Arboretum, Marham Fen, Pentney Heath, Ranworth Broad, Rocklands, Santon Downham, Sculthorpe Moor, Sporle, Strumpshaw, Swaffham, Swanton Novers NNR, Syderstone Common, Thetford, Titchwell, Upton Broad, Welney, Wheatfen, Wicklewood. This trend is confirmed by the NBA results which showed the species was present in only 5% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of only one pair per occupied tetrad.

At many sites only observed occasionally or just single records. Only two areas with more than one pair: Swanton Novers 2 territories (only one within the NNR) and along R Little Ouse between Thetford-Brandon where up to 6 territories. Again no records in year from Stanford TA.

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

Breeding resident

Records from only 70 localities but undoubtedly present elsewhere. As last year observers are requested to submit all records so the status of this declining species can be more closely monitored.

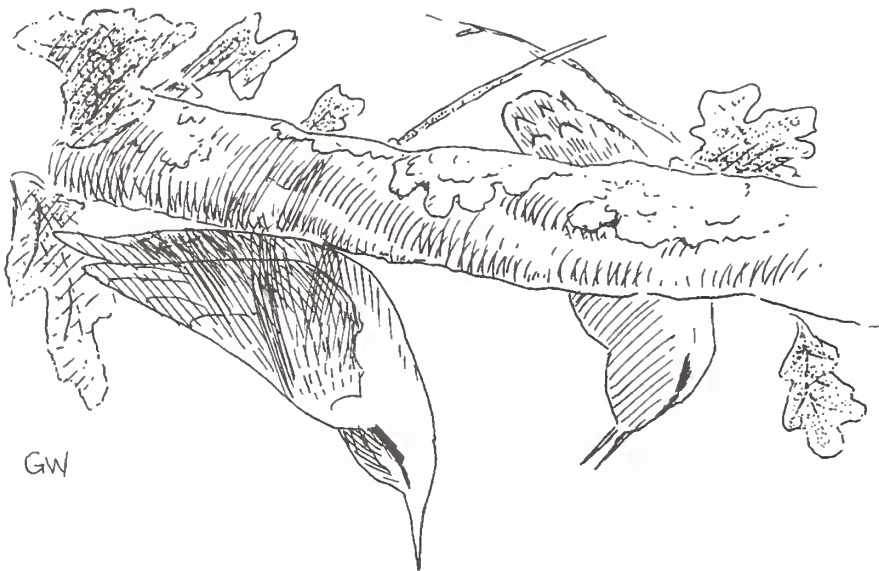
NBA results showed the species was present in 28% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. At Swanton Novers NNR 14 territories compared with 15 in 2005. One observer commented that 'still relatively common in Broads with several often seen daily'.

Nuthatch (Wood Nuthatch)

Sitta europaea

Breeding resident, possibly in decline

NBA results showed the species was present in 22% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. At Swanton Novers NNR total of 16 breeding territories.



Nuthatches (Gary Wright)

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper)

Certhia familiaris

Widespread woodland resident

NBA results showed the species was present in 34% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Golden Oriole (Eurasian Golden Oriole)

Oriolus oriolus

Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant in small numbers

In April an early singing male Mundford 22nd. Three May records: a 1st-summer male Blakeney Point 13th/14th, one Kelling Heath 20th and a 1st-summer in off sea Cley 24th. In June female Strumpshaw 25th.

Despite the continued breeding success at Lakenheath Fen in Suffolk, birds only visited one site in the Norfolk Brecks early to mid-May; there was no sign of any breeding attempt and none were present later in the season. This is the first time in over 20 years that no breeding attempt has been made in Norfolk (Golden Oriole Group).

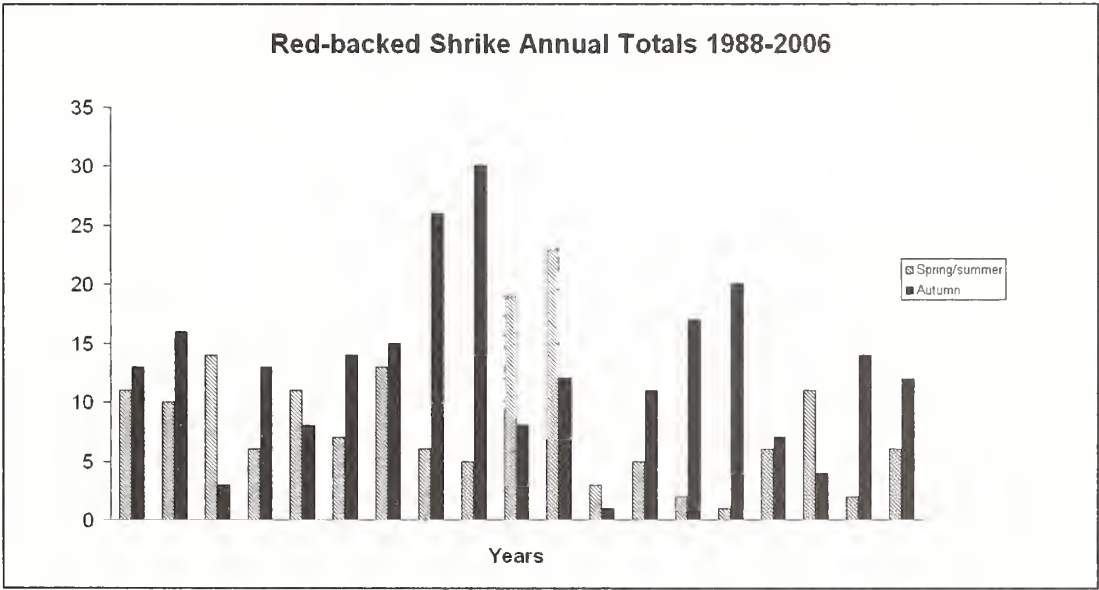
Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

Passage migrant in small numbers; last bred 1988

In June males Costessey 3rd, Titchwell 7th, Blakeney Friary Hills 10th, Burnham Overy Dunes (singing) 18th and female Narborough 18th/19th. In July male Holme 3rd.

First of autumn Winterton Sept 1st followed by singles Stiffkey 8th/9th and Kelling WM 13th-15th. Small influx 16th when juv Scolt Head (until 19th), juv Warham Greens (until 17th), Cley and Winterton. Further singles Burnham Overy Staithe 17th-19th, Kelling WM 18th, West Runton 18th-21st with adult female and juv Blakeney GM 24th-26th. Last of autumn Stiffkey Fen Oct 4th-12th.



The demise of the species as a breeding bird in the county has been well documented but an analysis of occurrences since shows some interesting patterns. Firstly, in the spring/summer of 1997 and 1998 numbers were well above those of 1988 when breeding last occurred. However, in 1988 all records were in the period up to May 24th whereas in both 1997 and 1998 the majority of records fell after this date with 12 and 14 respectively occurring after May 24th. This reflects the recent trend towards June and midsummer occurrences and could explain why even sporadic breeding has not subsequently occurred. Also of interest, in the last year of successful breeding there were 11 spring/summer records, a total that has been equaled or exceeded in six years since then.

The number of autumn records is equally surprising. While there have been some poor years (just a single in 1999), from 2000 onwards the totals compare favourably with those of the late 1980s and early 1990s. While weather conditions during the autumn are a major factor, it is surprising that the continued declines in the European populations do not appear to be impacting on the numbers of birds reaching the county.

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Scarce passage migrant and declining winter visitor

The over-wintering bird in the Brecks remained into 2006 commuting between Santon Downham and Grime's Graves and was last seen at latter site April 5th. A second bird over-wintered in south-east being seen intermittently Forngett St Peter and Wacton Feb 4th, Long Stratton and Wacton Feb 22nd, and Swardeston April 26th. Spring passage limited to a single coastal migrant Hunstanton and Snettisham April 8th.

In autumn just two records: Burnham Overy Staithe on early date of Sept 16th-18th and briefly Roydon Common Nov 3rd. In Brecks, presumed returning bird from previous winter re-appeared Santon Downham Dec 23rd remaining in area into 2007.

Woodchat Shrike

Lanius senator

Vagrant from southern Europe, mostly in spring

Male Roughton June 4th (many obs) was sole record, compared with 4 in 2005.

Jay (Eurasian Jay)

Garrulus glandarius

Common resident; periodic influxes from the Continent following failure of acorn crop

Very few records submitted. Records suggestive of migration single west and 2 present on cliffs Overstrand April 17th and single south California Sept 22nd. Autumn congregations of 8 Narborough Oct 25th and 8 South Wootton Nov 14th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 70% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Magpie

Pica pica

Common resident forming winter roosts

Welcome increase in number of roosts counted at start of year: *Jan* 70 Lopham Fen, 56 Ringstead Common, 100 Roydon Common, 68 Whitlingham CP; *Feb* 17 Holme, 122 Lopham Fen, 26 Titchwell, 13 Winterton; *March* 68 Ringstead Common, 34 Titchwell.

Spring passage from March 22nd when single east Overstrand. As usual most observations from north-east and east coasts. At Winterton total 29 south 17 north March 26th-April 17th with peak counts 11 south April 7th and 10 north 6 south 14th. Elsewhere 9 east Paston March 23rd, 3 east 2 west Overstrand and 6 east Paston 26th, 5 east Overstrand 29th, 13 east Paston 31st, 12 west Overstrand April 1st and 8 west 4 east there 11th, 3 south Waxham and 4 south Horsey 14th, 2 west West Runton and 4 west Overstrand 15th, 3 east Overstrand 16th; also single present Blakeney Point 17th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 82% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Limited autumn movements with 3 north California Sept 27th, single present Scolt Head 29th, 5 north California Oct 8th with late single north there Nov 10th.

Roost counts at end of year: *Oct* 53 Whitlingham CP; *Nov* 17 Holme, 50 Roydon Common; *Dec* 17 Ormesby St Margaret, 50 Roydon Common, 25 Titchwell.

Jackdaw (Eurasian Jackdaw)

Corvus monedula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

See article on page 318 for details on principal roost site at Buckenham Carrs. Only other roost details received in first winter period 6300 Bressingham Jan declining slightly to 6000 by late Feb.

Strong spring passage noted around coast March 22nd (Overstrand) to May 17th (Beeston Bump). Peak movements: 25 east Paston March 25th, 16 west Hunstanton, 20 west Holme, 41 east 3 west Overstrand, 21 east Paston and 101 north 86 south Winterton all 26th, 10 west 5 east Overstrand 27th and 13 east there 28th, 13 in off sea Cromer 29th, 23 east 15 west Overstrand 30th, 12 east Paston and 32 south 8 north Winterton 31st, 9 west Titchwell, 15 east 5 west Cromer, 25 east 11 west Overstrand, 31 east Paston, 12 north Horsey and 28 north 26 south Winterton all April 1st, 12 south Hunstanton and 21 east Overstrand 2nd, 40 present Paston 9th, 10 west Overstrand 11th with 12 west there 17th and 13 west 19th, 8 north 4 south Waxham 26th, 15 west Scolt Head May 2nd, 37 south 29 north Horsey 3rd, 78 east Cromer 4th, 28 south 13 north Winterton 5th and 60 present Holme 10th. At Winterton total 420 north 311 south March 26th-May 13th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 86% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 12 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Dispersing juv Scolt Head July 5th. Autumn counts 500 over Themelthorpe at dusk Sept 3rd and 1000 Weybourne Oct 7th. Only light autumn passage with only notable counts 22 south Hunstanton Oct 11th and 25 south there 12th, 4 present Blakeney Point 16th and 49 present Holme 29th. At Hunstanton total 69 south Sept 30th-Nov 6th.

In second winter period only roost counts received 300 Roydon Common Nov increasing to 420 late Dec.

Birds showing characteristics of eastern race *monedula* 2 Blackborough End Tip Jan 14th with single there March 25th, and Edgefield Oct 3rd.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

See article on page 318 for details of Buckenham Carrs roost site. Only other concentrations/roosts reported in first half of year: Jan 6300 Bressingham, 800 High Kelling; Feb 6000 Bressingham, 1500 Long Stratton.

As with Jackdaw, strong spring passage around coast March 7th-May 17th (both Beeston Bump). Peak movements: 7 west Overstrand, 37 east Paston and 6 south Horsey March 25th, 3 east Overstrand and 21 east Paston 29th, 10 south Hunstanton and 21 east Paston April 1st, 29 south 18 north Winterton 16th, 30 north Happisburgh (0700-0800) and 51 north 5 south Winterton 18th, 3 west Scolt Head, 14 west Beeston Bump, 10 west Overstrand and 18 north Waxham 19th, 7 south Hunstanton, 8 south 7 north Waxham (0630-0800) and 37 south 20 north Winterton 26th, 11 south Hunstanton and 31 west Scolt Head May 2nd, 13 south Hunstanton, 27 south 15 north Horsey and 112 south 12 north Winterton 3rd. At Winterton total 277 south 275 north March 12th-May 12th.

Several interesting rookery counts received: Docking 650 (540 in 2002), Pulham St Mary 88 (73 in 2005), Stanford TA 110 at 3 sites, Stibbard 160, Thursford 191, Woodton 45. Comprehensive counts for 36 rookeries in Yare/Waveney valleys showed 20 had increased since 2003 and 16 declined. Overall there was a 6.2% increase from 3520 nests in 2003 to 3752 in 2006.

NBA results showed the species was present in 67% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 37 pairs per occupied tetrad. Rooks wander

widely during breeding season, both while nesting and after young have fledged, which they do comparatively early in summer; thus number of pairs present is exaggerated.

Typically light autumn passage Sept 18th (Scolt Head) to Nov 18th (California) with peak counts 8 south California Sept 24th, 15 south Hunstanton Oct 13th and 11 south there 25th.

Away from Buckenham only autumn/winter concentration reported 1000 Weybourne Oct 7th.

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

Increasing resident forming winter roosts; also a passage migrant

Only roosts reported during year 120 Upton Fen and 116 Barton Broad Jan, and 150 Roydon Common Nov. Concentration of 40 Saddlebow Feb.

As with Jackdaw and Rook an unusually strong spring passage most noticeable on north-east and east coasts March 14th (Overstrand) to May 14th (Scolt Head). Peak movements: 30 east 9 west Overstrand March 22nd, 24 east 15 west Overstrand and 32 south 19 north Horsey 25th, 35 west 6 east Cromer, 22 west 14 east Overstrand and 24 south 16 north Horsey April 1st, 72 west 4 east Overstrand 7th and 28 west 3 east there 11th, 33 west Scolt Head and 37 west Overstrand 13th, 24 west Overstrand and 45 north 2 south Waxham (0700-0930) 14th, 40 Paston 16th, 124 west Overstrand 17th, 11 south Hunstanton, 52 west Scolt Head, 47 west Overstrand and 18 north Happisburgh (0700-0800) all 18th, 66 west Scolt Head, 13 west Weybourne, 40 west Overstrand and 48 north 24 south Waxham 19th, 19 west Cromer, 20 in off sea Overstrand and 68 south Winterton on 21st, 18 west Scolt Head, 89 north 42 south Waxham and 107 north 37 south Winterton 26th, 30 west Holme, 20 west Brancaster Staithe, impressive 245 west Scolt Head, 42 west Weybourne, 11 west Beeston Bump and 40 north 8 south Horsey all May 2nd, 21 west Scolt Head, 54 east 21 west Beeston Bump, 96 south 57 north Horsey and 61 north 46 south Winterton 3rd, and 104 south 75 north Winterton 5th. At Scolt Head total of 592 west March 27th-May 14th. At Winterton total 441 north 40 south April 2nd-May 13th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 91% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Very light autumn passage. Other than 6 east Holme Nov 4th only noted at California where 15 south 8 north Oct 11th-Nov 15th with max 12 south 4 north Oct 17th.

Hooded Crow

Corvus c cornix

A declining wintering and passage migrant

Only three records relating to probably pure birds, with individuals on spring passage west Cley March 26th, north Waxham April 25th and west Scolt Head May 3rd.

Single hybrids remained resident in Burgh Castle/Haddiscoe Island/Berney area and Winterton/Somerton Holmes where paired with a Carrion Crow. Additionally in first winter period up to 3 hybrids regularly noted Brograve Levels/Horsey/Hickling area Jan 23rd-April 16th. In autumn single hybrids noted Horsey Sept 24th and Nov 8th-10th, possibly same as resident Winterton/Somerton bird.

Starling (Common Starling)

Sturnus vulgaris

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Poorly recorded at start of year with only concentrations 450 west Sheringham Jan 2nd, 400 Sprowston 10th, 15,000 (roost) Wacton March 1st and 2000 Necton 20th.

Only light return passage with peak counts 169 east Overstrand March 15th and 101 east there 21st, 731 east Overstrand and 1200 east Paston 22nd, 180 east Overstrand 25th, 754 east

Overstrand, 1565 east Paston and 1447 south Winterton 27th, 420 east Overstrand and 1052 south Winterton 28th, 540 south Horsey and 1056 south Winterton April 1st. At Winterton total 5571 south March 26th-May 9th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 15 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Usual midsummer westerly movement particularly light and only noted at Scolt Head. First movement June 11th with peak counts 556 18th, 1045 24th, 1127 29th, 365 30th and 400 July 2nd. Pre-roost assembly 1000 Cantley July 5th. Only counts of feeding flocks from Scolt Head where 1050 July 16th and 1200 Aug 4th.

Regular protracted autumn arrival with peak numbers as usual Hunstanton where total 261,633 south Sept 30th-Nov 10th. In contrast on east coast at California total only 4133 south 254 north Sept 19th-Nov 24th and inland at New Costessey 18,018 west Oct 12th-Nov 29th. Max counts (south at Hunstanton and west along north coast): 2186 Hunstanton Oct 11th; 36,199 Hunstanton, 2975 Holme, 1220 Titchwell, 14,060 Brancaster Staithe, 3855 Burnham Deepdale and 1500 Sheringham all 12th; 15,624 Hunstanton 13th; 6774 Hunstanton and 2250 Titchwell 27th; 9000 present Snettisham and 4000 (roost) Martham Broad 30th; 5250 Holme 31st; 5280 Titchwell and 30,000 (roost) Holme Nov 2nd; 47,717 Hunstanton, 10,000 Holme, 15,000 Stiffkey/Warham Greens, 2000 west How Hill and 4660 west New Costessey 3rd; 59,402 Hunstanton, 15,000 Holme, 8000 Titchwell and 4224 west New Costessey 4th; 39,520 Hunstanton 5th; 13,899 Hunstanton and 5000 Holme 6th; 8496 Hunstanton 7th; 5717 Holme 8th; 14,035 Hunstanton, 2000 Thornham and 3000 Brancaster 10th.

Only autumn/winter concentrations reported 3000 Sheringham Nov 16th, 3560 Ouse Washes 20th and 9000 Thetford Dec 28th.

Rose-coloured Starling

Sturnus roseus

Irruptive vagrant from south-east Europe and central Asia

A juv Winterton Sept 22nd-24th (PCa *et al*) subsequently found dead.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Common but declining resident

Largest flocks during year: Jan 80 Ashwellthorpe, 82 Terrington St Clement; Feb 85 Fornsett; Aug 56 Norwich North Park Avenue, 75 Ringstead, 50 Wighton; Oct 60 Yarmouth; Nov 40 Hellesdon, 63 roosting Norwich Drayton Road; Dec 47 Titchwell. Also 50 present Ormesby St Margaret all year.

No reports of local declines while flocks at Wighton and Wolferton increased.

Very light spring passage with total 10 south Hunstanton April 1st-18th and single south Waxham 19th. Only autumn movements 12 south California Aug 16th with 6 south there Sept 27th, 12 south 5 north California Oct 5th and 10 south Hunstanton Nov 10th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 85% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 23 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Tree Sparrow (Eurasian Tree Sparrow)

Passer montanus

Scarce resident; passage migrant and winter visitor

During first winter period usual scatter of records chiefly from west (with principal counts in brackets): Ashwellthorpe (10 Jan), Beechamwell The Warren (40 Jan), Bittering, Blackborough End, Castle Rising, Cley, Colkirk, Dereham, Dunton (20 Feb), Erpingham, Feltwell Anchor, Flitcham, Fornsett End (22 Jan/Feb), Fulmodeston (10 Feb/March), Gayton, Harpley, Hempstead, Holme, Massingham (20 Jan), Mileham (26 Jan, 13 Feb), Narborough,

Ringstead Courtyard Farm (15 Feb, 10 March), Saham Toney Hills, Scoulton Mere, Sculthorpe, Shipdham, Sporle, Stanford TA (11 Feb), Swaffham Town Farm (20 Jan, 10 April), Thornham Farms, Upper Sheringham, Whissonsett (30 March), Wimbotsham.

Good series of spring passage records: single present Snettisham and 12 south Hunstanton March 26th, present Titchwell 28th, 18 south Hunstanton and 3 west Holme April 2nd, north Winterton 14th, 2 present Snettisham CP and 32 south Hunstanton 15th, north Winterton 17th, 2 present Holkham Meals 23rd, 7 south Hunstanton May 2nd with 4 south there 5th, 2 west Beeston Bump 17th.

All breeding season records listed (with max counts/pairs): Ashwellthorpe (10), Carbrook (6), Cley (pair raised 7+ young from 3 broods), Colkirk Hazelwood Farm (6), Dereham Manor Farm (3 prs), Dereham Old Hall Farm, Erpingham, Flitcham (8), Forncett (8 prs), Little Massingham, Rougham, Runhall Welbourne Common, Scoulton (7 adults 2 juvs), Sculthorpe (pr and juv), Shipdham ('small breeding population'), Stiffkey (2), Walpole Highway (3), Waxham (pair in nestbox), Welney (5), West Acre (2), Winterton. No details received from Fulmodeston. Additional late summer records from Dunton (6), East Tuddenham, Kelling WM (4) and South Acre. At Thornham Farms total 76 ringed during summer/autumn of which 65 juvs.

First probable autumn passage bird Paston Aug 19th. Thereafter only recorded at California where total 24 south 5 north Sept 19th-Nov 18th with main counts 7 south Oct 3rd, 3 south 8th, 5 south 21st, 5 south 28th, 3 north Nov 4th and 3 south 18th.

Autumn/second winter period records from Brograve Level, Cley, Cockley Cley, East Barsham, Forncett (11 Dec), Great Cressingham, Great Massingham (40 Oct), Harpley, Marham, Nar Valley Fisheries, Narborough Railway Line, Stiffkey Fen, Swaffham (10 Oct), Waxham, West Somerton, Wimbotsham and Winterton.



Tree Sparrows (Phil Jones)

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Common resident; also passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers

Max counts in first winter period: *Jan* 250 Great Walsingham, 100 Salthouse Heath and Tacolneston; *Feb* 100 Mileham; *March* 200 Sennowe Park.

Spring passage heavier than last year, commencing March 23rd with 5 east at Beeston Bump. At Winterton total of 5334 mostly south March 26th-May 12th. Elsewhere significant counts: *March* 1840 east Paston 26th with 1026 28th, 1200 south Yarmouth 30th; *April* 1860 east Paston and 2000 south Caister 1st.

Breeding: 40 territories Dersingham Bog, 30 pairs Hoveton Hall and 80 territories Swanton Novers NNR. NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 28 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage started Sept 13th with 6 east Beeston Bump. Significant counts: *Oct* at Hunstanton (all south) 1879 on 12th, 2425 25th, 2290 26th and 1861 30th, 935 west Brancaster Staithe 12th; *Nov* at Hunstanton (all south) 914 on 4th, 433 6th and 2007 10th, 290 west Holme and 195 west Sheringham 4th, 143 south California 6th.

Scarcer in second winter period with max: *Nov* 100 Nar Valley Fisheries as part of a winter finch flock; *Dec* 220 Martham Fen, 250 Stow Bardolph.

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

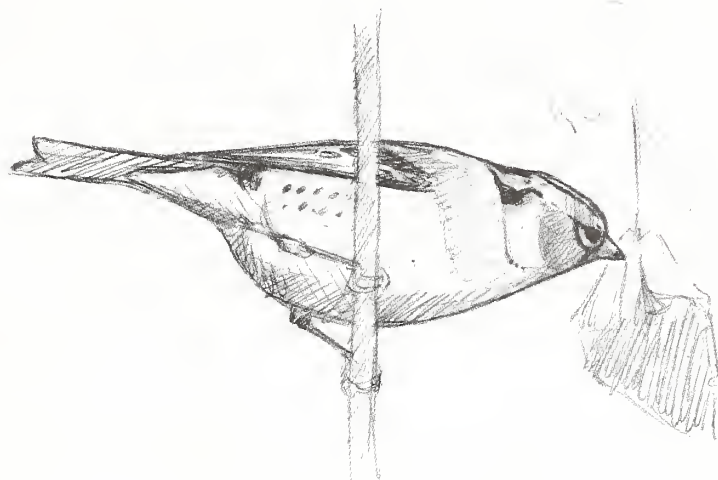
Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers

Widespread but generally in low numbers in first winter period, three-figure counts only reported in March when 100 Gooderstone 6th and 400 Swaffham 28th.

Spring passage unremarkable with April peaks of 100 Santon Downham and 70 Sheringham 6th, 30 Blakeney GM 8th, 40 Santon Downham 9th and 70 Swaffham 12th. Passage extended into May with singles Blakeney Point 1st, Holt 2nd, Sheringham Park 6th and Hoveton 15th.

Autumn passage started Sept 16th with singles Blakeney Point, Holkham Meals and Scolt Head. Numbers low throughout Sept but increased sharply from mid-Oct; counts from Hunstanton included 51 on 12th, 96 25th and 85 30th. Elsewhere 25 Holme, 100 west Beeston Bump, 20 Overstrand and 36 Winterton all 11th, 40 Holme and 74 Titchwell 26th. In Nov 55 Titchwell 2nd, 35 Holme 4th and a remarkable 305 south Hunstanton 10th.

Slightly more widespread in second winter period with three-figure flocks in Dec of 200 Great Walsingham, 100 Marham Fen and 150 Santon Downham.



Brambling (*Richard Johnson*)

Serin (European Serin)

Serinus serinus

Vagrant from southern Europe

One north Waxham April 3rd (PJH).

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch)

Carduelis chloris

Common resident and passage migrant

Max counts in first winter period: *Jan* 150 Hoveton Hall, 100 Beetley, Horsey and Salthouse Heath; *Feb* 300 between Cley and Glandford, 120 Ashwellthorpe.

Spring coastal passage noted from March 15th when 8 west Overstrand. Reports from Winterton totalled 1069 split evenly north and south March 26th-May 12th while as usual the most significant counts came from Hunstanton where 380 south March 26th, 238 south April 1st with 204 south 2nd. Other reports included 110 west at Titchwell also April 1st.

NBA results showed the species was present in 92% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 13 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Only late-summer gatherings reported 50 East Beckham Aug 1st and 70 Ashill 31st.

First autumn movement from California on Sept 19th, where large total of 6928 south, 676 north to Nov 24th with peaks all Oct when 306 south 155 north 13th, 1078 south 80 north 17th, 1112 south 20th and 627 south 25th. Unusually this movement not mirrored at Hunstanton where peaks (all south) 409 Oct 12th, 223 Oct 25th and 150 Nov 4th. Elsewhere significant counts: *Oct* 369 east Paston 11th and 250 east 17th, 369 Holme 16th and 356 25th; *Nov* 350 west Holme 4th.

Max counts in second winter period: *Nov* 200 Marham Fen, 800 Thornham Farms; *Dec* 250 Foulsham and Marham Fen, 200 Hoveton Hall Estate.

Goldfinch (European Goldfinch)

Carduelis carduelis

Common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor

Few counts in first winter period: *Jan* 100 Brancaster Thompson Farms; *Feb* 120 Horsey Mill; *March* 100 Wayland Wood.

Spring passage first reported March 26th when 38 south Hunstanton and 6 west Overstrand. At Winterton total of 1268 (824 north 444 south) to May 13th with peaks of 139 north April 28th, 161 south May 2nd and 142 south 4th. Elsewhere passage peaked in April: at Hunstanton (all south) 244 1st, 158 14th, 127 17th, 220 18th, 179 23rd, and at Scolt Head (all west) 202 20th, 151 21st, 126 22nd, 272 25th; *May* 141 Hunstanton 3rd with 118 on 5th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage first reported Sept 4th from California where autumn total 655 south 62 north. Otherwise few significant counts: *Sept* 149 Holme 23rd, 100 Paston 27th and 29th, with 116 east 30th; *Oct* 80 Holkham Meals 7th, 90 Weybourne 10th, 82 Holme 14th.

Second winter period max counts mirrored this poor passage: *Nov* 30 Cley, 45 Holme; *Dec* 70 North Wootton Marsh.

Siskin (European Siskin)

Carduelis spinus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; small numbers breed

In first winter period above average numbers with peak counts: *Jan* 100 Fritton, 100 Lynford, 100 Roydon Common, 300 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; *Feb* 300 Fishley Carrs, 100 Sparham Pools, 300-400 Thetford; *March* 200 Bintree, 300 Fritton. In a Sheringham garden where a day max of 50 recorded, 397 had been ringed by mid-April.

In March most significant movements 27 south Hunstanton 26th and 25 south Winterton 28th with 27 south there 30th. In April (all south) 100 Caister and 235 Hunstanton 1st, with 129 there 2nd, 350 14th, 195 17th, 139 19th and 132 on 23rd. Elsewhere 184 west Scolt Head 19th with 124 also west there 25th.

Breeding continues to increase with prs/juvs recorded at Beeston Regis (Sheringwood), Brancaster Staithe, Dersingham Bog (12 territories), Grimes Graves, Holt, Lynford Arboretum, Narborough, Roydon, Santon Downham, Sheringham and Sheringham Park. Other June records from Drayton and Thetford, with 15 Hoveton Hall on 25th.

Notable autumn passage California where 368 south Sept 27th-Nov 6th with peaks 64 Oct 20th and 41 next day.

In second winter period 104 Narborough Dec 12th and 150 Fakenham 16th.

Linnet (European Linnet)

Carduelis cannabina

Common resident and passage migrant

Peak counts in first winter period: *Jan* 150 Choseley, 100 Salthouse Heath, 130 Wighton; *Feb* 275 Cley, 100 Edgefield, 200 Horsey, 320 Terrington, 300 Thornham, *March* 130 Choseley, 100 Grimston, 130 Horsey, 110 Ringstead.

Passage noted from mid-March and peaking in third week of April. Peak counts on north/north-east coasts: 227 west Overstrand March 31st, 254 south Hunstanton and 667 west Overstrand April 1st, 339 west Scolt Head 6th, 423 south Hunstanton 13th with 270 there 14th, 825 west Paston 16th, 267 west Scolt Head and 307 west Sheringham 17th, 475 south Hunstanton and 553 west Scolt Head 18th, 684 west there 19th with 542 20th and 485 on 25th. At Scolt Head total of 4667 west in April.

On east coast total of 10,115 migrants Winterton March 26th-May 13th (6021 north 4094 south) with peaks 567 south March 30th, 446 north April 17th, 404 north 18th and 411 north 30th. Passage much lighter in May, peak 130 west Paston 3rd with none reported after 15th.

Breeding reports included 22 pairs Blakeney Point, 40 Scolt Head and 17 Sparham. NBA results showed the species was present in 77% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage, as usual, less intense than in spring with only notable numbers California where 469 south 59 north Sept 22nd-Nov 19th, with peak 119 south Oct 8th.

In autumn and second winter period peak counts: *Oct* 300 Blakeney, 150 Salthouse Heath, 200 Thornham, 130 Titchwell; *Nov* 135 Salthouse; *Dec* 153 Grimston, 130 Stradsett.

Twite

Carduelis flavirostris

Declining local winter visitor

Max counts at main resorts:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Thornham-Titchwell	35	30	22	20	42	44
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	45	35	-	9	20	20
Blakeney-Salthouse	-	-	-	2	40	10
Terrington /Ongar/Lynn Point	51	76	234	-	215	615

Recorded to April 1st (3 Scolt Head) and from Oct 15th (5 Burnham Overy Staithe).

Although counts in inner Wash were highest for many years, numbers at other main haunts again very low. Elsewhere in first winter period 4 Castle Rising Jan 14th. In second winter period 12-23 Snettisham on 3 dates Nov 13th-23rd, Holkham Bay Nov 3rd, Warham Greens Dec 2nd, 12 Morston Dec 15th, 2-33 on 4 dates Blakeney Hbr/GM in Nov and 10 Dec 28th, 3 Happisburgh Nov 4th, 3 Eccles Nov 3rd, Caister Nov 10th and Yarmouth Nov 26th. Migrants included 15 south Hunstanton March 26th, 5 south California Oct 21st and again Nov 5th, with one south there Nov 8th.

Would-be observers are asked to take extreme care in reporting this species: charting the species' demise and, hopefully, its recovery will rely upon good quality records. Many reports followed up by those studying this species are too often found to refer to Linnets, which now far outnumber Twite in the intertidal. An excellent means of separating Twite from the superficially similar Linnet is that many of the former bear coloured rings. Indeed over half the Twite in a flock may be colour-ringed, so a flock of unringed birds is almost certainly a flock of Linnets!

Lesser Redpoll

Carduelis cabaret

Passage migrant, winter visitor and declining resident

In first winter period significant numbers recorded: *Jan* 55 Cockshoot Broad, 100 UEA; *Feb* 45 Horning, 38 Irstead, 25 Snettisham, 35 West Newton; *March* 25 Coldham Hall, 30 How Hill, 65 Strumpshaw, 45 Wheatfen.

Light spring passage noted west along north coast west of Cromer and south at Hunstanton, with peaks 27 Scolt Head April 19th, with 32 20th and 38 on 25th, and 22 Hunstanton May 3rd with 24 on 5th. Other high spring counts inland included 100 Grime's Graves 9th, 30 Hoveton April 6th, 40 Kelling Heath 7th and 30 Wolferton 18th.

Despite singing males Pensthorpe and Swanton Morley early in month, hardly reported after second week May and no confirmed breeding recorded, although possibly bred at Brettenham Heath. Only midsummer records 5 Kelling Heath June 27th and single Whitlingham CP Aug 18th.

Very light coastal passage from Sept 26th onwards, peaking at 31 south Winterton Oct 18th. Other notable autumn counts included 40 Kelling Heath 25th.

Very scarce in second winter period, max 40 Sheringham Park Dec 24th.

Common (ie Mealy) Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

Scarce winter visitor

Small numbers recorded in first winter period; only notable flocks 25 West Newton Jan 9th and 27 Swaffham 11th, 12 Holkham Meals March 22nd and 40 Syderstone April 12th. The latest report single Roydon Common April 23rd.

In autumn only 3 records: Thornham Oct 5th, and California Nov 4th and 9th.

Arctic Redpoll

Carduelis hornemanni

Winter vagrant from Scandinavia and northern Russia

A female/1st-winter male of Scandinavian form *exilipes* intermittently with 7 Common Redpolls Little Thornage Feb 17th-March 12th (AMS).

Crossbill (Common Crossbill)

Loxia curvirostra

Breeding resident in fluctuating numbers with Thetford Forest the stronghold; immigrants arrive most years in late summer and autumn; major irruptions at irregular intervals

Reported to be in lower numbers in Brecks than recently. In first half of year peak counts: *Jan* 20 Beechamwell, 14 Blackborough End, 10 Holkham Meals, 15 Holt Lowes, 12 Lynford Arboretum, 30 Santon Downham; *Feb* 21 Dersingham Bog, 20 Lynford Arboretum, 18 Wolferton; *March* 20 Grime's Graves, 18 Holme, 40 Holt Lowes, 30 Santon Downham; *April* 15 Kelling Heath; *May* 15 Aylmerton, 30 Kelling Heath, 40 Sheringham Park, 16 Stanford TA, 25 Weybourne; *June* 21 Brettenham Heath, 40 Kelling Heath.

A tiny coastal passage noted: 11 east Overstrand March 14th, 2 west Ingleborough Hill April 17th, single south Hunstanton 23rd and 19 south Winterton May 27th.

Singing males recorded Santon Warren and Lynford Arboretum and 2 juvs reported at the latter site May 4th. NBA results showed the species was present in 3% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad. A very difficult species to survey during the census period April to June, as they breed very early and many young will have fledged and be wandering considerable distances in family parties by the late spring/early summer.

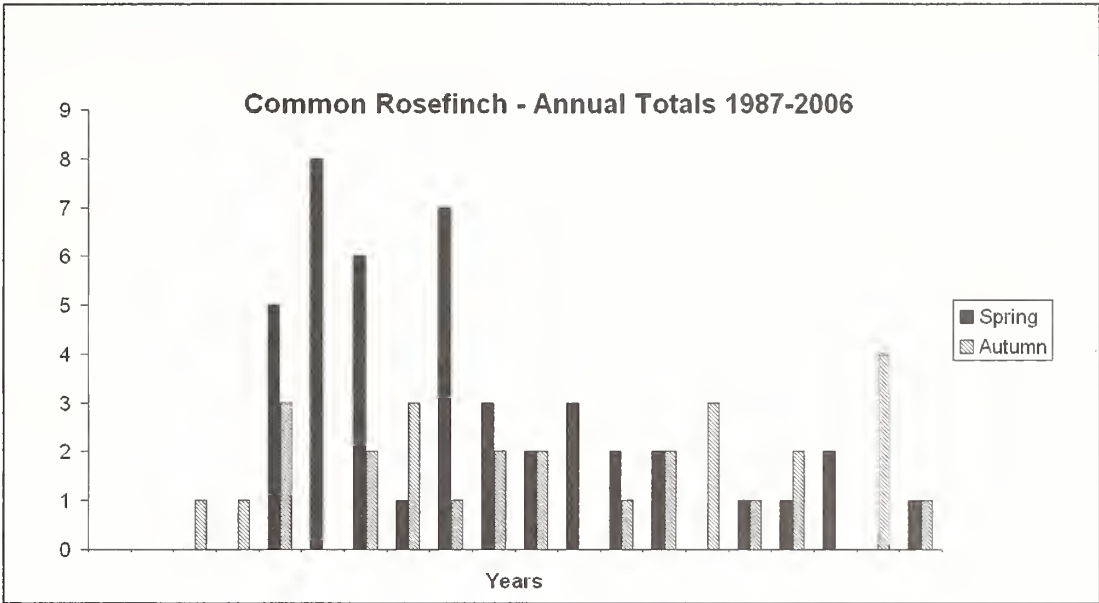
Hardly recorded in second half of year with only 8 records received, all singles apart from 34 Dersingham Bog Nov 26th.

Common Rosefinch

Carpodacus erythrinus

Rare passage migrant; potential colonist

Two records, a grey male Blakeney Point May 7th/8th (RFP *et al*) and a juv Warham Greens Sept 12th (AJS *et al*).



Prior to 1987 there had been just 7 county records. Since then a further 73 have occurred, 47 of these in first 10 years from 1987, when there were 32 in spring and 15 in autumn, with peak counts of 5 in 1991, 8 1992, 6 1993 and 7 in 1995. With expanding populations in northern Europe it seemed likely that colonisation of the county was about to take place but without any explanation numbers of spring records declined dramatically. Although autumn numbers in last 10 years have remained static at 14, spring numbers have fallen over 60% to just 12, with best spring recently 3 in 1998.



Common Rosefinch (Richard Johnson)

Bullfinch (Common Bullfinch)

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Resident and occasional immigrant

Widely reported in first winter period but no large flocks with max 12 Castle Acre Jan 5th, 8 Sheringham 15th, 9 Dickleburgh Feb 3rd, 9 Forncett 5th and 8 Thornage 27th.

In spring 2 north Winterton April 14th, single south Hunstanton 15th and single north Winterton 21st.

NBA results showed the species was present in 43% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. The only other relevant breeding report related to a considerable decrease at Swanton Novers NNR.

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Elusive and very local resident; scarce migrant

In first half of year noted more widely than in recent years with records from Aylmerton, Barnhamcross Common, Cromer, Diddlington Park, East Carleton, Felbrigg, Hilborough, Hockham, Holkham Park, Holt, Inceborough Hill, Lynford Arboretum, Narborough, Ormesby St Margaret, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Sheringham, Swanton Novers and UEA. Almost all reports related to singles apart from 14 Diddlington Park Jan 10th, 2 Lynford Arboretum 18th, 2 Felbrigg late Jan and all Feb, and 17 Lynford Arboretum March 10th/11th.

A migrant west Inceborough Hill April 20th.

A pair reported nest-building Narborough May 16th and present to June 20th.

Fewer reported in second half of year and none between July and Oct. All end-year records as follows: present Lynford Arboretum third week Nov to year end, peaking at 21 Dec 23rd, 2 Titchwell Nov 21st and 3 Thetford 22nd.

Lapland Bunting (Lapland Longspur)

Calcarius lapponicus

Regular but usually scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly max at most regularly favoured sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	1	-	-	-	2	2	3
Thornham Hbr	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Titchwell	-	2	2	-	2	1	-
Choseley	12	15	1	-	-	-	-
Scolt Head -	-	-		3	-	1	-
Holkham Bay	-	-	-	-	1	1	7
Blakeney Point	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Cley/Salthouse	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
Kelling/Weybourne	-	-	-	-	1	4	-
Sheringham	1	-	-	1	3	1	1
West Runton	1	-	1	-	1	1	-
Mundesley/Paston	8	8	6	-	2	-	-
Happisburgh/Eccles	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Breydon	1	1	1	-	1	-	2

In first winter period the single at West Runton present until at least April 22nd. An unusual sighting of a single west Cley May 15th. Elsewhere other singles at Hickling Jan 10th, Snettisham Jan 12th and Feb 14th, Morston Jan 15th, Haddiscoe Island and Horsey Feb 4th, and Strumpshaw Feb 23rd.

Earliest autumn arrival Scolt Head (2) Sept 12th. Other autumn records not included in above table of singles Warham Greens Sept 18th, Terrington Marsh Sept 23rd, Oct 9th and Nov 25th, California Oct 5th and Nov 5th, Ongar Hill Oct 7th, Yarmouth Oct 24th and 25th, Winterton Oct 28th, Nov 2nd and Dec 28th, and Hunstanton Nov 10th. Also 3 Burnham Deepdale Oct 27th and 4 Trimingham 30th.

Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis

Winter visitor in declining numbers

Monthly max at most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham/Heacham	85	70	222	-	7	34
Hunstanton	50	-	-	3	3	-
Holme	120	112	-	4	70	43
Titchwell/Brancaster	20	45	4	12	30	45
Choseley	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scolt Head	75	40	-	-	10	35
Holkham Bay/Wells	100	100	33	-	40	60
Blakeney Point	-	12	-	-	50	30
Cley/Salthouse	80	34	-	5	80	28
Sheringham	6	24	1	-	20	-
Paston	-	-	-	-	12	28
Eccles	-	-	-	-	30	16
Winterton	60	70	1	13	9	-
Caister/California	700	150	107	1	63	82
Breydon/Yarmouth/Gorleston	36	3	-	5	1	1

Elsewhere in Jan 24 Kelling 3rd and 40 10th, 12 Weybourne 12th and in Feb 4 Tunstead 4th and 23 Waxham 15th. Late spring records in April at Caister (3) 1st, Winterton 3rd, Titchwell 4th and Cley 8th.

There were no Sept records; earliest autumn arrival Holme Oct 5th. Other autumn records: single Horsey Oct 14th, 13 south Oct 28th, 27 Nov 4th and 10 Nov 12th, 2 Kelling Nov 2nd, 4 Nov 6th, 15 Dec 12th and 12 Dec 28th, 52 west Mundesley Nov 2nd, 15 Waxham Nov 5th, 10 Weybourne Nov 10th, 20 Thornham and single circling over Beeston Bump Nov 22nd.

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

Once common resident, currently in decline

Flocks in first winter period included 400 Fornsett St Peter, 250 Great Walsingham, 150 Wacton and 100 Fakenham. Smaller flocks of up to 90 at Ashwellthorpe, Bunwell, Choseley, Dereham, Great Ellingham, Marham Fen, Paston, Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Sennowe Park and Swaffham.

Spring passage birds included total of 15 north one south Winterton April 4th-May 7th with max 3 north April 26th and 2nd May, 10 south Hunstanton March 26th-May 3rd with max 4 May 3rd, 10 west Overstrand March 25th-April 30th with max 2 April 1st and 18th, singles west Beeston Bump March 14th and Scolt Head April 23rd, and 3 Waxham April 26th.

Breeding records included 4 singing males Spixworth Quaker Farm down from 9 in 2005 and 13 singing males at Roydon Common; also 12 pairs nested Sparham. NBA results showed the species was present in 83% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage movements included 5 south Hunstanton Sept 30th and Nov 4th, 3 west Holme Oct 14th, and single north California Oct 25th with 2 north there Nov 14th.

Second winter period flocks included 150 Gayton Marshes Nov 18th, 70 Ringstead Nov 4th and 60 on R Nar between Abbey and Highbridge Dec 29th.

Rustic Bunting

Emberiza rustica

Vagrant from northern Europe

One in observer's garden Overstrand June 9th (SCh *et al*). The first record since 2001.

Little Bunting

Emberiza pusilla

Vagrant from northern Scandinavia eastwards, mostly in autumn

The bird present at Morston from mid-Oct 2005 (DEB PMW *et al*) remained to at least Feb 17th.

Yellow-breasted Bunting

Emberiza aureola

Very rare vagrant from Finland eastwards

One briefly West Runton before flying west Aug 26th (APB LBe IP). The sixth county record, last seen 2002.

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

Resident and passage migrant

Flocks in first winter period included 50 Irstead, and 40 Martham, Mileham and Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, with smaller flocks at Filby Broad, Great Ryburgh, Morston, Repps-with-Bastwick, Ringstead Common, St Benet's Level, Sennowe Park, Swaffham and West Runton.

Spring passage movements included 6 west Hunstanton March 26th and 3 south April 2nd, 11 south 5 north Winterton March 27th-April 26th with max 4 south March 27th and 28th, 3 west Scolt Head April 11th and 4 south Horsey May 2nd.

Breeding territories/pairs included 40 Holkham NNR, 31 Blakeney Point, 8 Titchwell and 5 King's Lynn BF, with 79 singing males Scolt Head, 48 Hickling Broad/Heigham Sound, 19 Welney, 13 Roydon Common, 15 Brancaster GM, 5 Cley, and 3 Guist Common and Cantley. NBA results showed the species was present in 36% of tetrads covered in one of the breeding seasons 2000-06, with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage included 171 south 2 north California Sept 19th-Nov 19th with 19 south Oct 13th, 51 21st and 22 on 25th, 13 west Scolt Head Sept 29th and 23 west Oct 3rd, 11 south Hunstanton Sept 30th and 31 west Holme Nov 4th.

Second winter period flocks included 64 at Scolt Head, 30 Cantley, 28 Holme, 25 Snettisham and North Wootton Marsh, 21 Winterton, 15 Cley and Ringstead, and 12 Titchwell.

Corn Bunting

Emberiza calandra

Local and declining resident

Peak first winter period counts at regular sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>
Welney/Ten Mile Bank	60	39	-	-	-
Choseley	250	150	40	18	65

Elsewhere 40 Hilgay Fen, 20 Methwold, 18 Ringstead Common, 11 Paston, 5 Marham Airfield, 2 Hockwold-cum-Wilton, Lynn Point and Wereham, and singles Brancaster, Overstrand, Snettisham, Sparham, Stanford TA, Thornham, West Runton and Weybourne.

Spring movements of singles west Overstrand March 30th and West Runton May 21st, and 2 south Hunstanton May 3rd.

In April single singing males Weybourne 18th, Fincham 21st and Terrington Marsh 24th, and in May 2 singing at Hockwold-cum-Wilton 2nd and 22nd, and singles Burnham Market 13th and Wissington BF 18th. At Shouldham 4 birds present May 23rd and 3 carrying nesting material 31st. In June singles Weybourne 17th, South Lopham 25th and West Somerton 28th; also 3 singing males Choseley July 23rd.

Second winter period flocks of 10 Ringstead Nov 4th and 6 Shouldham Dec 17th with 2 Choseley Oct 27th, Narborough Oct 30th and Fincham during Dec; also singles Docking, Sheringham and West Runton.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Pheucticus ludovicianus

Vagrant from America

One Holme May 4th/5th (JAn *et al*). An unexpected addition to the county list - see article page 335.

Introductions, Escapes, Ferals and Hybrids

Appendix I - Categories A, B and C

Escapes or feral birds of species on the British List

Category A Species

Lesser White-fronted Goose

Anser erythropus

Northern Eurasia; winters southern Europe, India and China

Boughton Fen April 17th; Gunton Park June 29th; Hardley Flood April 30th; Hickling Broad June 27th-29th, all July and 1st-24th Aug; Martham Jan 14th and 29th, Sept 10th and Dec 12th; West Somerton Dec 29th.

Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis

Western Siberia; winters Black, Caspian and Aral Seas

Brundall July 5th-12th; Buckenham/Cantley Marshes May 1st, June 12th, Aug 16th, Sept 12th (2), 15th, 22nd, 26th (2) and 30th (2), Oct 1st (2), 4th and 29th, Nov 14th and Dec 29th; Claxton Dec 31st; Rockland Broad Sept 15th.

Category B/C Species

Rose-ringed Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Feral in London area

Titchwell May 23rd, this bird was a general blue-grey colour, which is apparently a colour morph that some breeders are producing.

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Asia and North Africa

Bittering GP max 5 Feb 17th-19th, one March 19th; Briningham 5 March 5th and 2 Dec 15th; Cley max monthly counts: 12 Jan, 13 Feb, 2 March, one April, 5 May, 3 June, 3 July, 7 Aug, 12 Sept, 12 Oct, 12 Nov, 7 Dec; Colney GP 2 April 12th; Earsham GP Jan 4th/5th, 2 May 11th-26th and one Sept 13th, Great Ryburgh March 22nd; Hethersett Park April 9th and May 4th; Holkham GM June 5th; Kelling Triangle Nov 27th; Kelling WM pair April 16th; Langor Bridge/Little Snoring pair Feb 5th; Lopham Fen May 8th; Metton Park April 25th, May 10th and 28th, June 3rd; Morston 5 Dec 26th; Ranworth Broad 2 July 24th; Salthouse Aug 28th; Sculthorpe 2 May 3rd; Sennowe Park pair June 19th; Stanford Water 2 April 15th-24th; Swanton Morley GP 2 April 17th; Thornage Common March 17th; Titchwell March 9th; Welney April 17th; West Somerton April 21st.

Appendix II - Category D

Species that would otherwise appear on the British List except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state

Ross's Goose

Anser rossii

Tundra of northern Canada, winters to southern United States

Cley April 12th and 26th-30th, May 2nd/3rd (ringed); Snettisham 2 Oct 27th; Stiffkey Fen April 20th, Oct 6th, 7th (2) and 9th.

Appendix III - Category E

Escapes or feral birds of species not on the British List

White-faced Whistling-duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Costa Rica to Brazil; Africa, Madagascar and Comoro Islands

Snettisham 6 Sept 29th.

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Australia and Tasmania

Blakeney GM April 8th; Breydon 2 March 7th; Brumstead Hall Jan 6th/7th; Cley Jan 1st-May 31st and Jul-Oct; East Ruston Jan 12th and 14th; Hickling Broad Jan 10th-21st, Feb 9th, pair May 6th, 1-2 June 18th-28th, July 6th-20th, Aug 2nd-31st; Horning R Bure Dec 2nd and 23rd; Johnson Street Buttle Marsh Feb 24th; Potter Heigham Jan-June; R Nar (Highbridge-Setchley) Jan 24th; Snettisham April; Sutton Jan 22nd; Thorpe St Andrew Aug 18th; Welney Jan 1st and 25th, Feb 6th, 9th and 12th.

Swan Goose

Anser cygnoides

Eastern Eurasia

Cley Oct 1st and 3rd.

Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus

Central Asia; winters in India and Burma

Breydon Feb 13th; Cley Oct 1st-12th and Nov 21st; Haddiscoe/Thorpe Marshes June 9th; Hickling Broad May 10th, June 11th/12th and 14th-20th; Waxham Oct 6th.

Emperor Goose

Anser canagica

North-east Siberia to western Alaska; winters southern Alaska to northern California

How Hill Reedham Water Dec 29th; Johnson Street Buttle Marsh July 27th; Wroxham Broad Dec 15th.

South African Shelduck

Tadorna cana

Karoo of southern Africa

Bittering GP Feb 17th-19th and March 19th-29th; Cley several dates Jan, Feb 4th-6th, July 1st-3rd, Aug 30th/31st, all Sept, Oct 23rd, Dec 14th and 2 on 29th; Welney Jan 28th/29th, Feb 1st and 12th.

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Southern Mexico to Argentina and Brazil

Aylmerton west May 28th; Brockdish 2 males 7 females Oct 22nd and again Dec 17th; Broome GP 2 males 3 females Nov 26th; Mundesley Mill Pond Jan 12th-Feb 15th.

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Canada to northern Mexico, Cuba and Bahamas

Gunton Park April 22nd.

Chiloe Wigeon

Anas sibilatrix

Southern South America

Nar Valley Fisheries July 30th, Sept 17th and Oct 16th.

Speckled Teal

Anas flavirastris

Venezuela to Tierra del Fuego

Hickling Broad May 13th and 15th.

Chestnut Teal

Anas castanea

Australia and Tasmania

Breydon June 24th.

White-cheeked Pintail*Anas bahamensis**South America, West Indies and Galapagos Islands*

Tottenham GP Feb 15th, April 4th and 12th, May 2nd; Welney Jan 15th, 30th/31st, Feb 6th and 26th-28th, Dec 13th.

White Pelican*Pelecanus onocrotalus**South-central Eurasia, south Asia and Africa*

One west along north coast Aug 16th when noted numerous localities between Kelling WM and Holme/Ringstead.

Sacred Ibis*Threskiornis aethiopicus**Africa south of Sahara*

Breydon July 3rd.

Reeves's Pheasant*Syrnaticus reevesii**North-central China*

Ickburgh March 2nd; Stanford TA 3 singles at one site with 4 at another.

Japanese Green Pheasant*Phasianus versicolor**Japan*

Populations in Brecks and north-east of county are thought to contain mainly hybrids although there may still be the odd pure bird remaining.

Indian Peafowl*Pavo cristatus**India and Sri Lanka*

Ashwellthorpe July 7th; Marham male and female Feb 26th.

Turkey Vulture*Cathartes aura**Canada to Terra del Fuego*

Colney GP July 31st; one west along north coast Aug 16th noted at Weybourne, Beeston Regis, Salthouse Heath, Blakeney and Stiffkey; Snettisham Aug 20th.

White-backed Vulture*Gyps africanus**Africa south of Sahara*

Blakeney Point, Holt and Warham Greens area Oct 8th.

Harris' Hawk*Parabuteo unicinctus**USA and South America*

One Hickling-Horsey area throughout year.

Red-tailed Hawk*Buteo jamaicensis**North and Central America and West Indies*

Great Ryburgh March 18th; Thetford Warren Feb 15th, March 4th-6th and 26th.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus**Savanna and deserts of western Palearctic and Africa*

Breydon April 22nd.

Diamond Dove*Geopelia cuneata**Australia*

Sheringham Sept 19th (found dead).

Grey Parrot*Psittacus erithacus**West and central Africa*

New Costessey Nov 2nd; one flew out to sea before heading west 100 m offshore Weybourne Sept 15th.

Budgerigar

Australia

Winterton Aug 19th.

Melopsittacus undulatus

Cockatiel

Australia

Thetford Nunnery Lakes Feb 15th-March 13th.

Nymphicus hollandicus

Eurasian Eagle Owl

Paelearctic

One present most of year Brampton; Norwich Eaton Park Jan 31st.

Bubo bubo

Laughing Kookaburra

Australia

Beetley Jan 24th/25th and March 9th-16th.

Dacelo novaeguineae

Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling

Africa south of Sahara

Burnham Overy Staithe Oct 10th; Holkham GM Oct 13th; Snettisham Oct 15th.

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Appendix IV - Hybrids

As submitted by observers - parentage not necessarily confirmed

Greylag Goose x Egyptian Goose

Hickling Broad June 20th.

Greylag Goose x Barnacle Goose

Holkham Park Feb 13th and Aug 8th.

Greylag Goose x Canada Goose

Felbrigg Park (5) Feb 13th; Gunton Park (2) April 11th; Tottenhill GP June 7th; Wissington BF June 5th.

Pink-footed Goose x White-fronted Goose

Holkham GM Jan 29th

Pink-footed Goose x Ross's Goose

Brancaster Oct 4th and 10th/11th; Holkham GM Jan 5th, 12th, 18th and 21st.

Pink-footed Goose x Snow Goose

Brancaster Jan 25th; Burnham Overy Jan 15th; Holkham GM Jan 21st-Feb 5th.

Barnacle Goose x Brent Goose

Hickling Broad July 5th-9th and Aug 7th-10th

Barnacle Goose x Canada Goose

Hickling Broad June 13th-29th, July 1st, Aug 7th/8th, 15th-17th (2) and Sept 18th-27th; Buckenham Tofts April 17th.

Ruddy Shelduck x South African Shelduck

Cley all Sept

Shelduck x Radjah Shelduck

Breydon Sept 19th

Egyptian Goose x Eurasian Wigeon

Alderfen Broad Oct 8th; How Hill Oct 1st.

Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon

Burnham Norton Nov 18th-20th.

Mallard x Pintail

Tottenham GP Nov 24th.

Pochard x Tufted Duck

Welney Jan 15th and 29th, Feb 9th and May 14th.

Pochard x Ferruginous Duck

Welney Jan 7th-31st and Feb 26th.

Tufted Duck x Scaup

Welney 2 Dec 28th.

Lanner Falcon x Saker Falcon

Foulden April 28th.

Grey Partridge x Red-legged Partridge

Cockley Cley May 18th.

Reeves Pheasant x Common Pheasant

Stanford TA (no dates given).

Mediterranean Gull x Black-headed Gull

3cy Snettisham May 13th.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull

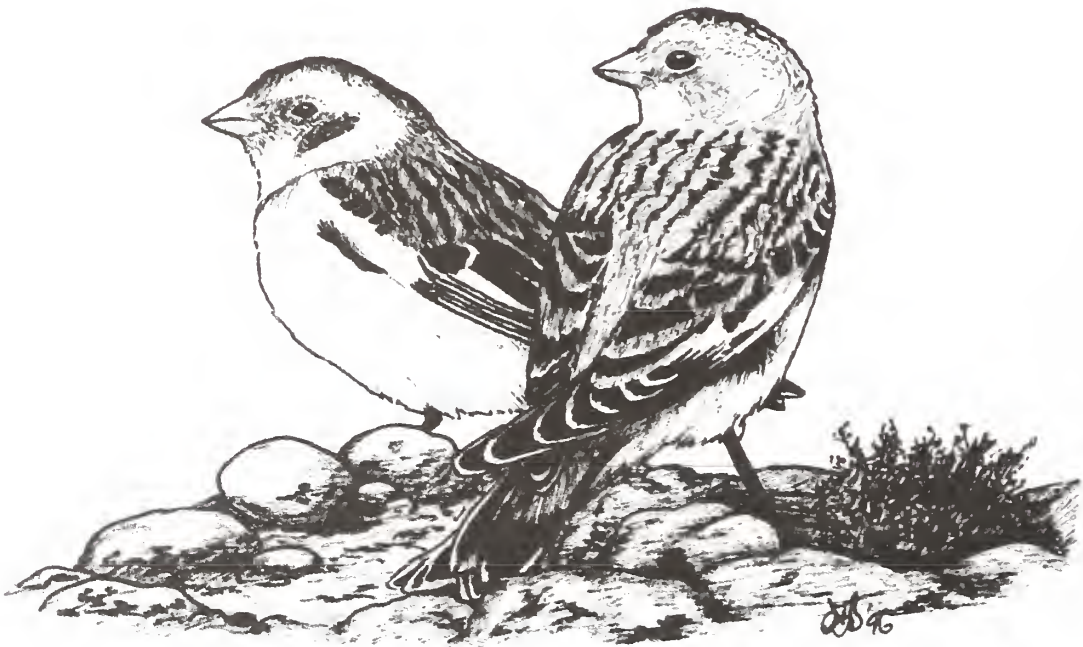
Holt Feb 19th.

Herring Gull x Caspian Gull

2cy Hockwold Washes Feb 11th.

Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull

2cy Aldeby Tip Feb 19th-March 8th.



Snow Buntings (*Alan Burtenshaw*)

Earliest and Latest Dates of Summer Migrants

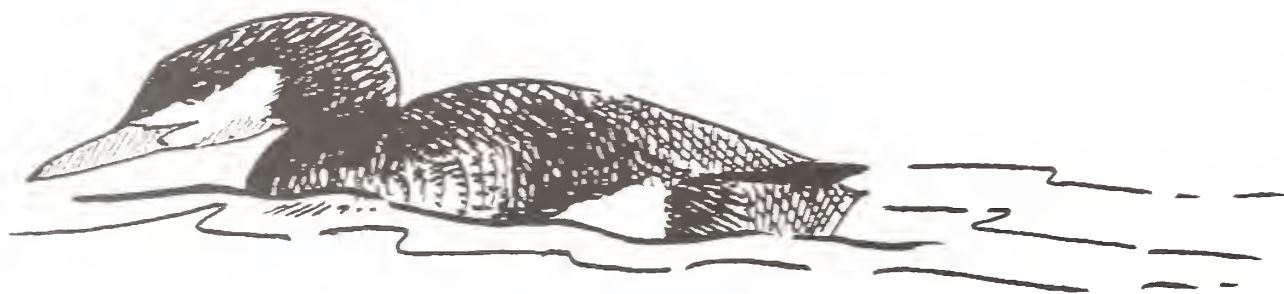
(excludes occasional winter records)

	<i>Arrivals</i>		<i>Departures</i>	
Spoonbill	March 31st	Winterton	Oct 12th	Welney
Garganey	March 10th	Whitlingham CP	Dec 12th	Cley
Honey Buzzard	May 5th	Welney	Oct 8th	Weybourne
Montagu's Harrier	April 16th	Dersingham	Sept 7th	Titchwell
Osprey	April 1st	Overstrand	Sept 30th	Hockwold Washes
Hobby	April 9th	Barton Broad	Nov 6th	Kelling WM
Quail	April 13th	Terrington Marsh	Oct 1st	Ryston
Stone Curlew	March 23rd	Gooderstone	Dec 29th	Brecks
Little-ringed Plover	March 9th	Cley	Sept 5th	Cley/Stiffkey
Dotterel	April 28th	Foul登	Nov 29th	Cley
Little Stint	April 21st	Cley	Dec 16th	Breydon
Temminck's Stint	May 1st	Cley	Aug 27th	Titchwell
Curlew Sandpiper	April 20th	Hickling Rush Hills	Oct 29th	Cley
Whimbrel	March 26th	Thornham	Nov 19th	Titchwell
Wood Sandpiper	April 30th	Welney	Sept 22nd	Cantley BF
Common Sandpiper	April 15th	Holme	Oct 3rd	Snettisham
Sandwich Tern	March 18th	Terrington Marsh	Nov 9th	Mundesley
Common Tern	March 26th	Ranworth Broad	Nov 28th	Mundesley
Roseate Tern	July 2nd	Blakeney Point	Sept 20th	Salthouse
Arctic Tern	April 15th	Barton Broad	Nov 3rd	Cley/Winterton
Little Tern	April 17th	Scolt Head	Oct 8th	Yarmouth
Black Tern	April 16th	Colney GP	Oct 8th	Blakeney Point
Turtle Dove	April 13th	Brancaster	Nov 11th	Eccles
Cuckoo	April 12th	Metton/Poringland	Sept 15th	Holkham/Sheringham
Nightjar	May 1st	Brecks	Sept 7th	Brecks
Swift	April 6th	Blickling Park Lake	Oct 2nd	Winterton
Wryneck	April 15th	Yarmouth	Sept 26th	Yarmouth
Sand Martin	March 17th	Wroxham Broad	Oct 19th	Titchwell
Swallow	March 25th	3 sites	Dec 18th	Blakeney
House Martin	March 25th	Titchwell	Dec 16th	Holkham GM
Tree Pipit	April 2nd	Overstrand	Sept 25th	Burnham Overy Dunes
Yellow Wagtail	March 25th	Snettisham	Oct 22nd	Holme
White Wagtail	March 4th	Breydon	Sept 6th	Cley
Nightingale	April 16th	Penteny GP	Aug 26th	Winterton
Redstart	April 14th	Holme/Sheringham	Oct 17th	Cley
Whinchat	April 14th	Holme	Oct 17th	Cley
Wheatear	March 24th	Holme	Nov 12th	Caister
Ring Ouzel	March 28th	Paston	Nov 9th	N Walsham/Walcott
Grasshopper Warbler	April 10th	Norwich	Oct 11th	Blakeney Point
Sedge Warbler	March 29th	Snettisham CP	Sept 24th	Blakeney Point
Reed Warbler	April 14th	Titchwell	Oct 8th	Cantley BF
Lesser Whitethroat	April 15th	Snettisham CP	Nov 13th	Waxham
Whitethroat	April 10th	Stiffkey	Oct 10th	Blakeney Point
Garden Warbler	April 17th	Dersingham Bog	Oct 26th	Beeston Bump
Wood Warbler	April 18th	Yarmouth	Sept 26th	Wells East Hills
Willow Warbler	March 27th	Holt	Nov 10th	Cley
Spotted Flycatcher	April 29th	Santon Downham	Sept 26th	Holkham Meals
Pied Flycatcher	April 18th	Winterton	Oct 16th	Holkham Meals
Red-backed Shrike	June 3rd	Costessey	Oct 12th	Stiffkey Fen

Latest and Earliest Dates of Winter Migrants

(excludes occasional summer records)

	<i>Departures</i>		<i>Arrivals</i>	
Black-throated Diver	May 23rd	Winterton	Sept 15th	Sheringham
Great Northern Diver	May 30th	Weybourne	Sept 24th	Yarmouth
Red-necked Grebe	April 9th	Brancaster Hbr	Sept 8th	Kelling
Slavonian Grebe	April 6th	Winterton	Sept 26th	Winterton
Black-necked Grebe	April 9th	Brancaster Hbr	Oct 8th	Holkham GM
Bewick's Swan	March 18th	Upton Broad	Oct 26th	Stiffkey
Whooper Swan	April 12th	How Hill	Oct 9th	Welney
Taiga Bean Goose	March 17th	Horsey	Nov 2nd	Yare Valley
Tundra Bean Goose	April 9th	Burnham Overy GM	Nov 12th	North Norfolk
Pink-footed Goose	May 12th	Scolt Head	Sept 16th	Brancaster Staithe
White-fronted Goose	April 1st	Snettisham	Oct 16th	Horsey
Long-tailed Duck	April 30th	Hardley Flood	Oct 13th	Holme
Goldeneye	April 30th	Hardley Flood Hickling	Oct 9th	California
Smew	March 25th	Nar Valley Fisheries	Dec 25th	Snettisham
Hen Harrier	May 23rd	Holme	Aug 26th	Terrington Marsh
Rough-legged Buzzard	May 23rd	Bayfield Hall	Nov 6th	Lyng
Merlin	June 8th	Scolt Head	July 18th	Scolt Head
Peregrine	June 3rd	Upton Marsh	July 6th	South Lopham
Purple Sandpiper	May 30th	Cley	July 15th	Scolt Head
Jack Snipe	April 24th	Catfield	Sept 16th	Scolt Head
Iceland Gull	April 1st	Snettisham CP	Nov 12th	Holme Titchwell
Glaucous Gull	May 8th	Winterton	Nov 2nd	Cley Holme
Shore Lark	May 16th	Titchwell	Oct 13th	Holme
Rock Pipit	April 20th	Scolt Head	Sept 16th	Blakeney Point
Water Pipit	April 11th	Buckenham	Sept 22nd	Hickling Swim Coots
Waxwing	April 24th	King's Lynn	Nov 3rd	Stiffkey
Fieldfare	June 26th	Blakeney GM	Aug 17th	Holme
Redwing	April 30th	Scoulton	Oct 5th	Holme New Costessey
Great Grey Shrike	April 8th	Hunstanton Snettisham	Sept 16th	B-Overy Staithe
Brambling	May 15th	Hoveton	Sept 16th	3 sites
Twite	April 1st	Scolt Head	Oct 15th	B-Overy Staithe
Lapland Bunting	April 22nd	West Runton	Sept 12th	Scolt Head
Snow Bunting	April 8th	Cley	Oct 5th	Holme



Black-throated Diver (Andy Benson)

Non-accepted Records

The following refer to records where a written description has not been accepted by either the British Birds Rarities Committee or County Records Committee.

2005 Red-footed Falcon - Winterton May 1st and Breydon May 27th.

2006 White Stork - Hickling Broad May 9th; Black Kite - Martham May 5th; White-tailed Eagle - Hickling Stubb Mill Nov 28th; Red-footed Falcon - Gorleston July 7th; Spotted Crane - Welney Aug 5th; Corncrake - South Lopham Aug 22nd and Wash Coast Path Sept 14th; American Golden Plover - Snettisham Oct 3rd; Laughing Gull - Hunstanton Jan 15th; Sabine's Gull - Sea Palling Oct 24th and Holme Nov 1st; Gull-billed Tern - Gorleston Aug 3rd; Whiskered Tern - Rockland Broad May 25th; White-winged Black Tern - Holme Aug 14th; Pacific Swift - Horsey Oct 21st; Alpine Swift - Winterton April 1st; Richard's Pipit - Choseley Feb 14th; Siberian Stonechat - Roydon Common April 30th; Moustached Warbler - Titchwell Aug 31st; Greenish Warbler - Downham Market Sept 12th.

Non-submitted Records

The following records have been reported to either the National or East Anglian Birdlines, or Rare Bird Alert but to date no details have been received. Descriptions of any of these records would be welcomed (for consideration either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or County Records Committee) so that hopefully they can be published as accepted records in due course.

Great White Egret	Welney	Jan 16th
Purple Heron	Hockwold Washes	April 26th
	Caister	May 7th
Red-footed Falcon	Winterton	May 1st
Corncrake	Waxham	Sept 18th
	Blakeney Point	Oct 26th
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Titchwell	Sept 17th
Laughing Gull	Hunstanton	June 11th
Sabine's Gull	Cley	Sept 17th
	Waxham	Sept 28th
	Salhouse	Sept 30th
	Winterton	Nov 1st
Gull-billed Tern	Salhouse	Aug 16th
Tawny Pipit	Wells East Hills	Sept 24th
Red-throated Pipit	Cley	Oct 15th
Sardinian Warbler	Winterton	Oct 8th
Raven	Brancaster GC	Oct 8th
Common Rosefinch	Salhouse	Sept 13th
Ortolan Bunting	Blakeney Point	Aug 25th 26th
Little Bunting	Snettisham	Oct 27th

List of Contributors to Systematic List

S Abbott	G N Brind	V Covell-London	J D & J E Geeson
M Abdulla	BTO	H P Crawley	N Gibbons
A Aberdeen	I Brittain	J Cricket	J A Gill
D Adelizzi	G J Brooking	E Cross	S Gillings
P R Allard	A F Brown	I Crosse	J Gilroy (JGi)
M Andrew	Jon Brown	J Crouch	T Girling
J Andrews (JAn)	G Brownlow	F Currie	P Gluth
D P Appleton	S H Bryan	D&A Curtis	G Goffin
G F Appleton	A L & R M Bull	T Daunt	M A Golley
P C Arbery	I Burrows	T C & G Davies	A Goodall
R Arnfield	R J Burrough	L A Delve	S J Gough
S J Aspinall	A & S Burtenshaw	M Dodd	M Grantham
T Austin	B Burton	P Dolman	A Green
J Bacon	N Burton	P J Dolton	S Green
M Baker	J F Butcher	C Donner	B Greenacre
A Balls	M Butler-Storey	D Dorling	C Gregory
D E Balmer	G Button	G Douglas	R Gribble
A Banwell	B Bye	J Dries	A Grieve
S Barbato	J Cadbury	G E Dunmore	J Grover
S Barker	N Calbrade	K Durrant	S Groves
B Barnett	S Cale	K R Dye	S Grundy
R E Batty	P Callis	R Dyke	A J Hale
S Beal	O Campbell	A Eadson	P D Halford
P E Beard	P Carr	J Eaton	A Hall
P Becket	B & D Carter	M Eccles	J Hampshire
A P Benson	N Carter	J Edwards	P Hampson
L Benson (LBe)	J Casson	P Eele	M Handschuh
L G Bentley	P Cawley (PCa)	M I Eldridge	V J Hanlon
S Betts	D E Chamberlain	N Elms	R I Harold
J V Bhalerao	A G Channer	G S Elton	J Harris
P Birch	C Chapman	G J Etherington	M L Hawkes
Birdguides	K Charters	S Evans	I Haynes
Birdline East Anglia	D L Cheyne	C M & F J Farrow	S Hearle
Birdtrack	S Chidwick (SCh)	P C Feakes	P J Heath
B Bishop	R H Chittenden	C & J Fenn	T Hemmings
I Black	M A Chipperfield	J Filowiat	I G Henderson
J Blackburn	J A Clark	K Fisher	K J & A Herber
L Blackmore	N A Clark	M Fisher	B Herbing
N Blacker	A Cleall	M D Fiszer	P Herkenrath
C Blaxill	P Clement (PCl)	G W Fellows	C M Hewson
A I Bloomfield	Cley Bird Club	M K Fowlie	G F Hibberd
G Bond	R Cobbold	R A & A J Foyster	M Hines
A D Boote	M Cocker	S Franklin	D Hoare
T E Boulton	A Cohen	D Fuller	R Hoblyn
W Bowell	M P Collier	D J Fuller	M Holling
N B Bowman	M Colman	R J Fuller	S J Holloway
I Boston	R Colman	J Furse	D J Holman
M Bradberry (MBr)	S Conner	J Gaffney	Holme Bird Observatory
B Bradnum	G Conway	S J M Gantlett	P Holness
K J Brett	F Cooke	A J Gardiner	C A Holt
M A Brewster	R H Coombes	R W & H K Garner	J Hopkins
D & J Bridges	A Court	J Gaskell	S Howell

B Hudson	I M D Maclean	C Rand	M P Taylor
C Hudson	D McNeill	Rare Bird Alert	P Taylor
R A Image	J D Magee	M J Raven	R Thewlis
A Irwin	R C Mansfield	J Ray	L Thompson
A & C Jackson	J H Marchant	J Read	M Toms
B Jarvis	M R & O R Marks	M M Rehfishch	J&D K Toomer
P A Jeffery	B A E Marr	D I & R M Richmond	T Townsend
A Jenson	L Marshall	I Robinson	E Urquart
R J Johns	A Martin	M Robinson	A E Vine
A Johnson	R Martin (RMa)	R Robinson	R B Votier
I G & K Johnson	J R McCallum	C Robson	J Wagstaff
S & M Johnson	S McElwee	N&H Robson	G Walford
R Johnson	R C & S McIntyre	D Roche	C Walker
C Jones	E E McLernon	M Rodgers	M A Ward
D Jones	D McNeill	E V Rogers	P Ware
R F Jones	H P Medhurst	N R Rogers	J Wasse
S C Joyner	J&B Mighell	M S Rooney	A M Waterman
A C Joys	J Miller	S Rowland	M Watson
A J Kane	R G Millington	RSPB	M A Webster
G I Kelly	C H Mills	G Ruffles	Wensum Valley Bird
J B Kemp	O Moore	D H Russell	Society
T Kerridge	S & P Morrison	D H Sadler	R Weisner
I F & J Keymer	B J Murphy	B Sage	C V Wernham
V Kimmel	A R Murray	A J Saunders	I West
C A E Kirtland	C Murphy	D Saunt	S C West
P Kitchener	A J Musgrove	M J Saunt	C E Wheeler
D R Knight	E T Myers	C Sayer	D White
T Knight	M Nash	J Scott (JSc)	J R Whitelegg
C R Knights	NARVOS	R E Scott	A Whitney
M Knights	P Newport	J & R Secker	D & P Wileman
T Knights	T Nightingale	J Shailes	N Williams
C Knott	K Noble	K Shepherd	J R Williamson
D A Lake	NOA	Sheringham Bird	N D Willits
I Lambert	NW Norfolk Ringing	Observatory	G Wilson (GWi)
W N Landells	Group	N Sills	P M Wilson
J Lansdell (JLa)	D Nye	I Simper	D Wood
N M Lawton	S Offord	G M Siriwardena	S Woodman
R M Leaney	M Olin	R Skeen	P J Woolnough
J Le Corney	R Osborne	A Smith	S Woolley
M P Lee	N Packer	A J L & E Smith	S Wotton
R Lee	M Palles-Clark	I N Smith	G Wright
A Leech	P Parker	J Smith	K M H Wright
D Leech	I Perry	M Smith	L Wright
D P Lester	S Perry	N Smith	M Wright
J Lines	T Philips	S Smith	S A Wright
S Linsell	A M Phillipson	S South	T Wright
S M Lister	E Phipps	B Stafford	R Yaxley
P Lockwood	B Pleasance	Stanta Bird Club	C Zockler
K Lovatt	M&J Pointon	J Starbuck-Machin	
T C Lowe	R F Porter	C Stean	
D P Lowman	A Prater	J M Stenning	
R Mabey	I Prentice (IPr)	A M Stoddart	
D Machin	M Preston	L S Taylor	
N Machin	R Price	M Taylor	

Ringling Report

Allan Hale

A total of 39,301 birds of 120 species was reported as being ringed in Norfolk during 2006. This is the lowest number of birds caught for seven years, and the lowest number of species for almost 20 years. The general consensus from the ringers was that “the birds were just not there to be caught”.

The only true rarity to be ringed was a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Holme Bird Observatory. The most-ringed species was Greenfinch with 5,173 birds handled. Recoveries came from 22 countries, with the most distant being Namibia where a nestling Common Tern from Breydon Water spent at least part of the winter.

Thanks to all Norfolk ringers for access to their data, and especially to Steve and Alison Wakeham for the Wash Wader Ringing Group recoveries and their interpretation. Thanks also to the “Cley Crew” for their diligence in reading and reporting the many colour-ringed birds seen in the area and to David and Pat Wileman for pulling together and summarising the records.

Selected Norfolk Recoveries Notified During 2006

Ringing details are shown on the first line whilst recovery information is on the second.

Age when ringed

- 1 Pullus (= nestling)
- 2 Fully grown, year of hatching unknown
- 3 Hatched during calendar year of ringing
- 4 Hatched before calendar year of ringing, but exact year unknown
- 5 Hatched during previous calendar year
- 6 Hatched before previous calendar year but exact year unknown
- 7 Hatched two calendar years before ringing
- 8 Hatched more than two calendar years before ringing

M = male

F = female

J = distinctive juvenile plumage

Condition at Recovery

- X Found dead
- XF Found freshly dead or dying
- XL Found long dead
- + Shot or intentionally killed by man
- R Caught and released by a ringer
- B Caught and released by a ringer (nesting)
- RR Ring or colour marks read in the field

Mute Swan

- 1 27.07.03 The Island, Haddiscoe
- XF 06.10.04 Ipswich Docks, Suffolk (66km SSW)
- R 21.03.06 Dovercourt, Essex

After being ringed as a nestling in Norfolk this swan was found oiled at Ipswich Docks the following year. After being taken into care it was released (sucessfully it seems) since it was found again, fit and well in Essex a further year and a half on.

Bewick's Swan

A colour-ringed bird was ringed on the Yan Gutey River, Zavorot Peninsular, Russia, 07.08.04. It was seen in The Netherlands 24.11.04 and spent the rest of the winter wandering between four sites, two in The Netherlands and two in Belgium. It was presumably on its way back to Russia when it lingered for six days in Germany at the end of March 2005. The following winter it was seen at Hickling Broad 19.12.05.

Pink-footed Goose

6M	20.03.96	Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross, Scotland (until 27.04.96)	
R	10.03.97	Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross, Scotland (until 06.04.97)	
R	28.02.98	Netherton, Perth & Kinross, Scotland	
R	16.02.99	Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross, Scotland	
R	09.01.00	Blairdrummond, Stirlingshire, Scotland	
R	20.09.02	Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross, Scotland (until 06.11.02)	
R	18.01.06	Holkham NNR	
6F	29.07.00	Pjorsarver Hofsjokull, Iceland	
+	15.02.06	Brancaster	(1,698km SE)

After regularly wintering in Scotland, the first shown re-located to North Norfolk. The second shown was ringed as a breeding female on its Icelandic breeding grounds.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

The regularly returning bird (see this report for 2004 and 2005) from Siberia (ringed 09.08.95) spent its fourth winter at Cley-next-the-Sea. Previous years had seen it in the Channel Islands, Denmark and Germany.

Teal

4M	05.03.05	Lekkerkerk, Zeeland, The Netherlands	
+	30.12.05	Rollesby Broad	(223km WNW)
3M	11.12.05	Rollesbt Broad	
+	14.09.06	Looberghe, Nord, France	(200km SSE)
3F	11.12.05	Rollesby Broad	
XF	14.03.06	Heide, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany	(522km ENE)

The first and second shown were both shot. Interestingly, the third shown was reported as being "taken by predatory bird".

Shag

1	19.07.05	Isle of May, Fife, Scotland	
RR	05.11.05	Sheringham	(436km SE)

Most of the Shags recovered in Norfolk come from the breeding colony on the Isle of May. Birds from there disperse primarily south-eastwards down the coast.

Kestrel

1	26.06.06	Mileham, Dereham	
XF	21.07.06	Tyne & Wear	(300km NNW)

This Kestrel, ringed as a nestling, was found “dead in artificial water container” 300km distant in Tyne & Wear only 25 days later. Most recoveries of young Kestrels are close to their hatching site. Long-distance dispersal is rare but some, like this example, do move much further afield, and rapidly too!

Oystercatcher

1	23.06.02	Kvaloyvag, Tromso, Troms, Norway	
R	23.07.05	Heacham	(2,018km SSW)
1	19.06.03	Kvaloyvag, Tromso, Troms, Norway	
R	23.07.05	Heacham	(2,099km SSW)

Oystercatchers using The Wash and bearing Norwegian rings are not uncommon, but the majority come from south of the Arctic Circle. These two, both ringed as nestlings near Tromso, were caught together at Heacham, and are the two northernmost controls notified during the year. An adult ringed at Holbeach on The Wash 10.08.98 was seen on many dates during April 2006 at Cley-next-the-Sea, where it was seen mating and shown to be a female.

Avocet

The bird ringed at Holme as a nestling 18.06.93 and summarised in the last report, returned to Cley-next-the-Sea. Both breeding attempts there failed again.

Little Ringed Plover

3	01.08.98	Tienen, Vlaams, Brabant, Belgium	
R	11.07.05	near Pentney, King's Lynn	(735km NE)

This is only the third foreign-ringed Little Ringed Plover to be caught in Britain and the first from Belgium.

Ringed Plover

1	13.06.06	Snettisham	
RR	11.08.06	Paxton Pits, Diddington, Cambridgeshire	(79km SW)
4F	26.05.04	Snettisham	
RR	13.10.05	Inch, Dingle Bay, Kerry, Eire	(722km W)
1	25.07.98	Snettisham	
RR	25.10.05	Port de Porspaul, Finisterre, France	(614km SW)
1	01.06.03	Willington, Bedfordshire	
R	20.10.05	Heacham	(105km NE)

Perhaps surprisingly, the recovery sites in Cambridgeshire, Eire and France all show a westerly or south-westerly component. There were additional single birds to Paxton Pits and Port de Posaul, plus another two to Eire (Counties Cork and Mayo). Note that the third

shown is in its eighth year. The last shown is the first Ringed Plover to be controlled by the Wash Wader Ringing Group since 1991, and as a nestling-ringed bird, a valuable record. It was the group's first from Bedfordshire.

Another fascinating record concerns a colour-ringed individual which was on Arnold's Marsh, Cley-next-the-Sea from 19.03.06 until 29.04.06 and appeared to be paired to an unringed bird. The history of this bird reveals that Ringed Plovers are not as faithful to mates as the books might suggest. She had been trapped on the nest 30.07.04 at Snettisham when paired with a colour-ringed male. They hatched three chicks which probably didn't fledge. Interestingly this was the male's second breeding attempt of the year – it had raised four chicks with a different colour-ringed female that June! The originally mentioned female was then seen at Arnold's Marsh the following year on several dates from 20.03.05 to 03.07.05. There was no evidence of her breeding at Cley and she did not return to Snettisham that year. Her mate of 2005 on the other hand returned to Snettisham, breeding with yet another colour-ringed female! After leaving Cley in 2006 our female was seen back at Snettisham from 15.05.06.

Lapwing

1	16.05.04	near Bastwick, Great Yarmouth	
+	01.12.05	St Denis du Pays, Allier, France	(713km SSE)

A Norfolk-ringed bird shot in France – a recurring theme through this report.

Knot

6	09.03.96	Heacham	
RR	17.01.97	Den Helder, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	(285km E)
RR	04.02.06	Den Helder, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	

One of only two overseas Knot recoveries during the year (the other being reported from Germany). This individual, wintering at the same site in The Netherlands, has now twice had its ring read in the field by diligent birdwatchers.

Sanderling

4	17.10.04	Heacham	
XF	27.12.05	Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Algarve, Portugal	(1,855km SSW)
3	30.10.04	Heacham	
XF	06.02.06	San Fernando, Cadiz, Spain	(1,899km SSW)
4F	28.11.05	Iwik, Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania	
RR	26.07.06	Heacham	(3,936km NE)
3	20.08.03	Revtangen, Klepp, Rogaland, Norway	
R	25.08.05	Heacham	(720km SSW)
5	30.01.05	Le Haule, Jersey, Channel Islands	
R	25.08.05	Heacham	(452km NNE)

As a consequence of particularly successful Sanderling catches made by the WWRG in recent years we continue to be rewarded with some notable recoveries. Following on from a

similar recovery featured in the *Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2005* comes only the sixth British-ringed Sanderling to be found in Portugal, and this is complimented by the ninth to Spain (only the third from The Wash). Both these birds are likely to have been from the Greenland population and caught on passage through The Wash. The Portuguese recovery was probably from its wintering grounds, whilst the Spanish bird is likely to have been on return passage from Africa or southern Iberia. The third shown is a colour-ringed bird from the wintering grounds that had its ring read by a member of the North West Norfolk Ringing Group.

The fourth was the WWRG's seventh Sanderling from Norway, demonstrating the August migration timing through Norway and into Britain. The fifth is the first Sanderling bearing a Channel Islands ring to be caught on The Wash, and only the fifth from anywhere in France and the Channel Islands to be found in Britain. It is likely to be from the Siberian population, spending winters along the coasts of NW Europe, and being recaptured on The Wash upon its arrival for winter in 2005.

Dunlin

5	21.07.04	Ottenby, Oland, Sweden	
R	22.07.05	Terrington	(1,104km WSW)
6	24.07.04	Ottenby, Oland, Sweden	
R	22.07.05	Terrington	(1,104km WSW)
4	03.09.04	Terrington	
R	28.11.05	near Iwik, Mauritania	(3,930km SSW)

Dunlin caught on passage at Ottenby are regularly caught on The Wash. The first two shown demonstrate an earlier arrival in Norfolk in 2005 than the year before. The third shown is the eighth Wash-ringed Dunlin to be found in Mauritania, although ringing expeditions to this area have resulted in 15 records of birds from there having made the reverse journey.

Ruff

4M	29.04.05	Ijsselmeer, The Netherlands
RR	summer 05	Vadsoe, Northern Norway
RR	15.07.05	Cley-next-the-Sea (until 14.08.05)
RR	summer 06	Vadsoe, Northern Norway
RR	30.06.06	Cley-next-the-Sea (until 17.08.06)
RR	22.08.06	Blacktoft Sands, Yorkshire

Ringed on passage in The Netherlands, this bird breeds well within the Arctic Circle and then visits Norfolk for its post-breeding moult.

Black-tailed Godwit

4	02.09.04	Terrington
RR	08.12.04	Locquenole, Finistere, France
RR	15.12.05	Plouezoch, Finistere, France
X	16.03.06	Ile aux Dames, Finistere, France

The Icelandic breeding population of Black-tailed Godwits winter mostly in Britain, Ireland and Western France, and sightings of this particular colour-ringed bird demonstrate an onward movement from The Wash to France in successive winters.

A particularly interesting female bird, ringed in Iceland 27.04.00 arrived at Cley-next-the-Sea 03.06.06 and stayed for three days. She was first seen at Cley during spring 2004 when well on the way to attaining normal breeding plumage. In 2005 she turned up at Cley on the late date of 05.05.05 with only traces of breeding plumage. She did make it up to Northern Iceland however, being seen there 16.06.05 but still basically in winter plumage and was thought not to breed. In 2006 she was in a full all-grey winter type plumage. Examination of photographs revealed that she had in fact undertaken a spring moult, but had moulted in plain winter feathers instead of patterned breeding plumage ones! Did she make it up to Iceland again? Perhaps she is an old-age pensioner with thoughts of breeding well behind her, or maybe she has a long-term illness?

Bar-tailed Godwit

A bird re-trapped on The Wash 21.08.05 was still going strong 18 years after being ringed. The Wash (and national) longevity record for this species is 32 years.

Curlew

4	02.09.00	Terrington	
+	30.01.06	Pont l'abbe, Finistere, France	(636km SSW)
4	01.08.77	Terrington	
XF	17.05.05	Harkamaentie, Pyhajarvi O, Oulu, Finland	(1,919km NE)

The first shows only the sixth Wash-ringed Curlew to be recovered in France. Not all Curlew using The Wash in autumn spend the winter; this bird clearly wintering further to the southwest. The second shown sets a new longevity record for a Wash-ringed Curlew. Taken by a predatory bird 27 years 9 months after being ringed, this bird beats the previous record which was set back in 1995, but is still two years short of the national record holder.

Greenshank

4	28.08.03	Terrington	
RR	15.07.06	Ruidhorn, Groningen, The Netherlands	(429km E)

Only 212 Greenshank have been ringed by the WWRG so, not surprisingly, there have been few recoveries, this being the first to The Netherlands.

Arctic Skua

A colour-ringed bird on the beach at Winterton 21.07.06 had been ringed on Fair Isle but no further details are currently available.

Mediterranean Gull

4	05.04.95	Enghaveparken, Kobenhaven, Denmark	
RR	06.04.99	Holme So, Brondby, Denmark (until 08.04.99)	
RR	17.04.99	Utterslev Mose, Kobenhavn, Denmark	
RR	03.05.99	Holme So, Brondby, Denmark	
RR	18.02.01	Titchwell	
RR	23.03.03	Holme So, Brondby, Denmark (until 27.06.04)	
RR	18.01.06	Aldeby, Great Yarmouth	

1	26.05.02	Zandvlietsluis, Antwerp, Belgium
RR	13.07.03	Le Portel, Pas-de-Calais, France
RR	29.06.06	Earsham, Great Yarmouth
7	21.05.05	Zandvlietsluis, Antwerp, Belgium
RR	31.03.06	Pas-de-Calais, France (until 07.04.06)
RR	03.08.06	Cley-next-the-Sea

Only four Mediterranean Gulls have been colour-ringed in Denmark and the first shown is the only one to be recorded in England. It has now been seen in Norfolk on two occasions. The second shown was ringed (unlike the first) as a nestling, at what was then a new colony on the Belgian Coast.

The third shown was one of three to be sighted at Cley. The second was ringed in Hungary 04.06.03 and had spent the last two summers at Cley. It appeared again 22.07.06 with its broken leg now reduced to a withered stump. The third, a nestling ringed at Antwerp, Belgium 23.05.06, was seen 23.07.06.

Black-headed Gull

3	30.12.96	Norwich	
RR	02.02.99	Huizen, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	(274km E)
RR	10.01.00	Huizen, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	
RR	14.02.02	Huizen, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	
RR	06.02.04	Huizen, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	
RR	08.12.05	Huizen, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	
RR	23.03.06	Huizen, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	
8	05.07.96	Rautalampi, Kuopio, Finland	
RR	08.12.01	The Mere, Diss	(1,898km SW)
RR	10.12.02	The Mere, Diss	
RR	05.12.03	The Mere, Diss	
RR	06.01.06	The Mere, Diss	

The lack of summer records suggests that the first shown spent the breeding season much further NE than either of the sites mentioned. Many birds winter further away from their natal site in their first winter than they do in subsequent winters. Secondly, no Black-headed Gull summary would be complete without a contribution from "The Diss Gull Watcher" – shown is the more interesting of his two sightings.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

1	13.07.03	Nordugloy, Troms, Norway
RR	01.11.03	Pohlsche Heide, Nordrhein Westfalen, Germany
RR	10.01.05	La Courtrie, Maine-et-Loire, France
RR	18.02.05	Sonzay, Idre et Loire, France
RR	19.11.05	Sonzay, Idre et Loire, France (until 13.02.06)
RR	26.07.06	Earsham, Bungay (until 04.08.06)

1	10.07.04	Orfordness, Suffolk
RR	08.10.05	Caid do Sodre, Lisbon, Portugal
RR	28.07.06	Earsham, Suffolk
RR	03.09.06	Nar Valley Fisheries, near King's Lynn

The first originated from the Northern Norwegian population of *graellsii*. Two nestlings from Norway at Earsham during August were *intermedius*.

British-bred birds usually spend their first winter “down south” often as far as the West African coast, whereas subsequent winters are often (but clearly not always!) spent closer to home. A further movement concerned a Great Yarmouth-bred Lesser Black-back, ringed 17.07.04, which was also recovered in Portugal (date unknown). Two nestlings from the Outer Bund breeding colony on The Wash were noted in Portugal during their first winter.

Herring Gull

A Herring Gull, colour-ringed at Dortmund, Germany 19.01.02, was seen regularly in the Dortmund/Bochum area during the following three years. There were 14 sightings during 2002, 4 during 2003, 9 during 2004 and 3 during 2005. Inexplicably, it then turned up at Blackborough End Tip on 02.03.06. A colour-ringed bird, ringed as a nestling at Calais, France 11.07.05 was seen at Gillingham, near Beccles 23.12.06.

Great Black-backed Gull

14 birds from SW Norway were seen at Cley between 13.04.06 and 01.10.06. All had been ringed as nestlings in the years 2003-06. Age composition was one first-calendar year, seven second-calendar year, five third-calendar year and one fourth-calendar year. The coordinator of this ringing scheme mentions that recoveries to date show that those individuals that leave the Norwegian colonies in their first year don't usually return until at least their third year

Also eight Norwegian colour-ringed birds (two fourth winters and six first winters) were seen at Aldeby during January 2006.

Little Tern

1	29.06.01	Great Yarmouth North Beach
R	22.06.06	Heist, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Little Terns are not particularly site-faithful between years, so a breeding-season record from Begium concerning a Yarmouth nestling should not come as a great surprise.

Sandwich Tern

6	24.01.04	Ile Senghor, Delta Saloum, Senegal	
X	11.09.05	Blakeney Point	(4,640km NNE)

The wintering grounds for our Sandwich Terns is centred on the west African coast from Senegal to Ghana

Common Tern

1	25.06.99	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	28.04.06	Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	(175km ESE)

1	24.06.97	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	29.11.05	Mile 4 Saltworks, Swakopmund, Namibia	(8,449km S)
1	04.07.95	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	03.09.06	Seal Sands, Teesmouth, Cleveland	(294km NW)

These birds are all still going strong after nearly seven years, well over eight years and over eleven years respectively. The second shown also demonstrates a remarkable displacement since most British Common Terns winter along the West African coast between Sierra Leone and Ghana. There are few precedents for recoveries as far south as Namibia. The third is quite normal - many Norfolk-bred Common Terns journey northwards to Seal Sands after the breeding season.

Woodpigeon

4	17.07.06	Docking	
+	16.11.06	Moustoir-Remungol, Morbihan, France	(603km SSW)

An exceptional movement. Only 1% of recoveries of British-ringed Woodpigeons come from abroad, with all but one concerning France (the other was from Germany).

Interestingly the median distance between ringing and recovery sites from birds ringed as adults in Britain is a mere 2km!

Collared Dove

2	24.12.04	Ormesby, Great Yarmouth	
XF	15.09.06	Brierfield, Nelson, Lancashire	(292km WNW)
5	13.01.02	Ormesby, Great Yarmouth	
XF	06.02.05	Sandy, Bedfordshire	(148km WSW)

Movements such as these are reminiscent of earlier years. Nowadays the Collared Dove is likely to be sedentary with displacements in excess of just a few km being very much the exception. Interestingly though, it remains that the average movement remains in a westerly or northwesterly direction.

Barn Owl

1	11.07.03	Ingoldisthorpe, Dersingham	
XF	14.03.06	near Great Yarmouth	(90km ESE)
1	07.07.98	near Thornham	
R	11.06.05	near Wighton	(20km ESE)

Of nearly 100 Barn Owl recoveries received during 2006, the first was by far the most distant movement, and the second the longest-lived.

Kingfisher

4F	27.08.05	Manor Farm, Titchwell	
R	08.12.05	Otley, West Yorkshire	(187km NW)

Only 4% of British Kingfishers travel in excess of 100km. This one was caught again by a ringer in Yorkshire.

Sand Martin

4F	27.06.05	Weybourne	
R	20.06.06	Neerijse, Brabant, Belgium	(336km SE)
4	23.07.05	Crimplesham Sand Pit, Downham Market	
R	23.08.06	Plaisance, Charente-Maritim, France	(746km S)
2	18.08.03	Escoron, Ejea de los Caballeros, Zaragoza, Spain	
4	23.07.05	Crimplesham Sand Pit, Downham Market	(1,181km N)
3	20.08.03	Saint-Vigor-d'Ymonville, Seine-Maritime, France	
R	23.07.05	Crimplesham Sand Pit, Downham Market	(347km N)
3J	23.07.05	Crimplesham Sand Pit, Downham Market	
R	17.08.05	Lagunage, Charente-Maritime, France	(748km S)

The dates for the first shown suggest that the bird may have bred on different sides of the North Sea in successive years. The others demonstrate migration routes with the speed of movement of the last being indicative of timing as well.

Swallow

1	14.06.03	Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth	
R	10.09.05	Merkspas, Antwerpen, Belgium	(258km ESE)
3	15.09.04	Junqueres, Pego, Alicante, Spain	
4F	01.09.05	Martham Pits, Martham	(1,548km N)
3J	10.09.05	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	03.10.05	Junqueres, Pego, Alicante, Spain	(1,530km S)

All three recovery points were at communal roosts. The Belgian point of capture may not be typical since many Swallows cross The Channel by a more southerly route. However, the eastern Spanish route is typical since the birds usually follow the French coast southwards before crossing France just north of The Pyrenees and then continuing their journey along the eastern coast of Spain.

Dunnock

4F	14.04.06	near Sheringham	
R	22.04.06	near Burnham Market	(32km W)

A movement of 32km for a British Dunnock is distinctly unusual. Note that there were only eight days between the two captures.

Robin

4	02.04.05	Oost Flevoland, The Netherlands	
R	22.10.05	Winterton Holmes, East Somerton	(269km W)
3	27.10.04	near Weybourne	
X	08.10.05	Gjesing, Jylland, Denmark	(556km ENE)

Two movements typical of drift migration. Sadly the second shown drowned in a bucket of water!

Stonechat

1	10.06.06	Cranwich Heath, Mundford	
RR	04.11.06	between Dersingham and Snettisham	(39km NNW)

This bird was part of a colour-ringing project in the Thetford Forest area, and was seen between Dersingham and Snettisham in the company of an unringed Stonechat. Any sightings of Norfolk colour-ringed Stonechat to graham.Austin@bto.org please.

Wheatear

6M	29.05.04	Carnachy, Strathnaver, Highland, Scotland	
RR	18.05.05	Great Yarmouth	(751km SSE)

A very late date in May for a Scottish-breeding bird to be passing through Yarmouth (albeit one from the very north of Scotland).

Blackbird

4M	27.11.05	Sheringham	
X	15.02.06	Chester Le Street, Durham	(280km NW)
3F	29.11.03	De Koog, Texel, The Netherlands	
R	02.11.06	Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth	(219km W)
3M	30.12.03	Ormesby, Great Yarmouth	
X	27.02.06	Marum, Groningen, The Netherlands	(308km E)
4M	12.11.05	Sussex Farm, near Burnham Market	
X	11.03.06	Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands	(283km ESE)
4F	06.12.00	Burnham Deepdale	
R	17.10.05	Dunes de Slack, Pas de Calais, France	(253km SSE)
5F	24.02.05	near West Acre, King's Lynn	
X	06.04.06	Randers, Denmark	(735km NE)
3M	21.11.99	Snettisham Coastal Park	
XF	18.11.05	Hornbaek, Sjaelland, Denmark	(853km ENE)
4F	14.11.04	Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth	
X	31.03.05	Ostfold, Norway	(947km NNE)
3F	30.12.01	Garboldisham, Diss	
X	30.06.06	Garstad, Ostergotland, Sweden	(1,158km NW)
6F	29.03.06	Kettlestone, Fakenham	
R	23.04.06	Luuki, Espoo, Uusimaa, Finland	(1,669km ENE)

Curious that the first shown chose to move 280km north-westwards during the same winter period. Also shown are all foreign recoveries received during the year, demonstrating routes taken and timing of movements. The last shown was a star in the local press, being only the 13th Norfolk-ringed Blackbird to be found in Finland, as well as completing the journey in only 23 days!

Song Thrush

3	24.10.02	Weybourne	
+	16.02.06	Ourilhe, Douro Litoral, Portugal	(1,455km SSW)

A passage migrant when ringed at Weybourne, such birds really do risk all when they move southward for the winter. The ringer comments: "Who in their right mind shoots Song Thrushes for goodness sake?" See also the fate of the two Redwings below!

Redwing

4	14.10.03	Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth	
+	30.01.05	Sauice-sur-Rhone, Drome, France	(906km SSE)
4	15.10.03	Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth	
+	22.12.04	Saint Emilion, Gironde, France	(866km SSE)

These two birds were ringed on consecutive days and then shot in southern France two winters later, both victims of the French "hunting brigade".

Sedge Warbler

3J	21.08.05	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	08.09.05	Dungeness, Kent	(188km SSW)
3	27.07.03	Mont Manet, Genets, Manche, France	
R	30.04.05	Snettisham Coastal Park	(484km NNE)

The first shows the route and the timing of the early stages of migration, whereas the second gives clues further south, where it was in France on a particularly early date.

Reed Warbler

3J	21.08.05	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	02.06.06	Ventes Ragas, Silute, Lithuania	(1,319km ENE)
3J	23.07.05	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	19.08.05	Zulte, Oost Vlaanderen, Belgium	(221km SE)

It is difficult to explain how a juvenile-plumaged Reed Warbler in Norfolk during August gets to be in Lithuania the following June! Foreign-ringed Reed Warblers from so far NE (extremely rare as they are) have been thought to be as a result of juvenile dispersal/drift migration from either Scandinavia or the Baltic States, but 21st August seems very early for a Lithuanian-bred bird to have reached Britain. Could it have been hatched in Norfolk and got itself seriously lost the following year?

Many of Britain's Reed Warblers travel to their winter quarters via Belgium. The dates of the second movement shown also demonstrates the timing involved for some individuals.

Blackcap

3	17.08.05	Martham, Great Yarmouth	
R	02.10.05	Litlington, Sussex	(236km SSW)
3J	19.06.04	Shereford, Fakenham	
R	10.09.04	Dune se Slack, Pas-de-Calais, France	(235km SSE)
5M	26.04.06	near Kettlestone, Fakenham	
X	14.10.06	Ares, Gironde, France	(911km S)

It is reasonable to assume that the first two Blackcaps were both hatched in Norfolk, yet their migration times were significantly different. The first was still in Southern England on 2nd October of its hatch year, yet the other was already in France on 10th September of its hatch year.

Lesser Whitethroat

4	29.05.99	Snettisham Coastal Park	
R	24.06.06	Snettisham Coastal Park	

At a little over 7 years between ringing and retrapping, this is a new longevity record for a British-ringed Lesser Whitethroat. Note that it was already at least a year old when originally captured. The previous record of 5 years and 8 months was comprehensively beaten.

Chiffchaff

3M	29.09.01	Omo, Sjaelland, Denmark	
R	28.10.04	near Weybourne	(701km WSW)
3	08.10.05	Winterton Holmes, East Somerton	
R	27.11.05	Eastleigh Sewage Farm, Hampshire	(287km SW)

A typical autumn movement plus a very late one. The second is a reminder to us that sewage farms are invariably good places for birds!

Goldcrest

3M	15.10.05	Militair Duin, Vlieland, The Netherlands	
R	07.11.05	Stow Bardolph, Downham Market	(312km WSW)
3F	26.10.05	near Brancaster Hall	
R	28.10.05	Eyebrook Reservoir, Leicestershire	(105km WSW)

Note the speed of movement for the first two shown – only 23 days and 2 days respectively. Additionally, three passage Goldcrests, all ringed at Winterton Holmes 15.10.05, were widely spread thereafter. The first was trapped in the West Midlands a month later, the second was taken by a cat at Bawdeswell, Dereham a further month later and the third was trapped at Languard Point, Felixstowe the following April. Yet another passage bird, near Weybourne 28.10.05, was presumably wintering in the county when trapped again in Norwich 11.12.05.

Bearded Tit

3JM	29.08.04	Belton Marshes, Great Yarmouth
R	15.04.06	Hazelwood, Ham Creek, Suffolk

Not a long movement but any information on Bearded Tits is always welcome.

Great Tit

5F	11.02.05	Shimpling, Diss	
R	31.03.06	Kilnsea, Humberside	(152km NNW)

The most distant Great Tit movement of the year. Very few travel this kind of distance although interestingly females tend to move slightly further than males.

Goldfinch

5M	18.01.05	Grimston, King's Lynn	
X	27.04.06	Barrow upon Humber, Lincolnshire	(117km NNW)
5F	20.03.06	Garboldisham, Diss	
X	18.04.06	Beesby, Lincolnshire	(114km NNW)

Two rather similar movements, suggesting that some of our wintering birds might be moving northward through Eastern England to reach their breeding grounds.

Siskin

3J	30.05.04	Thetford	
R	31.01.06	Grimston, King's Lynn	(43km NNW)
6M	11.02.06	East Grinstead, Sussex	
R	05.04.06	Sheringham	(219km NNE)
3J	03.06.05	Inverarnie, Highland Region, Scotland	
R	10.04.06	Sheringham	(601km SE)
4M	28.10.03	Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth	
R	10.05.04	Llwnmawr, Clwyd, Wales	
5M	01.02.04	Dunmurry, Antrim, Northern Ireland	
R	20.12.05	East Barsham, Fakenham	(487km ESE)
5M	11.03.04	Sheringham	
R	27.03.05	Sourbrodt, Liege, Belgium	(436km SW)
6M	13.03.04	Hamont-Achel, Limburg, Belgium	
R	20.03.06	Garboldisham, Diss	(340km WNW)
5M	07.03.03	Garboldisham, Diss	
R	25.03.06	Conings Overdinkel, Overijssel, The Netherlands	(414km E)
6M	15.02.04	Sheringham	
R	30.05.05	Alvhyttan, Orebro, Sweden	(1,109km NW)

The first, in distinctive juvenile plumage when ringed on 30th May, was clearly a Breckland-bred bird. The second, with only a few weeks between trappings, suggests where some of our late winter/spring Siskin might be, shortly before appearing in Norfolk. The third, another in distinctive juvenile plumage when trapped on 3rd June was hatched in the Highland Region of Scotland. There were an additional five interchanges between Norfolk and Scotland: two involving the Highland Region and singles involving Grampian, Argyll & Bute and Dumfries & Galloway. All recoveries outside of Britain are also shown.

Twite

1	04.06.04	Hurstwood, Burnley, Lancashire (until at least 31.08.04)
RR	26.11.04	Thornham
R	25.04.05	Hurstwood, Burnley, Lancashire
RR	30.11.05	Thornham (until at least 21.01.06)
RR	02.04.06	Hurstwood, Burnley, Lancashire
RR	05.01.07	Thornham
R	05.04.07	Hurstwood, Burnley, Lancashire

A fine example of both summer and winter site fidelity with the 2007 dates being included for completeness. Any colour-ringed Twite sightings in Norfolk to davidsowter@freenet.co.uk please. David is studying this species in the South Pennines.

Common Redpoll

3	23.11.05	Lyng Farm, near Thornham	
R	15.04.06	Snettisham Coastal Park	(13km SW)

It is interesting to speculate where this Common (formerly Mealy) Redpoll might have spent the winter. It was one of 10 ringed, along with 22 Lesser Redpoll at Lyng Farm during November 2005.

Snow Bunting

5F	24.01.04	Caister-on-Sea	
R	04.03.06	Petty East School, Highland, Scotland	(655km NNW)
5F	17.01.97	Old Hunstanton	
R	19.12.05	Den Helder, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	(282km E)

Petty East School is close to Inverness, thus also close to one of the few British breeding-grounds of Snow Bunting. Was this bird "close to home" when trapped there? The second shows that some of the birds from the old North West Norfolk Ringing Group study are still going strong; this one (hatched in 1996) is in its tenth year

Reed Bunting

4F	14.01.05	Ten Mile Bank, Downham Market	
R	15.04.06	Powgavie, Tayside, Scotland	(487km NNW)

British Reed Buntings are largely sedentary with movements such as this being very much the exception. Yet at the same ringing site, a bird bearing a Norwegian ring was trapped only two years previously.

Norfolk Ringing Totals - 2006

Mute Swan	3	Stock Dove	34	Whitethroat	506
Greylag Goose	1	Woodpigeon	112	Yellow-browed Warbler	4
Canada Goose	17	Collared Dove	86	Chiffchaff	568
Egyptian Goose	1	Turtle Dove	4	Willow Warbler	358
Gadwall	1	Cuckoo	1	Goldcrest	331
Teal	25	Barn Owl	529	Firecrest	6
Mallard	8	Little Owl	11	Spotted Flycatcher	97
Grey Partridge	4	Tawny Owl	20	Pied Flycatcher	5
Great Crested Grebe	2	Nightjar	2	Bearded Tit	53
Grey Heron	2	Swift	52	Long-tailed Tit	842
Marsh Harrier	9	Kingfisher	38	Marsh Tit	135
Goshawk	1	Wryneck	1	Willow Tit	10
Sparrowhawk	43	Green Woodpecker	21	Coal Tit	398
Kestrel	83	Great Sp Woodpecker	118	Blue Tit	4360
Hobby	14	Sand Martin	906	Great Tit	3120
Water Rail	5	Swallow	842	Nuthatch	32
Moorhen	35	House Martin	94	Treecreeper	86
Coot	11	Meadow Pipit	20	Jay	34
Oystercatcher	83	Rock Pipit	1	Magpie	19
Little Ringed Plover	2	Grey Wagtail	1	Jackdaw	130
Ringed Plover	53	Pied Wagtail	71	Rook	22
Grey Plover	7	Wren	784	Carriion Crow	6
Lapwing	61	Dunnock	1134	Starling	378
Knot	189	Robin	1095	House Sparrow	744
Dunlin	501	Nightingale	3	Tree Sparrow	80
Common Snipe	1	Redstart	11	Chaffinch	2767
Woodcock	9	Whinchat	1	Brambling	469
Black-tailed Godwit	3	Wheatear	31	Greenfinch	5173
Bar-tailed Godwit	437	Blackbird	2128	Goldfinch	1013
Curlew	182	Fieldfare	26	Siskin	1688
Spotted Redshank	1	Song Thrush	347	Linnet	119
Redshank	108	Redwing	419	Lesser Redpoll	28
Common Sandpiper	1	Mistle Thrush	18	Redpoll sp	9
Turnstone	19	Cetti's Warbler	20	Bullfinch	150
Black-headed Gull	4	Grasshopper Warbler	11	Hawfinch	1
LBB Gull	520	Sedge Warbler	317	Snow Bunting	124
Herring Gull	302	Reed Warbler	829	Yellowhammer	280
Little Tern	343	Barred Warbler	1	Reed Bunting	307
Sandwich Tern	7	Blackcap	1322	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Common Tern	89	Garden Warbler	155	Total Ringed	39301
Little Auk	1	Lesser Whitethroat	64		

The Rook/Jackdaw Roost at Buckenham Carrs

Mark Cocker



Rooks (*Andy Jarrett*)

Introduction

The corvid roost at Buckenham Carrs on the north bank of the river in the central Yare Valley, where anything from 20,000 to 40,000 Rooks and Jackdaws can be seen flying above the woods at dusk in a single, almost deafening cavalcade, is currently one of the great wildlife spectacles of the Norfolk winter. Despite the roost's popularity as a wildlife attraction, the subject has been almost entirely ignored as an object for study. This article is an attempt to put on record personal observations of the roost over the last five years, paying particular attention to its structure and the recruitment area from which it draws roost members. It is also an attempt to highlight some of the issues that still need clarification. It is in part, therefore, a request for further information from the reader.

The roost, its size and location

The existence of mixed-species corvid roosts has been appreciated for hundreds of years. The phenomenon has been investigated many times during the twentieth century, with the earliest specific inquiry occurring in 1904 (Harper 1904). The most significant long-term study was made by Franklin Coombs at a roost in central Cornwall (Coombs 1960, 1961a, 1961b, 1978) and many of the structural characteristics of corvid roosts are described in his various papers. I summarise some of these findings here.

With the exception of the breeding season, when Rooks sleep in the nest trees of the rookery, birds spend the night at a specific roost location. In the course of a calendar year they may shift this location two or three times. In the Yare valley, for example, many resume the roosting habit by mid June, when up to ten per cent of the Buckenham Carrs birds use a site on

the opposite side of the river, in a small wood called Mulberry Carr at Claxton, for approximately three months until mid-September.

To date I have located only one of the other summer/autumn subsidiary roosts, which is at the large rookery at Thorpe, near Haddiscoe, just to the north-east of Thorpe Hall, further east in the Yare valley. However there must be several other secondary roosts both south and north of the river, because Buckenham Carrs is entirely unused from June until September. In short, all the birds are spending their summer nights elsewhere. Yet around the third week of September, Rooks and Jackdaws revert to using the woods at Buckenham Carrs and their numbers steadily build during the course of the early winter, to peak around February. This has been a consistent pattern throughout my five-year study.

The Buckenham roost is exceptional for its size. As far as I can judge only two other British roosts have included higher totals than my February 2005 estimate of c40,000 birds. My counts from the five years of my study are: 2001/2 - c12,000; 2002/3 - c12-15,000; 2003/4 - c10,000; 2004/5 - c40,000; 2005/6 - c23,000; 2006/7 - c30,000. The proportion of Jackdaws at any one time is variable, but I estimate about 40 per cent at the maximum. The 2004/5 total of c40,000 is possibly the largest count ever for a corvid roost in England. Only two 1971 counts of 45,000 and 65,000 made in Grampian, Scotland, are greater. The larger of these two was at the famous Hatton Castle roost in central Aberdeenshire, which also once housed the largest rookery in Britain (Cramp and Perrins 1994).

For a number of years a figure of c80,000 birds at Buckenham Carrs has regularly been informally used and quoted, notably on several television programmes. If it were true then it would represent the largest in Britain and also the second-largest roost total for Rooks/Jackdaws recorded anywhere in the world. Unfortunately the figure comes without any dates, written account or substantiating evidence. Nor is there an identifiable witness to this gargantuan roost event. It almost goes without saying that estimating flocks numbers is notoriously difficult and open to huge variation. I would add that my own estimates are sometimes little more than best guesses.

Whatever the possible maximum figure for Buckenham Carrs, the various recorded totals indicate that roost sites such as this one are of potentially huge importance to the county's Rook and Jackdaw population. It is conceivable that a dozen relatively small woodland sites sprinkled throughout the county hold as many as 80,000-200,000 corvids each winter's evening. It would be valuable if Norfolk's ornithological community could devote a little time to finding these and monitoring them.

I have located and counted three other roost sites, which probably represent Buckenham Carrs' nearest neighbours. These are Bressingham Fen (TM 068 803), at the fishing ponds north of Ringland Hills (TG142 130) and Flixton Wood (TM511 957), which lies just across the border in Suffolk. As far as I am aware these sites recruit most of the birds from the south-eastern sector of Norfolk and from north Suffolk. Another noteworthy characteristic that these three sites share with Buckenham Carrs, and which may well determine their choice by the birds, is that they lie in private estates where access is highly restricted. The birds are thus assured more-or-less undisturbed nights throughout the winter.

Daily structure - dusk and dawn

Depending on time of year and light conditions, Rooks and Jackdaws start to move towards the roost location as much as two hours before sunset. A general rule of thumb is that the duller the conditions, the earlier the process of assembly begins and completes. Conversely, on very bright sunlit and then starlit evenings Rooks and Jackdaws arrive late at the site.

Their procedure follows a roughly consistent pattern. Rooks/Jackdaws flying from the most distant parts of the roost recruitment area, which is known as a 'Parish', move in the direction of their night-time destination. Often the starting point for the whole evening assembly is the moment that a Rook population gathers on its own rookery before flying to a pre-roost assembly. Similarly, Jackdaws will gather on a church spire or other prominent structure in their breeding area. The most striking instance of this that I've witnessed was the sight of a small group of Jackdaws taking off from the derelict watermill at Brograve to the north-west of Horsey Corner. The flock then flew roughly overhead at my location at Stubb Mill, Horsey (the famous raptor-viewing site). Plotting their route later on the OS map, I could see that their course coincided almost exactly with Buckenham Carrs, a further 21 kilometres further along the same compass bearing. I calculate that Rooks and Jackdaws fly to roost at about 42 kilometres an hour. It means that these Jackdaws spend at least 30 minutes on each journey and 60 minutes a day getting to and from their roost.

However birds seldom if ever fly directly to Buckenham Carrs and immediately enter the roost trees. The normal pattern is for birds to gather at pre-roost spots sometimes several kilometres from the roost site itself. These vary in their location and are often on newly turned fields or land that offers last-minute feeding opportunities. The pre-roost flock may build up over 60-90 minutes to include several thousand birds, which then finally transfer to the vicinity of Buckenham Carrs itself at about dusk.

There the birds often gather on the large agricultural fields to the north of Buckenham railway station and to the west of the Carrs. There is a degree of variation in pattern. In the first four years of my study, 2001-2005, the birds tended to gather in a single flock to the west of the roost woods close to the clump of large holm oaks on the roadside. However in the last two years the final gathering place has varied and regularly birds have assembled in two quite distinct final congregations, one of them due north of Buckenham Carrs itself and the other west of the woods. (Could it be the case that the regular gathering of observers close to the holm-oak clump is now disturbing the roost's usual routine?) Only in very exceptional conditions have I ever seen them gather on Buckenham marshes on the flood-plain proper.

The last stages of the roost are fairly consistent. The birds on the ground slowly amalgamate, with individuals looping over their nearest neighbours towards the centre of the flock. The process of consolidation is accompanied by an intense vocal exchange between those birds already on the ground and any late-arriving sub-roost flocks. Eventually when all the birds are present the whole group falls eerily silent. It is quite remarkable to see thousands of bird standing together in complete silence. Finally, in the gloom, the peripheral birds fly towards Buckenham Carrs, triggering a continuous exodus that involves the entire congregation. Vocalisations instantly resume, sometimes at an almost deafening level, and the whole group performs a mesmerising collective flight above the roost trees. This may continue for several minutes as birds steadily drain from the air into the available roost trees, and within five minutes the sky above Buckenham is dark and all the birds have usually descended into the woods.

In the morning the departure is far less structured. It usually occurs at or just after dawn, although the precise timing of the exodus is triggered by the light conditions. On a bright sunlit dawn the birds can leave Buckenham Carrs up to half an hour earlier than they will do on the following day if that morning is dull and cloudy. Small numbers may linger in the vicinity of the roost trees for up to an hour but the departure of the vast majority takes about fifteen minutes. Birds sometimes spiral high into the sky above the roost before flying away purposefully along their separate flight lines. If viewed from above, this outward movement would resemble radials emerging from a central hub. One of the first acts on many mornings is



Pallas's Warbler - this stunning bird was at Gramborough Hill in October. Both: (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Wood Warbler - a migrant on Blakeney Point. (*Richard Porter*)

Red-breasted Flycatcher - one of two juveniles at Burnham Overy dunes. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Yellowhammer - a superb portrait of this familiar bird. (*Neil Bowman*)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - the first Norfolk record was at Holme. (*Adrian Riley*)



for a local population to visit its rookery trees, before heading off to adjacent fields to feed. Yet this is by no means, as Franklin Coombs seemed to suggest of his Cornish Rooks, an invariable feature (Coombs 1961b). Some mornings the rookery can remain completely unvisited.

Age of the roost

It is sometimes rumoured that the Buckenham Carrs roost is several hundred years old and that there is even a reference to it in the Domesday account for Buckenham village. This is untrue. Nevertheless it is the case that Rockland St Mary, the village four kilometres south-west of the roost, derived its original name *Rokelund* from two words meaning 'rook grove' (Ekwall 1960). This 1000-year-old place name at least suggests a conspicuous corvid population in the area. Equally, it seems significant that the only two substantial areas of woodland in the Buckenham/Claxton section of the Yare valley at the time of Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk were Mulberry Carr and Buckenham Carrs, precisely the locations for the current summer/autumn and winter roosts.

However the earliest published ornithological mention I have found of the roost is in the Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report 1991, where there is a note listing 8,000 corvids at Buckenham, including 3,000 Jackdaws. There is nothing in any of the four county avifaunas except the most recent, where there is a reference under the Jackdaw account to a roost of 30,000 in 1995 (Taylor et al. 1999). There is just one tantalising sentence in *The Birds of Suffolk*, which reads: 'Somewhere beyond Beccles there is a roost which I have not located, but which draws all the Rooks from as far off as Lowestoft, and the evening flight up the Waveney marshes is a very regular event' (Ticehurst 1932). However Ticehurst's note may easily refer to the roost currently at Flixton Wood, or a similarly located predecessor.

In short, documented proof of age is in very short supply, although the gamekeeper for Buckenham Carrs, whose caring attitudes towards the corvids is one very important reason why they are there at all, assures me that there has been a roost in the woods since he was a child. It seems highly probable that the roost is therefore over 50 years old and possibly much older. Yet I find it extraordinary that not a single naturalist has recorded large concentrations of corvids prior to 1991. Any information on this issue would be particularly welcome.

Drainage area for Buckenham Carrs roost and the origins of the birds

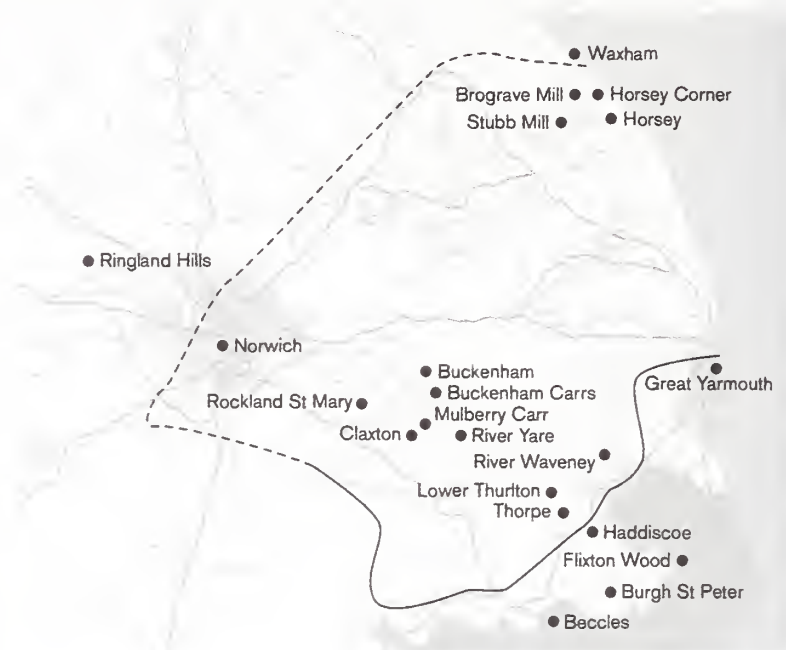
The overall drainage area - in other words, the parish from which the corvids come to roost at Buckenham - is large and may at times involve much of the Broads area. Yet I offer a note of caution on the issue of defining parish boundaries. Earlier papers on corvid roosts published in the first part of the twentieth century (particularly Harrison 1932, Philipson 1933, Brown 1942, and Jackson 1964) tended to suggest that their study birds had fixed habits and that roosts were stable entities. My own experience is that they are not and birds may use different winter roosts from year to year.

I first encountered the issue among the large population of Rooks breeding on the northern edge of the 'uplands' between Haddiscoe and Lower Thurlton (887 pairs in four rookeries; see also Cocker 2004). The usual pre-roost gathering site for the birds is the large rookery just north of Thorpe Hall. In December 2002 the flock gathered at this site flew north-east, almost certainly to roost at Flixton Wood. However in subsequent years the same pre-roost assembly has headed north-west to spend the night at Buckenham. I speculate that the choice is in part determined by size of roost. Since 2004 the Buckenham congregation has been very large and this may exert a stronger 'gravitational' pull on birds in the surrounding areas.

These fluctuating loyalties are most likely where parish boundaries for two or more different roosts meet one another. That is the situation at Haddiscoe and even more so further east along the margins of the sharp bend in the River Waveney, just north-east of Beccles. The

Rooks breeding on the narrow river-bound isthmus of 'upland' that lies between the main A143 Beccles-Yarmouth road and the terminal village of Burgh St Peter tend to fly north to roost each evening in Flixton Wood. However variable numbers are also pulled westwards to Buckenham. In these marginal zones between two parishes I suspect that even birds from within the same rookery could be drawn in different directions towards different roosts.

On the accompanying map I have illustrated the drainage zone from which Buckenham is likely to recruit its Rooks/Jackdaws each night. The broken line indicates where further information is required to work out the exact limits, while the solid line defines the areas where I have made repeated observations. To date the greatest distance I have recorded by a bird using Buckenham is that covered by the Jackdaws from Brograve Mill, which is about 21 kilometres. The largest distance between two extremities of the parish is as much as 36 kilometres, while the whole area may exceed 500 square kilometres.



A resolution of the parish boundary would be valuable because then one would have a clearer picture of the origins of the Buckenham roost birds. It should be possible to establish the breeding Rook and Jackdaw populations within the area and then compare this theoretical resident total with the roost numbers. To date, unfortunately, we have just the mystery of steeply fluctuating counts. For example, the roost total rose between Feb 2004 and Feb 2005 by about 30,000 birds. Where did those 'extra' birds come from? It is possible that they were immigrant Rooks and Jackdaws from the continent. At the same time, it may be that the parish boundaries expand for whatever reason so that more resident birds are flying further to spend their nights at Buckenham. I suspect the latter may be the case.

To resolve this puzzle we need four key pieces of information: (1) the location of the parish boundary in the east around Great Yarmouth; (2) the location of the parish boundary along its entire western and northern margin; (3) the total resident population of Rooks in the Broads north of the A47 between Norwich and Great Yarmouth (I have maintained detailed annual counts of all rookeries supplying the Buckenham roost from elsewhere); (4) finally an estimate of resident Jackdaws within the parish. The work of the soon-to-be-completed Norfolk Atlas has supplied half of these data and they offer intriguing indications that the roost is supplied largely by resident birds.

The project's combined Rook and Jackdaw breeding total for the 11 ten-kilometre tetrads (from which birds are draining each winter evening into Buckenham Carrs) is 7441 pairs (2,082 Jackdaws, 5324 Rooks). This would give 14,882 adults. If one assumed that each autumn the adult total was joined by an equal number made up of the previous season's young and non-breeding birds, it would produce a winter total of 29,764. (It is notable that the winter totals for the two species of corvid recorded by the Atlas census work within the 11 relevant tetrads is 41,246.) Both the summer and winter totals yielded by the atlas work fit closely with my own winter counts at Buckenham Carrs, particularly the 2004/5 maximum of c40,000.

Why do corvids roost?

It may seem odd to ask this question, because many assume that the answer is self-evident. In fact none of the papers written about corvid roosts before the 1970s ever asked why the birds do it. Presumably the implicit assumption in the early studies was that the birds sought either shelter from the elements or protection from predators. These may well be factors in roost formation, but by themselves I do not think they offer a full explanation. I do not propose to tackle the issue in full here. A complete examination of all the implications would require a paper far longer than this one. I have also written at greater length on the subject elsewhere (see Cocker 2007). Yet I wish to raise some of the issues in case readers can help provide important information.

Roosting is clearly a very important part of the daily and annual routine for the roost members. Some birds are travelling 42 kilometres each day to and from the site, while the protracted procedure that culminates in entry to the roost can take anything up to two hours, a substantial portion of any winter's day. If roosts were primarily a security measure against adverse wind and weather conditions then it would make little sense for Rooks and Jackdaws to use roosts throughout the three very warmest months of the year - June, July and August - yet that is precisely what birds do. Equally if roosts were a defence mechanism against predators then one would assume that the roosting instinct would be as strong at all seasons. There is no appreciable increase in risk from raptors in winter, nor a notable decline in summer. Yet the roost itself ebbs and flows in size with the seasons, reaching its apex in late winter.

In fact there is a close correlation between the roost size and day length as well as the lowest mean temperatures. Bird numbers reach their maximum just after the period of the shortest days and at the time of the coldest conditions. An increase in roost size coincident with least light and worst weather would suggest that there is a link between the three factors. One possible connection between them is the birds' capacity to find food. A study of roosting immature ravens in Anglesey has examined how the birds used the roost as a source of information on the whereabouts of food (Wright, Stone and Brown 2003). By a series of very elegant experiments the authors were able to demonstrate that neighbours in the roost learnt over a sequence of nights about the location of specially treated carcasses, and that with the passage of time the news spread further through the roost flock. The idea of roosts as sources of information has been conjectured for over thirty years (see Ward and Zahavi 1973), but the Anglesey study is one of the best demonstrations of this process in a corvid species.

The function of the Buckenham roost would surely have implications for the process of dispersal at dawn. If the roost were simply a nightly sanctuary from the threat of predators or from adverse weather, then one would expect the departure at dawn to be consistent day to day, birds returning to their local rookeries along constant and predictable flight lines. One would also anticipate that the numbers departing along any of these radials would be the same from day to day. However if the roost were serving to inform its members about the whereabouts of good feeding areas in the period of greatest shortage and at a time of shortest day length, then the dawn exodus should be more asymmetrical and unpredictable. The whereabouts of food would be a key factor in the way birds dispersed from the roost. It is possible that closer examination of this element in the roost process will yield circumstantial evidence to help unravel these questions.

Conclusion

I raise these issues partly to flag up how little is known about one of our county's most ubiquitous birds. It also demonstrates that the roost at Buckenham is as mysterious as it is beautiful. Anyone who doubts this has clearly never witnessed the event and my

recommendation is that they head for Buckenham railway station just before dusk on a winter's afternoon in early February. They have in store one of the most glorious visions on offer from Norfolk's avifauna.

Acknowledgements

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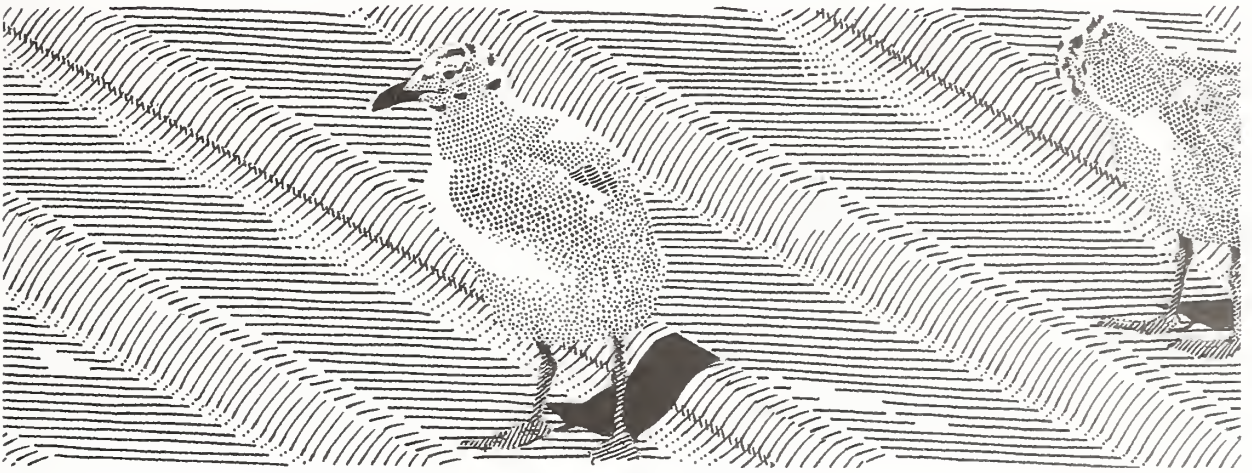
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Editor's Note, the latest book by Mark Cocker 'Crow Country: A meditation on Birds, Landscapes and Nature' has just been published by Jonathan Cape, price £16.99.

Population explosion of nesting Gulls in Great Yarmouth

Peter Allard



Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Peter Wilson*)

The recent increase in numbers of breeding Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls in Great Yarmouth, together with those at Southtown and Gorleston, has been both dramatic and alarming, with calls for some form of control a regular feature in local newspapers during the past three years. This trend has followed the increase in numbers nesting in neighbouring Lowestoft and further south along the Suffolk coast. Indeed, increases in the vicinity of Orfordness have been phenomenal during the past two decades, and follows other trends along the British coastline.

Early Pioneers

Although the Herring Gull has nested in Norfolk since 1972 and the Lesser Black-backed Gull from 1978, it was not until 1995 that both species began to nest on roofs in Great Yarmouth, the first occurrence of nesting on buildings in the county. This habit was first noted in the British Isles for Herring Gull during the 1920s and for Lesser Black-backed Gull some two decades later. The 1995 pioneer site chosen in Great Yarmouth by these aggressive large gulls was the South Denes, immediately south of the Power Station on roofs of the former Omni-Pac Ltd factory. The factory had been built during the late 1940s and there was presumably little disturbance on these extensive slightly angled roofs. Birds had been present the previous year, but it was considered that no nesting had taken place. Five pairs of Lesser Black-backed and six pairs of Herring Gulls nested in this first year, both species successfully rearing several young. Breeding was first confirmed on 7th May when one pair of Lesser Black-backs was seen nest building and an adult Herring Gull was observed sitting on a nest. Young from both species were first observed on 18th June, two of the Herring Gull chicks being quite large and noted wing flapping. Both adults and young had departed the area by late August.

The following year in 1996, increased numbers of adults of both species were present in early summer and nesting attempts were made, but were firmly discouraged by the factory owners and no young were reared. The owners took out a one year contract with an environmental pest control company to scare the birds away, which proved successful. However, adults of both species were noted surveying adjacent potential breeding sites on many occasions.

The position in 1997 was much the same. Adults were observed prospecting a number of sites in the South Denes, but there was no actual proof of breeding. At the initial breeding site,

the owners again employed the pest control company to discourage any nesting attempts, whilst in addition work began on a roof replacement scheme.

The following year saw at least six pairs of Herring and one pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls take up residence on the disused former Bird's Eye factory roofs just north of the Power Station. Here they remained undisturbed and all pairs eventually raised young successfully. For comparison at this time the Lowestoft breeding colonies totalled 38 pairs of Herring and nine pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gull. Herring Gulls had begun to breed in Lowestoft in 1993, but it was not until three years later that Lesser Black-backed Gulls first nested.

Expansion

A spectacular increase occurred in 1999 when at least 31 pairs of Herring Gulls bred at South Denes, mainly on and in the vicinity of the former Bird's Eye factory premises. Also Lesser Black-backed increased to nine pairs there and for the first time two pairs bred successfully at Gorleston. The breeding site was again on flat roof factory premises and adjacent to Riverside Road. Further expansions of these large gulls were noted in late summer when one pair of Lesser Black-backed were seen with two large chicks on the roofs of disused timber sheds along Southtown Road. Several pairs of Herring Gulls were also present and may well have bred, but viewing there proved difficult.

The expansion continued into 2000 and a complete survey was conducted on 13th June. A total of at least 10, (possibly 12) breeding pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gull were located at South Denes along with 20 pairs of Herring Gulls. There was a possibly of up to 30 pairs of Herring Gulls present, but some of the nesting sites on the flat roofs were impossible to view. It was apparent, however, that several firms were now actively discouraging the birds from nesting on their roofs and again none nested at the pioneer Omni-Pac factory. At Southtown, alongside the main Southtown Road, a noticeable increase to at least 20, (possibly 25 pairs) of Lesser Black-backed Gull were breeding on what used to be Palgrave Brown's timber sheds and with them were at least two pairs of Herring Gulls. At Gorleston Riverside, one pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls nested at the previous year's site. The combined total of nests in the Great Yarmouth area in 2000 was: Lesser black-backed Gull 31 definite nests with possibly as many as 38; Herring Gull 22 definite nests with possibly as many as 32. It is interesting to note that in 2000, for the first time, Herring Gulls were outnumbered. It proved to be a good breeding season with many young reared; 41 young Lesser Black-backed Gulls of all ages were counted in a large group on the old timber shed roofs at Southtown on 26th July.

The expected increase continued into 2001 with an estimated total of 55 pairs of breeding Lesser Black-backed and at least 36 pairs of Herring Gulls. The expansion was most noted along the riverside at Southtown, whilst at Gorleston at least six pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were breeding on flat factory roofs. For comparison, the 2001 Lowestoft breeding totals had increased dramatically to 750 pairs of Lesser Black-backed and 250 pairs of Herring Gulls, all breeding on flat roofs near the harbour. In Great Yarmouth the ratio of nesting Lesser Black-backed to Herring Gulls was approximately 2:1 whereas at Lowestoft the ratio had increased to 3:1. The Lesser Black-backed Gull, although the smaller of the two, was developing into the dominant breeding species at both towns despite the Herring Gull, the initial colonizer, being the larger and more aggressive species.

Continued Increase

At least 103 pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were estimated to have nested in the Great Yarmouth area in 2002, the majority now breeding in the vicinity of the old timber sheds at Southtown. The remainder were still in the initial breeding areas of South Denes, but had spread out from the former Bird's Eye factory into areas surrounding Swanston's Road and

south towards the harbour entrance. Herring Gull numbers were estimated to be around 50 pairs, their concentrations still in the South Denes industrial areas but had not increased significantly at Southtown. Limited control was continuing at several premises, but was having little impact on the increasing numbers now breeding with many sites difficult to access; the very aggressive behaviour towards human intrusion almost certainly thwarted some culling attempts.

During the winter of 2002/3, large sections of the former timber sheds along Southtown Road began to be demolished and this carried on throughout the spring and summer. This would have been detrimental for most species, but not these large aggressive gulls. They determinedly attempted to nest on the remaining buildings and where areas had already been cleared, they simply nested on the open ground. A survey in June found 130 pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gulls resident there, at least 19 of which had nests on the ground, the first time behaviour of this type had been recorded in the Great Yarmouth area. Elsewhere in the town at least 40 pairs were breeding, including two pairs at Gorleston. Fifteen pairs of Herring Gulls bred at Southtown, including four pairs on the ground, and an estimated 40 pairs elsewhere in the town. Breeding success that year was noted as excellent, even for the ground-nesting birds at Southtown which fledged many young.

Local Concern

The increasing numbers of large gulls breeding in the town brought letters of complaint to local papers during the summer of 2004. The main concern from the public was constant noise, the mess created around the nesting sites and their aggressive behaviour. However, not all the public were against them and one Southtown company was highly protective of their nesting gulls and it featured prominently in the 'Great Yarmouth Mercury' newspaper. Despite this, Council workmen were reported to have destroyed over 24 nests of both species at one site alone and doubtless others not recorded. Surveys during the summer of 2004 indicated that well over 300 pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were now breeding in the town. These included a new site at Southtown and, for the first time, pairs bred on roofs in the town centre. There were now 45 pairs nesting on the ground along Southtown Road alone and also increases at Gorleston Riverside.

The new 2004 Southtown breeding site was the former Jewson timber shed roofs where an estimated 85 pairs bred. Breeding possibly occurred in the previous year, but the site could not be checked fully due to inaccessibility. They were almost identical to the other old timber sheds which had been demolished along the riverside in 2002/3. Herring Gulls also continued to increase, albeit on a much smaller scale, with an estimate of at least 100 pairs; some breeding on roofs in the town centre for the first time. The breeding ratio of Lesser Black-backed Gull to Herring was now 3:1 and mirrored that in neighbouring Lowestoft.

During May 2005 further numerous calls were made for birds to be culled. The Great Yarmouth Port Authority, under pressure from firms that leased these buildings, agreed to organise a cull in late May. The problems cited were the gulls' droppings spoiling valuable stock and the nuisance caused with their aggressive territorial behaviour. The cull brought a rapid response from local people and naturalists in the papers questioning the need to shoot the gulls.

Unabated Increase

Despite all this, numbers of nesting gulls continued to increase in the town and an estimated 500 pairs of Lesser Black-backed and 180 pairs of Herring Gulls bred in 2005. The increase was particularly noticeable towards the harbour entrance as birds took readily to a former cold store roof and adjacent buildings. The expected increase at Gorleston Riverside came and Herring Gulls bred for the first time amongst all the Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Gulls of both

species were now commandeering any suitable flat roof in the town centre and nesting was recorded as far north as Beaconsfield and Churchill Roads. Breeding pair estimates were always difficult to achieve, but numbers recorded have been considered conservative. The ground-nesting pairs along Southtown Road had a particularly difficult breeding season in 2005 with workmen clearing most of the site for helicopter landings early in the season, and later the discharging of cargo from a large vessel inevitably caused considerable disturbance.

At neighbouring Lowestoft, huge increases were noted during summer 2005 with an estimated 1600 pairs of Lesser Black-backed and 400 pairs of Herring Gulls.

Full Survey

During 2006 a complete gull breeding survey was undertaken with all nesting sites in Great Yarmouth, Southtown and Gorleston visited on 13 dates between 12th May and 13th July. Counts and estimates were now very difficult, given the numbers present, and at some sites an educated guess had to be made. The survey revealed a total of 790 pairs of Lesser Black-backed and 250 pairs of Herring Gulls; phenomenal increases by any standards, but mirroring those at neighbouring Lowestoft where numbers are considerably higher. For the first time several pairs were actually nesting around chimney stacks at three places.

The largest increases were on buildings near the harbour entrance where at one site alone 140 nests could be viewed with ease. Nesting pairs had also spread to South Quay for the first time and inland towards the Gapton Hall and Harfrey's Industrial Estate areas. At Gorleston Riverside over 80 pairs, mostly Lesser Black-backs, nested on flat roof buildings at two sites. These alone caused much nuisance and were later culled by licensed marksmen (according to a local media report), while other 'controls' took place along Southtown Road and in some South Denes industrial areas. Pairs also returned to the pioneer site, the former Omni-Pac building at South Denes, and successfully bred with two pairs of Common Terns, the first time that this species has nested on roofs in Norfolk (see separate article). A pair of Lesser Black-backs also nested on saltings at the eastern end of Breydon Water, but was unsuccessful. Pairs also continued to spread further north in the town and breeding was observed along Northgate Street and into Caister Road; fortunately, despite this spread north, there seems at present no threat to the breeding Little Tern colony at Great Yarmouth North Beach.

The ratio of nesting Lesser Black-backed to Herring appears to be slightly widening, being similar now to those in coastal Suffolk. Numbers there have also built considerably; in 1998, at Orfordness alone, the main colony totalled some 25,000 breeding pairs, nearly 20,000 of which were Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A fair percentage of those now breeding in Great Yarmouth must surely originate from these areas and three breeding birds, seen in 2006, carried red coloured rings indicating probable Suffolk origins.

The Future

Future expansion of breeding gulls in and around Great Yarmouth seems inevitable. Further controls on their breeding success will presumably continue to have only a limited effect, as most nests are inaccessible. The culling of adults will always be controversial and in the built-up areas, where they breed, the need for health and safety risk assessments will be important. The move to inland breeding areas has already taken place and these large gulls now breed at Beccles and perhaps at other localities. Breeding populations in the Norwich area and around the Norfolk Broads may not be too far away. Both species are notorious predators and successfully thrive off man's waste and scavenge regularly on refuse tips, posing a number of health risks. At the rate that both species are increasing annually, there will undoubtedly be problems ahead. Some form of control will inevitably be needed before numbers reach plague proportions.

First recorded roof-nesting by Common Terns in Norfolk

Keith Dye

In 2006 two pairs of Common Terns bred at Great Yarmouth South Denes on the roof of the disused former Omni-Pac building, which is situated just south of the Power Station. The discovery was made when at least one well-grown almost fledged chick was seen being fed by both parent birds in late July. There had been no sign of any Common Terns in this area when a breeding gull survey was carried out on 27th May, indicating that the birds here were possibly displaced from another site or were second attempts. On 3rd August another unfledged chick was seen, estimated to be two weeks old and obviously not the original chick, the latter considered somewhat older and seen exercising its wings. Perhaps surprisingly they were on the west roofs on the river side of the building rather than on the eastern seaward side as might have been expected.

Great Yarmouth South Beach is only about 65 metres east of the building. One of the parents of the younger chick was ringed on the left leg, indicating it may have originally fledged from the nearby Breydon Water Common Tern nesting platforms. Up to five adults were present on the roof of the Omni-Pac building on 3rd August and all were giving the adjacent nesting colony of large (mainly Lesser Black-backed) gulls a hard time, suggesting they too were territorial or protecting young, although none were seen that day. One pair of adults were seen feeding one another on more than one occasion that morning, possibly the parents of the older missing chick which may have been predated by the nearby large gulls or perhaps fallen off the roof, but is unlikely to have fledged and left the area on its own. The roofs are some 15 metres above ground level, the corrugations face north and south, are only viewable from one side from the ground and cannot be overlooked from above, from the east side of the river at least. Viewing from an elevated position from Gorleston on the west side of the river would be rather distant and restricted.

This is the first recorded nesting by Common Terns on roofs in Norfolk and perhaps surprising in that the building has no flat roof. The roof is made of corrugated fibre (possibly asbestos) or non-metal sheeting pitched at an angle of some 25 degrees. Given that there are probably flatter areas within the whole roof area this does seem an unlikely nesting site for Common Terns to choose, possibly an indication that the parent birds may have fledged from a platform or raft or other man made structure. The young bird seen on 3rd August, and still present on the 6th, had protection from predation and the weather by several corrugated ridges just below the ridge of the roof covered by flat sheet metal, allowing the youngster to get beneath it and out of sight in the gullies when the parent birds were away. It was seen doing just that on the 3rd, in fact it wasn't seen at all that morning until a parent brought in a fish and it emerged from cover to receive it. The older chick seen late July and 2nd August was on an adjacent pitched corrugated roof on the same building and may have used the protection of the flat sheet metal on that part of the roof. No young were seen after the 6th although the site was subsequently checked on the 8th, 11th and 15th, so success here is unknown but successful fledging is considered doubtful; no adults were seen after the 11th. One disadvantage of a nest site such as this is that with few adults present the eggs and young are not afforded the protection from avian predators that a large numbers of adults give, for example at the nearby Breydon Water platforms or a beach colony. This would be somewhat off-set by the lack of ground predators a beach colony contends with. Another disadvantage here is that the site is in the flight line of large gulls moving to and from the Breydon Water roost.

Of interest Common Terns have been breeding on roofs at Lowestoft in Suffolk, just six miles or so south of the Great Yarmouth site, since at least 1993 when three pairs were found nesting on a shipyard roof alongside Lake Lothing. The colony had probably been in existence since at least 1986 with corrugated roofs again favoured. Pressure from an expanding colony of nesting Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls caused a move to another nearby, similar but smaller, site in 2000 where numbers have increased and where there is no pressure from nesting gulls. As with the Great Yarmouth site viewing is difficult with only one side of the roofs visible, but numbers are now thought to approach 30 nesting pairs; fledging success is not known.

Roof nesting by Common Terns was recorded on a factory at Tampere, Finland about 150 kilometres north-west of Helsinki, in 1971 (Hakala and Jokinen 1971; Axell 1977) and on a flat roof of old army buildings, some 4 metres above ground level, on Great Gull Island, New York, USA in 1975 (E Macfarlane 1976). Lowestoft was the only instance of this behaviour in Britain up to 2003 and probably until the discovery of the Great Yarmouth site. Only time will tell if the Great Yarmouth site becomes a 'fixture' but with the future planned redevelopment of Great Yarmouth South Denes, which includes the new Outer Harbour project, the odds are against it.

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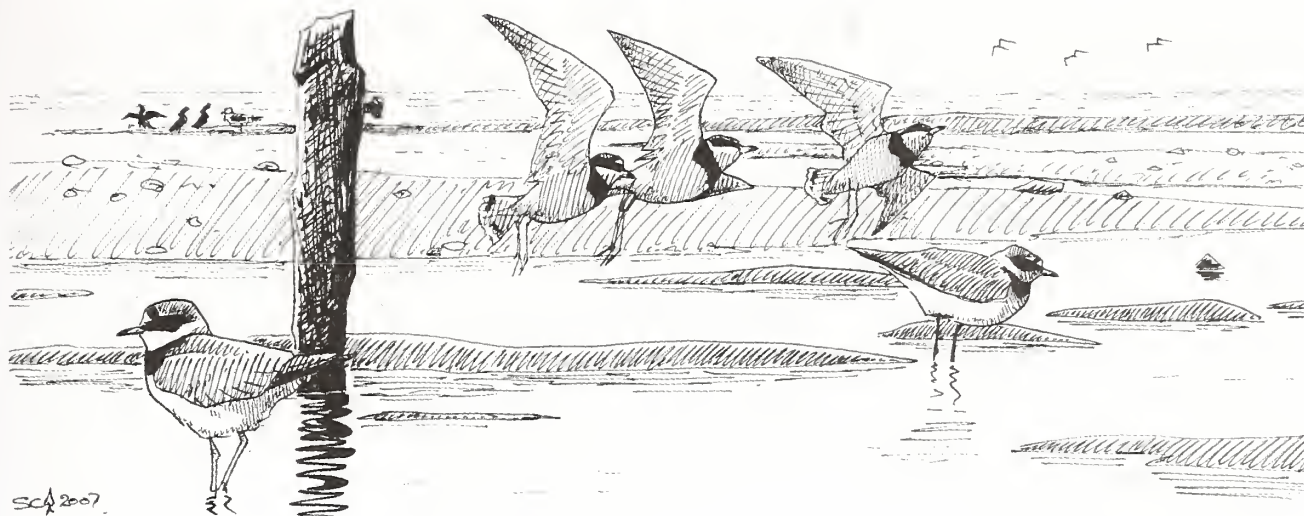
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Caging the 'Stone-runner'

Jonathon Brown, Neil Lawton and Michael Rooney, Natural England

The Ringed Plover, or as it is known in Norfolk the 'Stone-runner', is as much a Norfolk bird as the Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Stone Curlew and Avocet. It was formerly a common breeder along the county's coast and in smaller numbers inland. Many bird watchers and non-bird watchers alike are amazed to find pairs nesting on open exposed beaches alongside both dog walkers and families enjoying picnics.

Since at least the mid 1980s the numbers of breeding Ringed Plovers has undergone a steady and alarming decline. In 1984 a national survey located 541 pairs in the county, which at the time represented 6% of the British population and a significantly higher proportion of the English one. A further survey in 1993 found that the county's population had declined by just over 20% to 429 pairs. Although breeding data in recent years has been incomplete, it is clear that further declines have occurred, and allowing for some under-recording current numbers are unlikely to exceed 250-300 pairs; some sites with suitable habitat have already been abandoned. A national survey is to take place in 2007 and will hopefully clarify numbers locally and nationally. The reasons for the decline are unclear, but there is some evidence to suggest that predation by increasing populations of fox and Common Gull and disturbance by increasing numbers of beach visitors are probably significant factors. It would seem unlikely that numbers of predators or visitors will decrease in the future and if the effects of global warming and predicted sea level rises are also considered, then this species faces a very uncertain future in Norfolk.



Ringed Plovers (Steve Cale)

A significant proportion of the county's breeding population breeds on Scolt Head NNR, which at present is probably the single most important site in England. In the 1970s and early 80s it was estimated that there were about 150 pairs on the island; by 1993 this had halved to 74 pairs, followed by a further reduction to a low of 39 pairs by 1997. Scolt Head receives the fewest number of visitors compared with any other site along the north Norfolk coast and, with a total dog ban between mid-April and mid-August, it was clear that disturbance played only a minor part in declining numbers. Predation was therefore likely to be one of the main factors, though changes in beach profile and habitat availability may have also played a part.

Prior to 1997 predator control of foxes and stoats had been carried out on Scolt Head. This was subsequently intensified with better success and as a direct result there was a gradual recovery in the numbers of pairs, though productivity in some years was poor with less than a chick per pair thought to have fledged. Since 2000 we began to notice clutches disappearing without any evidence of them being taken by ground predators and for a while we were perplexed. The following year we became increasingly aware of several adult Common Gulls regularly patrolling the beach, the reactions of adult Ringed Plovers suggested that this species posed a threat. Around this time we also began to notice a significant number of Ringed Plover pairs beginning to nest under sueada, marram, driftwood and in hollows under the base of dunes, resulting in a general reduction in the number of open beach nests. It is possible that changes in beach profile and regular flooding played a part in this change of behaviour but it could have been a response to predation. In 2002, after lengthy observations, several adult Common Gulls were actually witnessed predating Ringed Plover and Little Tern nests, making it clear that predation by Common Gulls had been grossly under-estimated. Also around this time, predation of Ringed Plovers by Common Gulls was also being noticed at Blakeney Point, and subsequently at Holme Dunes NNR and Holkham NNR.

The breeding population of Common Gulls along the north Norfolk coast has increased significantly in recent years, with nearly three times as many pairs currently breeding in Norfolk compared with the early 1990s and up to 6 of these pairs on Scolt Head.

Number of pairs of Common Gulls, Norfolk 1991-2006:

91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
6	8	5	9	9	1	8	8	6	6	12	16	18	19	16	13

Inspired by the success of caging Little Ringed Plovers at Welney to prevent predation, it was decided to trial caging some Ringed Plover nests on the open beach in 2004; initial prototypes met with only limited success and predation by both fox, stoat and especially Common Gull still occurred. The cage design was modified for the 2005 season resulting in better hatching success and was modified yet again in 2006.

During 2006 a concerted effort was made to find and cage all Ringed Plover nests on the open beach and spits, resulting in an outstanding breeding season. Caging of nests combined with continued predator control resulted in a breeding total of 64 pairs hatching at least 50 broods and fledging around 150 young, the largest number of breeding pairs and fledged young since 1993. It was clear that caging of nests must have played a significant part in an outstanding breeding season, though good weather may have also played its part. Close monitoring of a number of broods after hatching resulted in an estimated average fledging rate of 2.5 chicks per pair.

Number of pairs of breeding Ringed Plovers and fledged young Scolt Head 1997-2006:

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
Pairs	39	47	55	61	59	48	54	53	57	64
Young	45	50-80	35-40	70	20-30	20	40-50	25-30	40-50	150

Out of a total of 60 nests caged in 2006 only ten failed to hatch; of these only one was thought to have failed as a result of predation. Reasons for failure were:

- one predated by small mammal probably rat or weasel
- five due to sand blow or flooding
- one adult died on nest
- three nests deserted.

Initially nests were only caged once a full clutch had been laid. As the season progressed nests were caged immediately upon finding a nest, even those with just a single egg; in all cases the full clutches were eventually laid and in all instances adults returned to nests. Observations of incubating birds in cages were also made to see what effect the cages may have on them, particularly on their reactions to people or predators. None was apparent; adults returned to their nests within minutes of being caged and there was even some evidence that incubating adults used the cages as a refuge from predators and humans, adults often sitting tight whilst people walked past within a few metres or when gulls and raptors were nearby. On other occasions adults would run off the nest and out the cage, just as quickly as non-caged nests. It was also clear that incubating adults learnt to associate cages with their nests, making it much easier to move nests, which were vulnerable to flooding, higher up the beach. On one occasion a nest and cage were moved 20ft up the beach in one go, the adult returning to the nest almost immediately. It also proved unnecessary to move any prominent stones or other feature around the nest when moving them up the beach. Cages also prevented access to the nests by Oystercatchers, another potential predator. There appeared to be no effect on newly hatched chicks, with newly emerged young often being brooded in the cages and easily leaving the cage once mobile.

There are, however, some disadvantages associated with caging the nests. They are much more conspicuous to the general public and, though this makes them much less likely to be trampled, it does make them much more prone to human interference. In one instance a clutch

was seen to be taken by an egg collector who was later caught and successfully prosecuted. There are also issues with sand blow and debris blowing along the beach gathering around the cages, though regular checking of nests/cages can help reduce this. There is also a possibility that some predators may learn to associate cages with nests; there was some evidence that this occurred with foxes in 2004 but changes to cage design (see below) stopped this. Though there are some disadvantages in caging nests, these are outweighed by the reduction in predation rates and increased hatching success.

Initial cage designs were simple open ended chicken wire tunnels but these did not stop predation by Common Gulls and foxes. The final design used in 2006 consisted of a 50 cm square steel frame, with legs on each corner 30 cm high covered in chicken mesh of varying diameters, leaving the last 10 cm of the legs uncovered allowing the cages to be pushed into the ground. The mesh was simply folded and moulded around the frame, single entrances were cut on each side 10-15 cm wide with just a single cut of the wire which was then folded outwards creating a tunnel entrance, also making it harder for predators to gain entry.

The caging of Ringed Plover nests on Scolt Head during 2006 clearly had a significant effect in the amazing success of that year. This practice will probably continue for the foreseeable future and it is hoped Ringed Plover numbers will eventually increase to levels not reached at the site for 30 years. It is hoped that other sites can also be encouraged to cage nests. Those beaches with much higher visitor pressures tend to be busiest in July and August, making it important that early nesting attempts are successful. Caging, combined with enclosing areas of suitable nesting habitat, wardening, and predator control, will hopefully help reduce predation and trampling, resulting in better success and a reverse in the downward trend in breeding numbers. It would be a sad tale if the 'Stone-runner' was lost or confined to just one or two sites in the county.

Acknowledgments

A special thanks to Norman Williams, for help with design and providing all cage frames, as well help in locating nesting pairs.

Prints of Photographs including those featured in this Report may be obtained from:

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An Interesting Pied Flycatcher

Andy Stoddart

At Blakeney Point on 7th and 8th May 2006 conditions for falls of migrants were marginal but, as is normal in May, tiny arrivals can still produce interesting birds. Such was the case on these two days with the combined total amounting only to four Blackcaps, three Willow Warblers and single Garden Warbler, Chiffchaff, Whitethroat and Whinchat. However, a Common Rosefinch also arrived on the 7th, followed next day by a Quail and two Pied Flycatchers - this composition confirming that a small arrival of continental birds had taken place.

One of the Pied Flycatchers (in the Plantation) appeared, on a fleeting initial view, to be a female, but a closer look showed it to be in fact a male. The combination of a small white forehead patch and extensive white on the outer webs of the tertials and across the inner greater coverts was normal for a male, but the entire upperparts were a uniform greyish-brown with no hint of admixed black. Although it was tempting to age the bird as a first year due to its dark brown (rather than blackish) primaries, Mild (1994) refers to brown males having browner primaries even when adult, so it is probably safer to leave the bird unaged.

Pied Flycatchers have traditionally been scored on a scale proposed by Drost (1936). This 'Drost scale' scores 1 for males with wholly black upperparts through a succession of intermediate stages to a score of 7 for males with wholly brown upperparts. The Plantation bird scored 7 on this scale.

Male Pied Flycatchers from all parts of the population can show some brown in the upperparts (and first year males always show a greater tendency to show brown) but there are strong regional variations in its prevalence. Males from Britain, Scandinavia and Switzerland are predominantly black above but some can show admixed brown. The essential reference on Pied Flycatchers, Lundberg and Alatalo (1992), gives an average Drost score for first year British males of 3.6 and records no birds scoring as high as 7. The equivalent figures for Scandinavia and Switzerland are in the range 3 to 4.5. By contrast, fully brown males are common across a broad swathe of the bird's range extending from Germany through Poland and into Belarus and Russia. Drost scores from this area average between 6 and 6.9.

Therefore, on the basis of the Drost score alone, the Blakeney Point bird is highly unlikely to have originated in Britain. This is of course no surprise as virtually all the Pied Flycatchers recorded on Blakeney Point are likely to be continental, always occurring in conditions consistent with a North Sea crossing. However, most such birds are assumed to be Scandinavian and all the males which I have personally seen here have been black birds with very low Drost scores, fully supporting this hypothesis.

The occurrence of a fully brown male therefore gives an interesting insight into its likely area of origin, for it presumably came from within the eastern European range of such birds. Interestingly, this range overlaps neatly with that of Common Rosefinch, lending further weight to the view that the small arrival of 7th/8th May originated in this region. As if to emphasise this point, the Rosefinch was still present on the 8th, sharing the Plantation with the Pied Flycatcher, and for a few delightful hours turning this tiny stand of trees into a little piece of Poland!

Lundberg and Alatalo (1992) suggest an intriguing explanation for the occurrence of fully brown males. This is said to be an adaptation to the presence of Collared Flycatchers in the areas of eastern Europe where the ranges of the two species overlap. Collared Flycatchers are dominant here and it is proposed that brown male Pies are not recognised as competitors.

They are therefore tolerated in the more desirable deciduous habitats whereas black male Pies are banished to less suitable (coniferous) areas.

This interesting bird therefore provided an unusual opportunity to locate more precisely than is normally possible the potential origin of a particular bird arrival. It also raises another interesting question about the status of brown male Pied Flycatchers in Norfolk. There is no mention of them in the Norfolk Bird Reports nor in Taylor *et al* (1999). There are three possible explanations for this. Firstly, such birds may be going unrecorded because observers do not specifically report them as interesting enough. Secondly, they may be overlooked, misidentified as females. Thirdly, (and perhaps most likely?) it may be that they are genuinely very rare.

I would like to thank Steve Joyner and Richard Porter for their conversations about this bird.

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Rose-breasted Grosbeak – first for Norfolk

Jed Andrews, Sophie Barker, Geoffrey Barker and David Bednall

At 8am on 4th May, warden Jed Andrews received a report of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in a private garden in Holme village from a local resident. Jed went there straight away to try and see the bird and confirm the identification. He telephoned Sophie Barker who was at the Observatory, who also came to the site. Sophie had ringed the species in Canada in 2004 and went to the site with a field guide and a book of cage and aviary birds to help verify the species, as it was noted that several female weaver species look similar. However, the bird was not seen by 10am and without an opportunity to verify the identification, Jed and Sophie left the site but asked the person concerned to contact them immediately if the bird re-appeared.

Nothing was heard until 8pm that evening when Jed received a further call, to report that the bird had flown into a window at the house where it had been seen earlier that day, and been taken into care. Jed went round to see the bird straight away, and on seeing it consulted a number of others. Maurice Eccleshall came to see the bird and confirmed its identification immediately, as he had seen the species on Tresco. He also agreed to consult a friend who was an expert in cage and aviary birds to verify what the status of the species was. Prof Fred Cooke also came to see the bird and agreed it was a first summer female Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Black-headed Grosbeak was discounted at this point after consulting N American field guides.

The condition of the bird was satisfactory, it was clearly recovering and it was decided to keep it overnight. It was kept in a suitable cage with constant access to food and water, and the

cage was covered to minimise disturbance. The following morning Jed heard from Maurice Eccleshall who had been told by his friend, who is a cage and aviary bird judge, that he did not know anyone in Norfolk who kept RBG as a cage and aviary bird. The BTO was then consulted and staff there agreed the bird was unlikely to be a captive bird. Permission was therefore given to ring it. The bird was ringed by J Andrews and jointly processed with S Barker.

The bird was confirmed as a first-summer female, with wear on primaries, secondaries, coverts and tail feathers that was consistent with a first summer bird, but not one that had been kept in captivity. The feather wear was evenly distributed throughout the plumage. There was one replaced greater covert on the left wing and a true moult limit on the right wing with two adult type innermost greater coverts, darker brown and glossier than the surrounding feathers, but clearly not black. The yellow/orange flush on the underwing coverts was also consistent with a female. The wing was 115mm and the bird had some fat in the clavicle pit and also some subcutaneous fat in the back of the neck. The pectoral muscle was healthy and the weight was 46.6g.

Several photographs were taken, including those of identification features and those to show the condition of the feet and feathers. This would help to determine that the bird had not been kept in captivity prior to being taken into care. The toes and claws of the bird were clean and free from any damage or deformity. The wear to the feather tips was reasonable for a spring bird and there was no damage. The bill tip was also examined and formed a fine perfect point. Of particular interest to the ringers was the rapid gain of condition in the bird, which when examined on the Thursday night had only a small amount of fat in the clavicle pit and none at the back of the neck, although the bird was storing seed in its crop at this time. When the bird was ringed the following afternoon, it was noticed that a considerable amount of fat had been deposited not only in the pit but also under the skin of the neck, suggesting that the food had been rapidly metabolised and laid down as fat. The ringers' experience of handling migrants is that this process, and the speed with which it took place, is strongly linked to migratory behaviour.

A discussion followed to determine where, how and when the bird was to be released. Both BTO staff and those present at the private site felt that the bird should be released somewhere where people could see it at a pre arranged release time. The owner of the property was offered the option of manpower to organise a controlled twitch at the private site. Understandably this option was not favoured; the site was not suitable and access would have been very problematic with the number of people that could be involved. Several other locations were therefore suggested, including Holme NOA, Titchwell RSPB and Snettisham Coastal Park, but without a government licence, the bird could only be released in the local area (generally within 1 km). BTO staff consulted English Nature staff and it was felt that it was not in the interest of the bird to take it a considerable distance from the original site. The ringers were therefore told that the bird should be released in the general area (within 1km of the ringing location).

The bird's welfare was paramount. The fact that the bird could not be moved to a suitable site was regrettable but the land owner's privacy was respected. Everyone involved wanted the bird to be twitchable but sadly this just was not the case. The bird was seen at the private site for a further two days, during which there was a spell of wet weather. It was seen coming to the bird table. After this the weather became clear and warm. The bird was not seen again after this.

Description

Overall this was a very large, bulky, pale brown bird which was similar in size to a Hawfinch. It had a heavy head, bulky neck, pale flesh-coloured bill and dark eye set close to the bill. The jizz was extremely distinctive. There was a prominent supercillium, which almost met at the back of the head, and pale submoustachial stripe. There was a pale median crown stripe which separated two darkish brown lateral crown stripes. The breast was buffish-white with prominent streaks over the breast and flanks. Wing and tail feathers were medium brown with white tips to the median and greater coverts forming a double wing bar. The mantle was brown with darker streaks. The under wing coverts were yellow/orange and the legs were medium grey.

Black-headed Grosbeak was discounted on the following points:

- There was no difference in the colour of the upper and lower mandibles, both being a pale flesh-colour unlike Black-headed Grosbeak where the upper mandible is grey.
- There was no orange flush to the throat or breast as in Black-headed Grosbeak, the streaking was uniform and the throat whitish. The whitish submoustachial stripe was not sufficiently bulky and did not contrast with the pale throat.

Editor's Note: Up to December 2005 there had been 21 accepted records in Britain.

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The Norfolk List

by Keith Dye and Mick Fiszer

A Checklist of the Birds of Norfolk was last published in the Bird and Mammal Report in 1992 listing the 396 full species which had occurred in the county. Subsequently the Birds of Norfolk (Taylor et al) listed 409 species up to the end of 1998.

The following schedule not only brings the Norfolk list up to date (420 species by the end of 2006) but more particularly describes in which season species are likely to occur. This is for the benefit for both residents and visitors alike. The schedule also includes recognisable forms in italics.

The seasons are not divided into four equal periods of 3 months each to avoid the problems of certain rarer Scandinavian migrants (such as Icterine Warblers mainly occurring early June and early August) appearing to visit the county in the summer months only. The seasonal distribution also does not take into account occasional records in other seasons eg wintering Common Sandpipers.

The species' names relate to those most recently published by the British Ornithologists Union. In order to avoid any confusion where they differ from the standard common names used for many years in the annual reports, they have been included (in brackets) in the detailed systematic list. The order of species also follows that of the current annual report.

In terms of seasonal abundance the numerical ranges generally follow the Birds of Norfolk (1999) but in certain instances the numbers of some species has had to be subjective.

VS	=	very scarce:	1-20/year
S	=	scarce:	21-200/year
FC	=	fairly common:	201-2000/year
C	=	common:	2001-10,000/year
VC	=	very common:	10,001-60,000/year
A	=	abundant:	60,000+/year
F	=	feral	

The columns relating to vagrancy status are as follows:

V	=	vagrant:	1-10 records in total
VR	=	very rare:	11-50 records in total
R	=	rare:	51-150 records in total

These figures refer to the actual number of birds recorded. The column 'last record' lists the year when a vagrant was last seen.

The 'Comments' column is hopefully self-explanatory. Where an increase/decrease is included this relates to the 40-year period since the publication of Michael Seago's original Birds of Norfolk (1967) which included all records up to the end of 1966.

We are very grateful for the considerable help/advice given by Giles Dunmore, Andy Stoddart and Moss Taylor in the compilation of the schedule.

It is the Society's intention to publish the attached schedule as a separate document in the near future so it can be used for reference purposes and for observers to keep their Norfolk List, for holiday lists etc. Accordingly any observations/criticisms etc should be sent in the first instance to Mick Fiszer at mickfiszer@hotmail.com or by post to 40 Brick Kiln Road, North Walsham NR28 9QD

	Spring (Mar-mid June)	Summer (mid June- mid Aug)	Autumn (mid Aug-Nov)	Winter (Dec-Feb)	Vagrancy Status		Last record of Vagrants	Comments
Mute Swan	C	C	C	C				
Tundra Swan	S		S	C				
Whooper Swan	S		S	FC				increase
Taiga Bean Goose			VS	S				
<i>Tundra Bean Goose</i>			VS	VS				
Pink-footed Goose	FC		A	A				increase
Greater White-fronted Goose	S		S	FC				
<i>Greenland White-fronted Goose</i>	VS		VS	VS				
Lesser White-fronted Goose					VR	23		
Greylag Goose	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F				
Snow Goose					VR	17		
Greater Canada Goose	FC/F	FC/F	FC/F	FC/F				
Barnacle Goose	S/F	F	VS/F	FC/F				
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	C	VS	C	C				decrease
<i>Pale-bellied Brent Goose</i>	VS		VS	VS				
<i>Black Brant</i>	VS		VS	VS				
Red-breasted Goose					VR	14		
Egyptian Goose	FC/F	FC/F	FC/F	FC/F				
Ruddy Shelduck					V	1*	1892	*category 'B' but now occurs in feral flocks
Common Shelduck	C	FC	C	C				
Mandarin Duck	VS/F	VS/F	VS/F	VS/F				
Eurasian Wigeon	VC	VS	VC	VC				
American Wigeon					VR	26		
Gadwall	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Eurasian Teal	VC	S	C	VC				
Green-winged Teal					R	55		
Mallard	C	FC	C	C				
Northern Pintail	FC	VS	C	C				
Garganey	S	VS	S					
Blue-winged Teal					VR	20		
Northern Shoveler	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Red-crested Pochard	VS/F	VS/F	VS/F	VS/F				
Common Pochard	FC	S	C	C				
Canvasback					V	1	1998	
Ring-necked Duck					VR	15		
Ferruginous Duck	VS	VS	VS	VS				
Tufted Duck	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Greater Scaup	S	VS	S	S				

Common Eider	S	VS	FC	FC				
King Eider					V	8	2005	
Steller's Eider					V	1	1830	
Long-tailed Duck	VS		VS	S				
Common Scoter	C	FC	C	C				
Surf Scoter					VR	18		
Velvet Scoter	VS		S	S				
Common Goldeneye	FC		S	FC				
Smew	VS		VS	VS				
Red-breasted Merganser	S		S	S				
Goosander	S		S	S				
Ruddy Duck	S	S	S	S				
Red-legged Partridge	VC	VC	VC	VC				
Grey Partridge	C	C	C	C				decrease
Common Quail	VS	VS	VS					
Common Pheasant	A	A	A	A				
Golden Pheasant	S	S	S	S				
Red-throated Diver	FC	VS	FC	FC				
Black-throated Diver	VS		VS	VS				
Great Northern Diver	VS		VS	VS				
Yellow-billed Diver					V	8	2002	
Pied-billed Grebe					V	2	1999	
Little Grebe	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Great Crested Grebe	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Red-necked Grebe	VS		VS	VS				
Slavonian Grebe	VS		VS	VS				
Black-necked Grebe	VS	VS	VS	VS				
Black-browed Albatross					V	2	2005	
Northern Fulmar	S	FC	FC	FC				
Fea's/Zino's Petrel					V	1	1997	
Capped Petrel					V	1	1850	
Cory's Shearwater					R	97		
Great Shearwater					VR	15		
Sooty Shearwater			S					
Manx Shearwater	VS	S	S					
Balearic Shearwater	VS	VS	VS					
Little Shearwater					V	3	1960	
European Storm-petrel			VS					
Leach's Storm-petrel			S					
Northern Gannet	FC	S	C	FC				
Great Cormorant	FC	FC	FC	FC				
European Shag	VS		VS	VS				
Great Bittern	VS	VS	VS	VS				
Little Bittern					VR	45		
Black-crowned Night Heron					VR	46		
Squacco Heron					VR	11		

Cattle Egret					VR	21		
Little Egret	FC	FC	FC	FC				increase
Great White Egret					VR	24		
Grey Heron	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Purple Heron					R	96		
Black Stork					VR	19		
White Stork					R	81		
Glossy Ibis					R	73		
Eurasian Spoonbill	VS	VS	VS					
European Honey-buzzard	VS	VS	VS					
Black Kite					VR	38		
Red Kite	VS	VS	VS	VS				
White-tailed Eagle					R	83		
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	S	FC	S	S				
Hen Harrier	VS		VS	VS				
Pallid Harrier					V	3	2006	
Montagu's Harrier	VS	VS	VS					
Northern Goshawk	VS	VS	VS	VS				
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Common Buzzard	S	S	S	S				increase
Rough-legged Buzzard	VS		VS	VS				
Golden Eagle					V	1	1868	
Osprey	VS	VS	VS					
Common Kestrel	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Red-footed Falcon					R	130		
Merlin	VS		VS	VS				
Eurasian Hobby	S	S	S					
Eleonora's Falcon					V	1	1987	
Gyr Falcon					V	3	1954	
Peregrine Falcon	VS		VS	VS				
Water Rail	S	S	S	FC				
Spotted Crake	VS		VS					
Little Crake					VR	16		
Baillon's Crake					V	9	1889	
Corn Crake			VS					
Common Moorhen	C	C	C	C				
Allen's Gallinule					V	1	1902	
Common Coot	C	C	C	C				
Common Crane	S	S	S	S				
Little Bustard					VR	24		
Great Bustard					VR	11		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	C	C	C	C				
Black-winged Stilt					VR	45		
Pied Avocet	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Stone-curlew	VS	VS	S					
Cream-coloured Courser					VR	5	1969	

Collared Pratincole					VR	13		
Oriental Pratincole					V	1	1993	
Black-winged Pratincole					V	4	1999	
Little Plover	S	S	S					
Ringed Plover	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Killdeer					V	2	2006	
Kentish Plover	VS	VS	VS					
Greater Sand Plover					V	3	2004	
Caspian Plover					V	2	1890	
Eurasian Dotterel	VS		VS					
American Golden Plover					V	8	2006	
Pacific Golden Plover					V	8	2006	
European Golden Plover	C	FC	C	VC				
Grey Plover	FC	FC	C	FC				
Sociable Lapwing					V	3	1993	
Northern Lapwing	C	FC	VC	VC				decrease
Red Knot	VC	VC	A	VC				
Sanderling	FC	C	FC	FC				
Semipalmated Sandpiper					V	5	2003	
Red-necked Stint					V	1	1992	
Little Stint	VS	VS	S					
Temminck's Stint	VS	VS	VS					
White-rumped Sandpiper					R	69		
Baird's Sandpiper					VR	15		
Pectoral Sandpiper	VS	VS	VS					
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper					V	3	1992	
Curlew Sandpiper	VS	VS	S					
Stilt Sandpiper					V	3	2005	
Purple Sandpiper	VS	VS	VS	VS				decrease
Dunlin	VC	C	VC	VC				
Broad-billed Sandpiper					R	57		
Buff-breasted Sandpiper					VR	38		
Ruff	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Jack Snipe	S		S	S				
Common Snipe	FC	FC	FC	FC				decrease
Great Snipe					R	106		
Long-billed Dowitcher					V	3	2005	
Eurasian Woodcock	S	S	FC	FC				
Black-tailed Godwit	C	FC	C	C				
Bar-tailed Godwit	FC	C	C	C				
Little Curlew					V	1	1985	
Whimbrel	FC	FC	FC					
Eurasian Curlew	C	C	C	C				
Spotted Redshank	S	S	S	VS				
Common Redshank	C	C	C	C				
Marsh Sandpiper					VR	18		

Common Greenshank	S	S	S					
Greater Yellowlegs					V	2	1995	
Lesser Yellowlegs					VR	15		
Solitary Sandpiper					V	2	1947	
Green Sandpiper	S	S	S	S				
Wood Sandpiper	VS	VS	VS					
Terek Sandpiper					VR	11		
Common Sandpiper	S	S	S					
Spotted Sandpiper					V	7	1995	
Ruddy Turnstone	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Wilson's Phalarope					VR	15		
Red-necked Phalarope	VS	VS	VS					
Grey Phalarope	VS		VS	VS				
Pomarine Skua	VS	VS	S	VS				
Arctic Skua	VS	S	FC	VS				
Long-tailed Skua		VS	VS					
Great Skua	VS	VS	FC	VS				
Mediterranean Gull	S	S	S	S				increase
Laughing Gull					V	5	2006	
Franklin's Gull					V	3	1998	
Little Gull	S	S	FC	VS				increase
Sabine's Gull			VS					
Bonaparte's Gull					V	3	2003	
Black-headed Gull	VC	VC	VC	VC				
Slender-billed Gull					V	3	2006	
Ring-billed Gull					VR	12		
Common Gull	VC	FC	VC	VC				
Lesser Black-backed Gull	FC	FC	FC	FC				increase in winter
Yellow-legged Gull	S	S	S	S				increase
Herring Gull	VC	C	VC	VC				
<i>Caspian Gull</i>	VS	VS	VS	VS				increase
Iceland Gull	VS		VS	VS				
Glaucous Gull	VS		VS	VS				
Great Black-backed Gull	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Ross's Gull					V	2	2006	
Black-legged Kittiwake	S	S	C	FC				decrease
Ivory Gull					V	1	1978	
Sooty Tern					V	2	1966	
Little Tern	FC	FC	VS					
Gull-billed Tern					VR	50		
Caspian Tern					R	53		
Whiskered Tern					VR	23		
Black Tern	S	VS	S					
White-winged Tern					R	105		
Sandwich Tern	C	C	C					
Lesser Crested Tern					V	3	2005	

Common Tern	FC	FC	FC					
Roseate Tern	VS	VS	VS					
Arctic Tern	S	S	S					
Common Guillemot	S	S	FC	FC				
Razorbill	S	S	FC	FC				
Black Guillemot	VS		VS	VS				
Little Auk	VS		S	VS				
Atlantic Puffin	VS		VS	VS				
Pallas's Sandgrouse					V	*	1908	*formerly an irruptive vagrant - none since 1908
Rock Pigeon/Feral Pigeon	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	*			*one considered wild record in 1925
Stock Pigeon	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Common Wood Pigeon	A	A	A	A				
Eurasian Collared Dove	C	C	C	C				
European Turtle Dove	FC	FC	FC					decrease
Oriental Turtle Dove					V	1	1946	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	VS	VS	VS	VS				
Great Spotted Cuckoo					V	8	1999	
Common Cuckoo	FC	FC	S					
Barn Owl	FC	FC	FC	FC				
<i>Dark-breasted Barn Owl</i>					VR	31		
Eurasian Scops Owl					V	8	1954	
Snowy Owl					VR	14		
Little Owl	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Tawny Owl	C	C	C	C				
Long-eared Owl	S	VS	S	S				
Short-eared Owl	S	VS	S	S				
Tengmalm's Owl					V	8	1903	
European Nightjar	S	S	VS					
Common Swift	VC	VC	VC					
Pallid Swift					VR	14		
Pacific Swift					V	1	1903	
Alpine Swift					VR	46		
Little Swift					V	1	2005	
Common Kingfisher	FC	FC	FC	FC				
European Bee-eater					R	100		
European Roller					VR	31		
Hoopoe	VS		VS					
Eurasian Wryneck	VS		VS					
Green Woodpecker	FC	FC	FC	FC				increase
Great Spotted Woodpecker	C	C	C	C				
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	S	S	S	S				decrease
Calandra Lark					V	1	1997	
White-winged Lark					V	1	1981	

Greater Short-toed Lark					VR	38		
Wood Lark	S	S	S	VS				
Sky Lark	C	C	C	C				decrease
Horned Lark	S		S	S				
Sand Martin	C	C	C	C				decrease
Barn Swallow	C	C	C					
House Martin	C	C	C					
Red-rumped Swallow					VR	32		
Richard's Pipit	VS		S					
Blyth's Pipit					V	2	1999	
Tawny Pipit					R	112		
Olive-backed Pipit					VR	22		
Tree Pipit	FC	FC	FC					
Meadow Pipit	C	C	C	C				
Red-throated Pipit					R	67		
Rock Pipit	FC		FC	FC				
Water Pipit	S		S	S				
Yellow Wagtail	FC	FC	FC					decrease
<i>Blue-headed Wagtail</i>	S		S				C	
<i>Grey-headed Wagtail</i>	VS							
<i>Ashy-headed Wagtail</i>	VS					17		
Citrine Wagtail					V	7	2006	
Grey Wagtail	S	S	S	S				
Pied Wagtail	VC	VC	VC	VC				
<i>White Wagtail</i>	S		VS					
Bohemian Waxwing	S		S	S				
White-throated Dipper					R	142		
Winter Wren	A	A	A	A				
Duncock	A	A	A	A				
Alpine Accentor					V	2	2004	
European Robin	A	A	A	A				
Thrush Nightingale					V	10	2005	
Common Nightingale	S	S	S					
Red-spotted Bluethroat	VS		VS					decrease
<i>White-spotted Bluethroat</i>					V	5	2001	
Red-flanked Bluetail					V	3	2003	
Black Redstart	S	VS	S	VS				
Common Redstart	S	S	S					
Whinchat	S	VS	S					
Stonechat	S	S	S	S				
<i>Siberian Stonechat</i>					VR	38		
Isabelline Wheatear					V	3	2001	
Northern Wheatear	FC	VS	FC					
Pied Wheatear					V	10	2003	
Black-eared Wheatear					V	4	1993	
Desert Wheatear					VR	13		

Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush					V	3	1994	
White's Thrush					V	1	1871	
Siberian Thrush					V	2	1994	
Grey-checked Thrush					V	1	2004	
Ring Ouzel	S		S					
Common Blackbird	A	A	A	A				
Black-throated Thrush					V	5	1996	
Fieldfare	VC		VC	VC				
Song Thrush	VC	VC	VC	VC				
Redwing	VC		VC	VC				
Mistle Thrush	C	C	C	C				
Cetti's Warbler	FC	FC	FC	FC				increase
Zitting Cisticola					V	1	1976	
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler					V	2	2001	
Lanceolated Warbler					V	2	1994	
Common Grasshopper Warbler	S	S	S					
River Warbler					V	2	1989	
Savi's Warbler	VS	VS						decrease, former breeder
Aquatic Warbler					VR	35		
Sedge Warbler	C	C	C					
Paddyfield Warbler					V	2	1996	
Blyth's Reed Warbler					V	2	1996	
Marsh Warbler					R	57		
Eurasian Reed Warbler	C	C	C					
Great Reed Warbler					VR	17		
Booted Warbler					V	5	2003	
Sykes's Warbler					V	1	2002	
Icterine Warbler	VS		VS					decrease
Melodious Warbler					V	2	1957	
Blackcap	VC	VC	VC	VS				
Garden Warbler	C	C	C					
Barred Warbler			VS					
Lesser Whitethroat	C	C	C					
Asian Desert Warbler					V	1	1993	
Common Whitethroat	VC	VC	VC					
Dartford Warbler					VR	35		
Marmora's Warbler					V	1	2001	
Ruppell's Warbler					V	1	1992	
Subalpine Warbler					VR	27		
Sardinian Warbler					VR	13		
Greenish Warbler					R	71		
<i>Two-barred Greenish Warbler</i>					V	1	1996	
Arctic Warbler					VR	13		

Pallas's Leaf Warbler			VS					increase
Yellow-browed Warbler			S					increase
Hume's Leaf Warbler					VR	16		
Radde's Warbler					VR	34		
Dusky Warbler					R	57		
Western Bonelli's Warbler					V	10	2004	
Wood Warbler	VS		VS					decrease, former breeder
Common Chiffchaff	VC	VC	VC	S				
Willow Warbler	C	C	C					
Goldcrest	C	C	C	C				
Firecrest	S	S	S	VS				
Spotted Flycatcher	FC	FC	FC					decrease
Red-breasted Flycatcher	VS		VS					
Collared Flycatcher					V	3	1995	
Pied Flycatcher	VS		FC					
Bearded Tit	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Long-tailed Tit	C	C	C	C				
<i>Northern Long-tailed Tit</i>					VR	20		
Blue Tit	VC	VC	VC	VC				
Great Tit	VC	VC	VC	VC				
Coal Tit	C	C	C	C				
Willow Tit	S	S	S	S				decrease
Marsh Tit	FC	FC	FC	FC				decrease
Red-breasted Nuthatch					V	1	1990	
Wood Nuthatch	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Wallcreeper					V	1	1792	
Eurasian Treecreeper	FC	FC	FC	FC				
Eurasian Penduline Tit					VR	16		
Eurasian Golden Oriole	VS	VS	VS					
Isabelline Shrike					V	7	2003	
Red-backed Shrike	VS		VS					former breeder
Lesser Grey Shrike					VR	20		
Great Grey Shrike	VS		VS	VS				
Woodchat Shrike					R	53		
Eurasian Jay	C	C	C	C				increase
Magpie	C	C	C	C				increase
Spotted Nutcracker					VR	13*		*outside 1968 invasion when a min of 104
Eurasian Jackdaw	VC	VC	VC	VC				increase
Rook	VC	VC	VC	VC				
Carrion Crow	VC	VC	VC	VC				
Hooded Crow	VS		VS	VS				decrease
Common Raven					VR	18*		*since 1930
Common Starling	A	VC	A	A				
Rosy Starling					R	56		

House Sparrow	VC	VC	VC	VC				decrease
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	FC	FC	FC	FC				decrease
Rock Sparrow					V	1	1981	
Chaffinch	A	A	A	A				
Brambling	FC		FC	FC				
European Serin					R	80		
European Greenfinch	VC	VC	VC	VC				
European Goldfinch	VC	VC	VC	VC				
Eurasian Siskin	FC	S	FC	FC				
Common Linnet	VC	VC	VC	VC				
Twite	S		S	FC				decrease
Common Redpoll	VS		VS	VS				
Lesser Redpoll	FC	S	FC	FC				
Arctic Redpoll					VR	42*		*outside 1990/91 and 1996/97 winter invasions when 56 and 83 respectively
Two-barred Crossbill					V	16	2002	
Common Crossbill	S	S	S	S				decrease
Parrot Crossbill					R	62		
Common Rosefinch					R	78		
Common Bullfinch	C	C	C	C				decrease
Hawfinch	VS	VS	VS	S				
Black-and-white Warbler					V	2	1996	
Lark Sparrow					V	1	1981	
White-throated Sparrow					V	1	1969	
Lapland Longspur	S		S	S				
Snow Bunting	FC		FC	FC				
Pine Bunting					V	2	2004	
Yellowhammer	VC	VC	VC	VC				decrease
Cirl Bunting					VR	16		
Ortolan Bunting			VS					formerly more regular
Yellow-browed Bunting					V	1	1975	
Rustic Bunting					VR	17		
Little Bunting					VR	42		
Yellow-breasted Bunting					V	5	2006	
Reed Bunting	C	C	C	C				
Black-headed Bunting					V	1	1979	
Corn Bunting	FC	FC	FC	FC				decrease
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					V	1	2006	

NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT – 2006

Editorial

The editors are delighted to present the 50th annual Norfolk Mammal Report, for which some 3,277 records have been received. The number of records for 2006 is, once again, higher than the total received for the previous year and continues the trend for increasing numbers of records to be submitted by a growing number of contributors. It is also significant that we should have reached our 50th annual report. The collection of mammal records over half a century provides an important insight into the changing mammal fauna of Norfolk. The reports have documented the expansion of our Muntjac and Chinese Water Deer populations, the loss and subsequent return of our Otters, the demise of Red Squirrels and the increasing use of urban centres by our Red Foxes. The ability to chart such change is important and has only been possible because of the contributions made by volunteer recorders sending in their records at the end of each year.

Submission of records

Records should be submitted to the County Mammal Recorder (Dave Leech, c/o BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU). Records may be submitted on paper or by email. A standard MS Excel template is available for those observers wishing to send in data electronically and a copy of this can be requested by emailing dave.leech@bto.org. The same email address should also be used for the submission of records or any queries. Observers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the Norfolk Mammal Report or in other publications of the Society. Please contact the County Mammal Recorder to discuss ideas and submission requirements.

It is helpful if records for 2007 could be submitted by the end of January 2008. Records from previous years are welcome and, although they may not feature in the mammal report for the year in question, they will be added to the Norfolk Mammal Database. The information that makes up a record is all-important and observers should attempt to provide the following details when making a submission:

Species

Site Name

Grid Reference

Number of individuals seen

Date

Notes (including age and sex if known)

Type of record (*e.g.* road casualty, field sighting, caught by cat, found dead, trapped)

Observer name and contact details.

Mike Toms

Systematic List

The systematic list follows the classification used by Corbet & Harris (1991) and includes a summary of the information held on the Norfolk Mammal Database, both for 2006 and for the database as a whole. Two sets of figures are shown after the vernacular and systematic names. The first of these highlights the number of records received for 2006, with the total number of records held for this species in the database shown in brackets. The second set of figures shows the number of tetrads (a two by two kilometre square) from which the species was recorded in

2006, followed in brackets by the total number of tetrads containing the species in the database as a whole. Thus, 129 Hedgehog records were received for 2006, with 2,359 in the database as a whole (including 2006). Similarly, Hedgehogs were recorded in 75 tetrads during 2006 and have been recorded from 667 tetrads in total. Please note that re-examination of historical records, in particular their grid reference details, has resulted in the removal of some records from the Norfolk component of the database, specifically those with the grid references showing the observations as coming from outside the Watsonian Vice Counties of East Norfolk and West Norfolk. A number of records for 2005 that did not arrive in time for the 2005 report are now also included in the totals.

Insectivora

Hedgehog

Erinaceus europaeus

129 (2,359) records 75 (667) tetrads

There were three records from January 2006, the first of which was from Swaffham on the 5th (JEG) and the second Little London on the 9th (NEL), both of which refer to active individuals. PTA disturbed one whilst clearing scrub near Potter Heigham on January 22nd. Although there were no reports of Hedgehogs from February, four reports were received for March before the expected increase in sightings from April, the period when Hedgehogs normally emerge from hibernation. Road casualties accounted for a significant portion of the records received this year (some 61%), with a further six individuals found dead away from roads. These included a male found drowned in a pond at Springwood High School, King's Lynn (10th July, ROS), an adult found dead near a woodpile at Decoy Farm, Potter Heigham (15th November, PTA) and a headless corpse found in a garden at Old Catton (13th May, RFJ). One individual was observed eating bees at an apiary situated at Easton College on 25th June (CSM). Hedgehogs feed primarily on ground-dwelling invertebrates, including beetles (Carabidae and Scarabaeoidea), caterpillars and earthworms, and are thought to intake roughly 70g of food per night (Corbett & Harris, 1991).

Mole

Talpa europaea

192 (3,259) records 122 (793) tetrads

The majority of the 192 records received for the year were of fresh earthworks, created by moles expanding or clearing their tunnel systems. GWF reported one such molehill actively growing on 13th March in Felbrigg Great Wood. An individual was seen alive, above ground, at Acle damgate on 24th May (PTA), while a second was seen to cross a minor road at Wiveton on 19th July (RMO). JHP also reported an individual moving above ground across a sandy path at Hickling on 30th December. A number of individuals were found dead or were predated by pet cats, including five found scattered over an area of c.100m along a forest ride at Swaffham Heath on 19th August (JEG). 63 moles were found hanging on a barbed wire fence at Irstead Street, no doubt the result of an intensive trapping campaign (JHP).

Common Shrew

Sorex araneus

48 (1,117) records 19 (344) tetrads

The presence of our various shrew species is often only revealed when they are encountered as a result of predation, either brought in by a pet cat or their bones extracted from owl or raptor pellets. This is certainly true for the Common Shrew records for 2006, with virtually all the records coming from cat predation. However, ABU had an encounter with a live individual,

when one ran over his hand – presumably while he was botanising or gardening – in his garden near East Tuddenham. A small number of records relate to individuals, seemingly unmarked, found dead on tracks or paths in the wider countryside. Although some of these individuals may have been killed by predators, it is known that there is a pronounced mortality of old individuals late in the season. This has been attributed to competition for food with younger individuals and the associated loss of territory restricting feeding opportunities.

Pygmy Shrew

Sorex minutus

28 (505) records 11 (197) tetrads

The usual small number of records was received for this species. Although the Pygmy Shrew spends more time foraging above ground than its close relative, the Common Shrew, fewer records are received annually. This could, perhaps, suggest that the species is less widely distributed or less abundant than its larger cousin. However, it is equally plausible that difficulties in separating the two species may lead to problems with correct identification, with observers reluctant to attribute an identification to smaller-sized individuals of the *Sorex* genus. Specimens predated by cats should be easy to identify, since the length of the tail in relation to the length of the body is diagnostic.

Water Shrew

Neomys fodiens

11 (309) records 8 (154) tetrads

Just 11 records were received for this species during 2006. Three of these came from bones extracted from Barn Owl pellets collected from sites in the Briston/Saxthorpe/Corpusty area (MAB). Individuals have previously been live-trapped from sites in the area, hunted over by Barn Owls (MPT). Two lucky individuals were released unharmed having been caught by cats at Edgefield (IKE) and Horning (EGE) but others were less fortunate. In addition to individuals killed by cats at Horning (EGE) and Upton Fen (PTA), one was found dead in a small plastic pond within the Stanford Training Area (JGO).

Chiroptera

Norfolk's bats are not well covered by the Norfolk Mammal Report, with little information reaching the County Mammal Recorder from local bat groups. This is something that we would hope to remedy for future reports. In addition to the information presented under the species accounts, a number of other records were received which could not be resolved to species.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat

Rhinolophus hipposideros

0 (0) records 0 (0) tetrads

Although there are no records of this species in the Norfolk Mammal Database, the species was known to be present within the county during the 1950s and 1960s.

Whiskered Bat

Myotis mystacinus

0 (4) records 0 (2) tetrads

No records for this species have been received since 1987, when a roost of 15 individuals was found near Snettisham.

Brandt's Bat*Myotis brandtii***0 (5) records 0 (5) tetrads**

Small numbers of this species are known to have used monitored winter roost sites through into the mid-1980s, although there are no recent records on the Norfolk Mammal Database.

Natterer's Bat*Myotis nattereri***3 (294) records 3 (85) tetrads**

In addition to droppings of this species found at Holme Hale Church (JGO), at least one individual was reported from Hoe by JCR. A bat, thought to be of this species, was reported by DIR at Thorpe St. Andrew on 22nd October.

Daubenton's Bat*Myotis daubentonii***4 (413) records 2 (98) tetrads**

Records were received from Hoe (JCR), Ormesby Broad (JCR), Norwich (JCU), East Tuddenham (ABU), Blickling Hall (KZE) and Felbrigg (KZE). A record of an individual of this species carrying European Bat Lyssavirus type 2 (EBLV-2), a strain of rabies, was reported from southern England this year, highlighting the very small but real risk to those working on the species. Although EBLV is common in bats across northern Europe, the virus has previously only been isolated from four bats in Britain – out of some 6,000 tested (Sussex 1996, Lancashire 2002 and 2003 and Surrey 2004). In addition, a bat worker in Scotland, thought to have been bitten by a Daubenton's, died from EBLV-2 in 2002. There have been four reported human deaths from the disease in Europe since 1977.

Serotine*Eptesicus serotinus***2 (35) records 2 (24) tetrads**

The two records received for 2006 refer to a field observation reported by JCR from Hoe on 4th May and droppings collected at Holme Hale Church by JGO on 27th October.

Leisler's Bat*Nyctalus leisleri***0 (0) records 0 (0) tetrads**

This species first began to appear in bat boxes in the part of Thetford Forest falling within West Suffolk during the 1980s and is now regular there. A single record received for 2006 also relates to the bat box scheme within Thetford Forest, where six individuals were found during the checking of the boxes on 23rd April (JGO). The grid reference information provided is insufficient to resolve whether the occupied boxes were in Norfolk or Suffolk.

Noctule*Nyctalus noctula***3 (240) records 5 (110) tetrads**

Four records were received of this large, sometimes day-flying, bat. However, one of these (JGO) refers to six individuals found during checking of the Thetford Forest Bat Box Scheme which, as for Leisler's Bat, cannot be resolved to county. Of the remaining records, one relates to a single individual seen hunting at dusk on 25th April over Strumpshaw Fen (CSM). Up to six were seen feeding together over a garden at Pott Row (PPA) and the species was noted as being present in Norwich (JCU).



Stoat - were widely reported from across the county during 2006, like this one at Blakeney. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Weasel at Salthouse - the diminutive size of the Weasel allows it to take small mammals, like this Wood Mouse, within their burrows. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Rabbit at Sheringham - substantial warrens of this species were noted during 2006. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Brown Hare - although normally seen on arable land, this individual was photographed disturbing roosting Oystercatchers at Snettisham. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Red Fox - the numbers of records received for this species continues to increase. (*Brian Macfarlane*)

Fallow Deer - the Holkham herd continues to provide the best opportunity to view this species at close quarters. Populations elsewhere in the county remain elusive and sensitive to disturbance. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Chinese Water Deer - away from the Broads, individuals were reported from as far afield as Sculthorpe, Blakeney Freshmarsh, Cley NWT Reserve, Great Yarmouth and East Harling. *(Brian Macfarlane)*

Red Deer - numbers of Red Deer within Thetford Forest appear to have declined in recent years. *(Brian Macfarlane)*



Pipistrelle

Pipistrellus spp.

41 (1,139) records 21 (384) tetrads

As noted in previous reports, the taxonomic split of Pipistrelle into two species (*P.pipistrellus* – Common or 45kHz Pipistrelle and *P. pygmaeus* – Soprano or 55kHz Pipistrelle) necessitates the use of Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus* spp. within the database. Records determined as being Common Pipistrelle came from How Hill, where 88 were counted emerging from a roost (PHE) and Diss, where a small colony of some 20 individuals were seen to emerge during a thunderstorm (JGO). The emergence was earlier in the evening than would normally be expected, something that may be attributed to the storm. JGO has noted how such storms can awake and excite other bat species, notably Barbastelle, even during the middle of the day. Ten records were received for the Soprano Pipistrelle (identified by bat detector), all stemming from a single colony in Horning (EGE). Emergence counts at the site ranged from 2 (16th April) to 140 individuals (11th June), a similar peak count to that noted during 2005 at this site (29th June). As noted last year, Soprano Pipistrelle roosts preferentially in buildings, where it tends to form larger colonies than those of Common Pipistrelle. Results from colony counts across England give an average colony size for Soprano Pipistrelle of 240 and for Common Pipistrelle of 60.5.

Nathusius's Pipistrelle

Pipistrellus nathusii

0 (7) records 0 (3) tetrads

No records of this species were received for 2006. A review of the status of this species within the county appears in the mammal report for 2002 (Parsons, 2003).

Barbastelle

Barbastella barbastellus

2 (109) records 2 (35) tetrads

In addition to a single report from Paston Great Barn (RMR), the best-known breeding colony within the county, a new site was found by JGO, situated on the edge of the Stanford Training Area.

Brown Long-eared Bat

Plecotus auritus

4 (398) records 3 (173) tetrads

The species was reported from Cromer (FJF), Mintlyn Woods (PLO) and Potter Heigham (ERO). Brown Long-eared Bats were also noted from the Thetford Forest bat box scheme, although the location of these records cannot be resolved at the county level.

Lagomorpha

Rabbit

Oryctolagus cuniculus

328 (3,009) records 120 (744) tetrads

Records were received from across the county and included observations of single individuals as well as established colonies of considerable size. A small number of records referred to individuals displaying symptoms of myxomatosis, notably at Ridlington (PTA), STANTA (IKE), Stody Lodge (IKE), Briston (MAB), Beeston Regis (SHO), Blakeney (SHO), Needham (SHO), Dunston (SHO) and Corpusty (MAB). Melanistic forms are reported regularly from various parts of the county; those noted during 2006 came from Caistor St. Edmund (SHO), Arminghall (SHO), Saxthorpe (MAB), Swainsthorpe (SHO), Dunston (SHO), Beeston Regis (FJF) and Beechamwell (JEG).

Brown Hare

Lepus europaeus

337 (3,614) records 183 (844) tetrads

Brown Hare densities within Norfolk are thought to be amongst the highest in the country. Most reports received for 2006 were of individuals seen early in the year on arable farmland, with smaller numbers reported following collision with traffic on routes throughout the county. A small number of reports refer to “boxing”, a behaviour usually associated with the early breeding season and which normally involves a male and a female. Under normal circumstances, a near-oestrus female is closely attended by a male and, if unreceptive, she may turn and box him off. Encounters between rival males often involve chasing and biting. PTA observed a Brown Hare near Acle being repeatedly swooped at by a male Marsh Harrier. The hare defended itself aggressively, leaping up at the harrier, which was eventually driven away. It is possible, given the timing of the observation (2nd May), that the hare had young leverets close by.

Rodentia

Red Squirrel

Sciurus vulgaris

1 (791) records 1 (284) tetrads

A single definite report was received for 2006. This involved an obviously captive-bred individual seen by JCR at Swardeston on 21st October. JCR described the squirrel as being tame but not tame enough to catch. He felt that it was unlikely to survive long in the wild. This highlights the problems associated with the deliberate breeding and release of this species within the county. A report from the grounds of Wymondham College during June 2006 may relate to this species (NGR).

Grey Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis

260 (2,619) records 123 (679) tetrads

This familiar species is well distributed across the county and is recorded in good numbers annually. No observations of unusual behaviour were reported for 2006.

Bank Vole

Clethrionomys glareolus

18 (722) records 16 (246) tetrads

Although the Bank Vole is normally associated with deciduous woodland with a good field layer, the species may occur in other habitats, including gardens. It is sometimes preyed upon by pet cats and many of the 18 records received for 2006 were the result of such predation.

Field Vole

Microtus agrestis

74 (1,687) records 19 (408) tetrads

This widespread species is an important prey species for many of our predatory birds and mammals. Densities are greatest within areas of rough grassland, where a well-developed sward structure provides breeding and feeding opportunities. Virtually all the records for 2006 came from cat or owl predation. 2006 was a poor year nationally for this species and, combined with certain weather conditions, this led to reduced productivity in Barn Owl and Kestrel populations.

Water Vole*Arvicola terrestris***55 (1,252) records 22 (401) tetrads**

Although the Water Vole population at the national level has undergone a pronounced long-term decline, in part due to predation by introduced Mink, efforts at some sites have led to local increases in numbers. The number of records received for 2006 is typical of recent years, with many referring to feeding signs or active latrine sites. Sightings of live individuals came from a number of sites, including one unexpectedly caught on a night vision camera operating at a site where Mink were known to be present (JCR). Several young were photographed at an Otterholt near Worthing (JCR). An individual was freed from a sluice gate in the Halvergate Marshes by ROS.

Wood Mouse*Apodemus sylvaticus***65 (1,549) records 26 (428) tetrads**

The Wood Mouse is the most familiar of our small mammal species, occurring in a very wide range of habitats. This is the species that is often reported using garden sheds and outbuildings during the winter months. One individual was reported defending a pile of husks, fallen from a bird feeder, against an inquisitive Blackbird in a garden at Old Catton (RFJ).

Yellow-necked Mouse*Apodemus flavicollis***0 (40) records 0 (17) tetrads**

No reports received this year. This species is thought to have a foothold in the extreme south of the county.

Harvest Mouse*Micromys minutus***17 (699) records 11 (236) tetrads**

The characteristic nests of this species were reported from a number of sites, thanks largely to the efforts of MAB, PTA, JCR and PHE. One individual was taken by a cat at Decoy Farm, Potter Heigham (PTA) and two others were found dead in a field by NLA, possibly run over by a cutter.

House Mouse*Mus musculus***7 (726) records 6 (325) tetrads**

Seven records thought to be of this species were received during 2006. These relate to individuals predated by pet cats at Hunstanton (EHA) and Hellesdon (SHO), found dead on a minor road at Edgefield (IKE) and seen alive at Ashill (GJB), Necton (GJB) and Reepham (DIR).

Brown Rat*Rattus norvegicus***100 (1,502) records 61 (532) tetrads**

Brown Rats are encountered fairly frequently within rural parts of the county, particularly during autumn, with some individuals exploiting bird table fare. Others are reported killed on the county's roads by motor traffic or taken by cats.

Ship Rat*Rattus rattus***0 (8) records 0 (6) tetrads**

No certain records of this species have been reported for a number of years.

Common Dormouse

Muscardinus avellanarius

0 (6) records 0 (6) tetrads

An intriguing record was received from a garden in Sculthorpe (AGO). On 31st May, AGO was surprised to see a Wood Mouse-sized rodent that was buffish brown above and much paler below, with a thick, almost fluffy, tail. It was agile and leapt from branch to branch to inspect a peanut feeder which was, unfortunately, empty. It stayed for less than a minute, giving a profile view, showing a rounder face and, possibly, smaller and less obvious eye than Wood Mouse. The description might suggest Common Dormouse, although the origins of the animal are unknown. A number of individuals breed this species in captivity within the county. A small number of other seemingly reliable records go back over many years, supporting the suggestion that the species could be reintroduced to the county at some point in the future.

Coypu

Myocastor coypus

0 (6) records 0 (6) tetrads

A former pest species that is no longer resident within the county.

Cetacea

Minke Whale

Balaenoptera acutorostrata

0 (10) records 0 (9) tetrads

Last recorded in 1997, when a sequence of three records on 2nd September suggested a single individual passing along the coast from Weybourne to Sheringham. This species is only rarely encountered on the east coast south of Yorkshire.

Fin Whale

Balaenoptera physalus

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

Last recorded in 2003, when an upper jawbone found near a Sperm Whale carcass was identified as being from this species.

Sei Whale

Balaenoptera borealis

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

This occasional visitor to UK waters was last recorded from Norfolk in 1971, when an individual was stranded at Waxham Gap.

Sperm Whale

Physeter catodon

2 (11) records 2 (7) tetrads

SRO reported an individual washed ashore at Brancaster on 16th February. What is assumed to be the same individual, presumably moved by the tide, was reported in the Eastern Daily Press on 19th February from Scolt Head Island NNR. The EDP article suggested that the individual was part of a group of 20 Sperm Whales which had become disoriented in the southern part of the North Sea. Three other individuals had been reported washed ashore in Lincolnshire and Humberside.

Northern Bottlenose Whale

Hyperoodon ampullatus

0 (6) records 0 (5) tetrads

This species has occasionally been recorded stranded on the Norfolk coast.

Sowerby's Beaked Whale*Mesoplodon bidens***0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads**

A single beached individual was recorded at Happisburgh in August 1952.

Cuvier's Beaked Whale*Ziphius cavirostris***0 (3) records 0 (1) tetrads**

All three records on the database refer to the same individual, reported in the 2002 mammal report (Cresswell, 2003).

Harbour Porpoise*Phocoena phocoena***16 (316) records 13 (53) tetrads**

Apart from an individual found dead on Scolt Head Island, all the other records refer to individuals or small groups seen offshore. Individuals were reported from off Winterton (1), Waxham (1), Horsey Gap (1), Holme (2), Trimingham (3), Yarmouth (1), Cley (1), Winterton (6), Walcott (1), Titchwell (9), Caistor Point (4) and Sheringham (1). Numbers in brackets refer to the peak count seen.

Common Dolphin*Delphinus delphis***0 (7) records 0 (5) tetrads**

No records reported this year.

Bottlenose Dolphin*Tursiops truncatus***0 (9) records 0 (9) tetrads**

A scarce species in the southern part of the North Sea.

Atlantic White-sided Dolphin*Lagenorhynchus acutus***1 (1) records 1 (1) tetrads**

An individual thought to be of this species was found dead at Blakeney during November by JTY. If the identification is confirmed, this will be the first record of this large dolphin from Norfolk. The species is distributed in the northern North Atlantic, mainly in offshore waters extending from west Greenland and Iceland to the southern Barents Sea, and south to Cape Cod and southwest Ireland.

White-beaked Dolphin*Lagenorhynchus albirostris***0 (22) records 0 (17) tetrads**

No records of this species were noted during 2006.

False Killer Whale*Pseudorca crassidens***0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads**

The only record on the Norfolk Mammal Database concerns the stranding of eight individuals in Wooton Creek in November 1935.

Long-finned Pilot Whale*Globicephala melas***0 (6) records 0 (5) tetrads**

Last reported in 1992, when one was found dead on Scolt Head Island.

Carnivora

Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes

159 (1,805) records 96 (605) tetrads

The trend for increasing numbers of records from within Norwich continues. Included amongst these was a record of one scavenging outside MacDonalds on Hall Road (SHO). Other records to include feeding observations were an individual seen to emerge from a reedbed at Eastmoor carrying a dead Brown Hare (ROS) and an individual scavenging road kill at Thursford (GWF). Many others were noted dead on the county's roads.

Stoat

Mustela erminea

148 (2,984) records 104 (816) tetrads

This delightful predator was reported from 104 tetrads across the county. Two individuals were seen chasing each other at Badley Moor (REB), while one was seen by the same observer to swim across a dyke at Long Dam level. Individuals were seen hauling dead Rabbits; across the road at Tunstead (PBE), across the A149 at Burnham Deepdale (SHO) and down a burrow at Horning (PHE). Individuals in ermine are reported in some winters and this year was no exception. One was reported by RBR at Salthouse on 14th February, presumably the same one seen at the site in late January by EHS. Another frequented the NOA car park and dunes at Holme, also in late January (CJA). Others in full or partial ermine were reported from Little Massingham (25th January, CJA), Didlington (15th January, JCR), Cockley Cley (6th February, GWF), Langley Green Marsh (1st February, SHO) and Grimston Heath (29th January, ROS).

Weasel

Mustela nivalis

62 (2,179) records 50 (738) tetrads

The 62 records for this species included one caught during a live-trapping study of small mammals using an old Badger set and its environs (JCR). More typical encounters involved individuals seen rushing across country roads, including two crossing the road together at Great Cressingham (GJB).

Ferret

Mustela putorius/furo

0 (29) records 0 (23) tetrads

There were no records of this species during 2006.

American Mink

Mustela vison

42 (393) records 27 (138) tetrads

The large number of records received for this species reflects the efforts of JCR who has been able to report on Mink trapping operations taking place in various parts of the county. Included in the trapping returns received were details of a large male Mink of an unusual blond colouration. Historically, breeding experiments on fur farms resulted in a range of pelage colours, though offspring of later generations of wild mink typically revert or approximate to the natural wild-type colouration of dark brown. However, significant proportions of certain feral populations, notably in Devon and southern Scotland, have been of a pale silver-grey colouration (Birks, 1986).

Badger

Meles meles

38 (612) records 30 (303) tetrads

Work on Norfolk's expanding Badger population is centred on the efforts of JCR and TVI. As such, and because of sensitivities over the locations of active Badger setts, information on site locations is not held on the Norfolk Mammal Database. Instead it is held on the NBRC Database, where it can be used to ensure that proposed developments do not interfere with known Badger setts. Most of the 38 records received for 2006 refer to individuals killed on the county's roads. These records come from throughout the year, though many are from the period January to April.

Otter

Lutra lutra

138 (1,164) records 40 (262) tetrads

Nearly twice as many Otter records were received for 2006 as were reported for 2005. This may well be a sign that the population is continuing to expand, with records received from a number of new sites.

Pinnipedia

Common Seal

Phoca vitulina

10 (174) records 10 (44) tetrads

Most of the ten records received for 2006 come from coastal localities, though one individual was reported from the River Bure, near Horning (PHE). The peak count from Blakeney Point was 140 on 13th November (CSM).

Harp Seal

Phoca groenlandica

0 (2) records 0 (1) tetrads

The database contains two records from previous years for this species.

Grey Seal

Halichoerus grypus

29 (186) records 13 (42) tetrads

Some impressive counts of Grey Seals were noted during 2006, including 288 to the south of Horsey Gap on 14th April (PHE). In comparison, the peak number recorded at Blakeney point was 32 (20th January, SHO).

Walrus

Odobenus rosmarus

0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

A 1981 record is the only one on the database for this species.

Artiodactyla

Red Deer

Cervus elaphus

91 (1,651) records 52 (401) tetrads

Small herds of Red Deer were noted from several areas, including the Broads, Thetford Forest, central North Norfolk and central South Norfolk. Twelve were seen grazing in a field beside Foxley Wood on 8th April (DIR), while seven stags were noted together at Potter Heigham on 23rd February (PTA) and 20 were seen together at Bacton Woods on 23rd January (JHP).

Sika Deer

Cervus nippon

0 (8) records 0 (5) tetrads

The status of this species remains unclear, reflecting difficulties in determining the validity of identifications made by observers unfamiliar with the species. One record was received which may just suggest that this species is present in West Norfolk.

Fallow Deer

Dama dama

12 (492) records 10 (162) tetrads

The 12 records received for 2006 all come from West Norfolk and are mainly centred on Thetford Forest. However, a small group of 12 individuals was seen crossing a road near Houghton on 6th December and the herd in Holkham Park numbers several hundred individuals. A female was seen at Wolferton on 25th January and other individuals were seen by the same observer (ESM) at Sandringham and Wells the same day. Three were reported from a field near Swaffham (ESM), with records also received from near Santon (BUR), Thetford (NCA), Castle Acre (RWG) and West Newton (ROS) – this latter individual a pure white female.

Roe Deer

Capreolus capreolus

200 (2,443) records 105 (551) tetrads

Records of Roe, usually single animals or a pair, come from across the county. The largest groups were of 11, reported from Cowles Drove on 15th February (PDO), and seven (three does and four bucks), reported from near Forncett by SHO on 22nd April.

Muntjac

Muntiacus reevesi

182 (1,867) records 98 (548) tetrads

This species is now extremely well established within the county and is often reported by observers.

Chinese Water Deer

Hydropotes inermis

409 (2,318) 78 (195) tetrads

Although the number of records of this species continues to increase year on year, records are still predominantly from the Broads. Away from this area, individuals were reported from as far afield as Sculthorpe, Blakeney Freshmarsh, Cley NWT Reserve, Great Yarmouth and East Harling.

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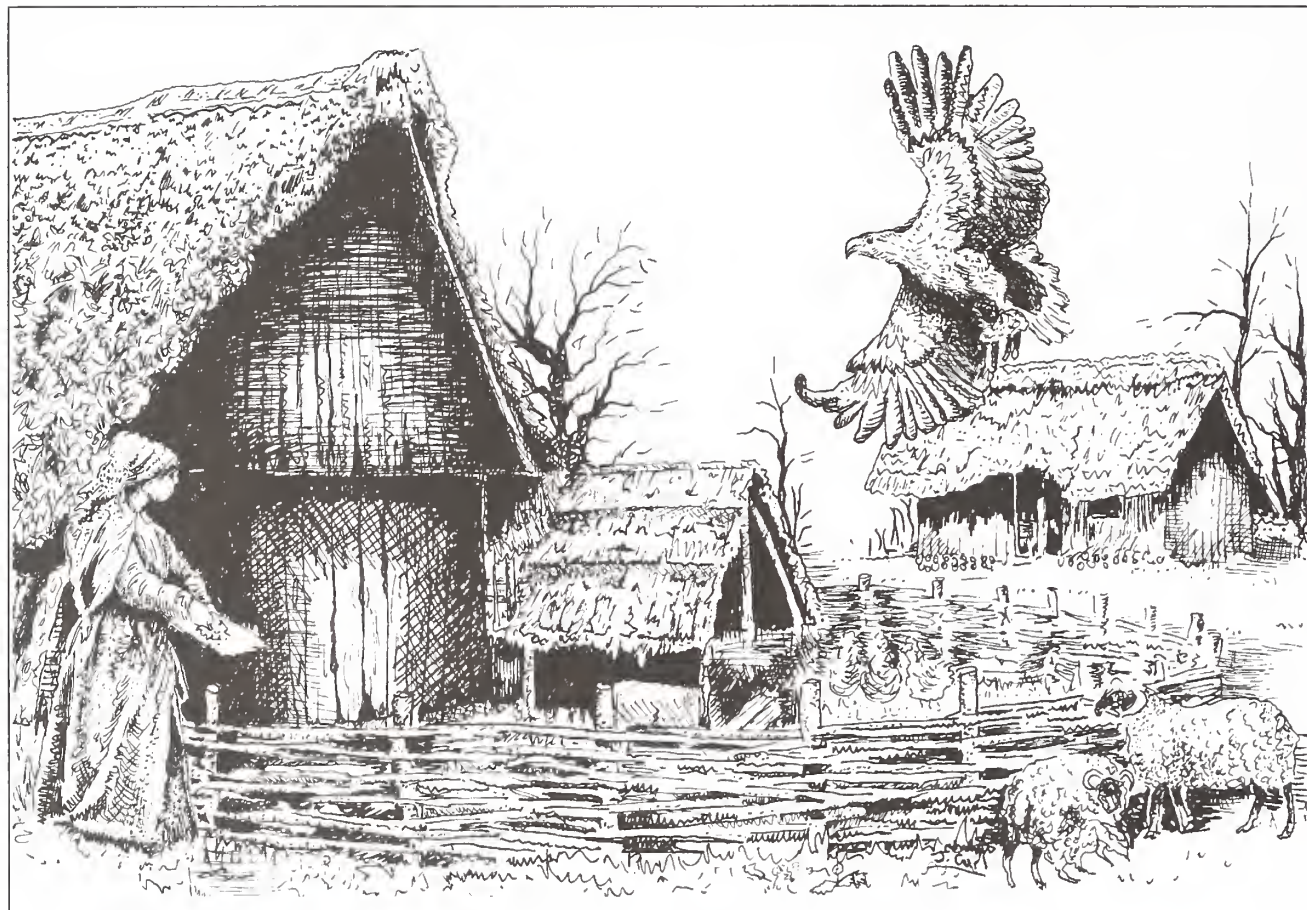
The birds and mammals of Norfolk: an archaeological perspective

Julie Curl NAU Archaeology

An often hidden study of the birds and mammals of Norfolk is carried out at NAU Archaeology (previously known as the Norfolk Archaeological Unit but now part of the NPS Property Services Group). My role as the Faunal Remains Specialist means that I am responsible for the identification and analysis of all of the bone (mammal, bird, fish and herpetofauna) that is recovered in Norfolk, together with production of written reports for the bone assemblages. In almost every assemblage that I see there are at least some wild species of birds or mammals, many with butchering marks and pathologies that give clues to their exploitation by people. For example, there is plentiful evidence of the extensive hunting of Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*, frequent finds of butchered deer and occasional finds of Otter *Lutra lutra*, Badger *Meles meles* and Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*, that have been killed for fur.

Remains of wild birds are also often found on archaeological sites, although these usually consist of bones of geese and ducks, together with the occasional scavenger like Raven *Corvus corax*. Sometimes I am presented with an extremely rich and varied assemblage, from which it is a challenge to identify the immense range of unusual species. One such assemblage that I have recently studied came from the Chaplefield site in Norwich. This contained some 80 species of birds, mammals, fish and herpetofauna, with gems and rarities such as the Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and Great Bustard *Otis tarda*.

The identification of these creatures, often represented by just one or two bones, is only possible with the aid of comparative reference material. This reference material is often found in old collections, typically Victorian in origin, located in museums and, like many in my profession, I also have my own reference collection that consists of cleaned chance finds. The bones found on archaeological sites help to build up a picture of wildlife in the past. They provide clues to past environments, give us information about the uses of these birds and animals and show us how humans have exploited the wildlife around them for centuries.



Saxon White-Tailed Eagle (Julie A Curl)

An excavation carried out at a Middle Saxon site at Downham Market produced some interesting bones, including an Ichthyosaur vertebra that may have been used as a grinding tool (like the dish in a pestle and mortar). The most notable bird bone from this excavation was a White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* – a single large adult humerus which was recovered from a pit fill. This bird could have possibly been a breeding species in the area during the Middle Saxon period, preferring coastal habitats and covering large areas for hunting. Although sea eagles prefer fish, they also hunt small mammals and birds and are known scavengers. It is quite possible that the Downham bird could have been killed as a predator of lambs or piglets. Alternatively, it may have been a trophy or used for ritual purposes. The fact that the humerus had been chopped shows that the bird was utilised and that, at the very least, the wings had been removed, perhaps in order to use the wing feathers for fletching. The fact that the eagle had been buried in a pit associated with the Ichthyosaur vertebra and with a cattle skull ‘placed’ on top suggests a ‘ritual’ burial and a structured deposit. White-tailed Eagle remains at Coppergate, York (O’Connor, 1989) were dominated by wing bones. Other collections of bird remains from Downham (galliformes and geese) also contained a high proportion of wing bones.

Another White-tailed Eagle was found in the centre of Norwich at Fishergate. It is possible that this bird may have been of a Middle Saxon date but it is probable that it is of a later Medieval date, possibly Late 13th – early 14th Century, as it was recovered alongside a distinctive finger ring of this period. Another large bird of prey, a Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, was found at an excavation at Dragon Hall in Norwich from a Late/Post-Medieval deposit (Albarella/Murray, 2005). It is probable that the kite was a scavenger around Norwich as these birds have been found in other medieval towns.

Various falcons have been found on archaeological excavations within Norwich and are, perhaps, evidence of captive birds, highlighting the status of the owners and of the sport of falconry. Falconry has been a pastime of the rich for many hundreds of years. Archaeological evidence of this dates as far back as the Roman period, with the discovery of at least four Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus* buried with human remains (presumably the falconer) in Colchester, Essex (Curl, 2006a). There is a strict hierarchy in falconry regarding the status of the owners of particular birds, with kings able to own large falcons like the Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*, knights able to fly Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and ladies permitted to own the smallest falcon – the Merlin *Falco columbarius*. Falcons would be collected as juveniles from the nest and trained to catch a wide range of birds and mammals according to the size of the falcon; small falcons could catch a range of finches and songbirds, falcons the size of a Peregrine could be trained to work in pairs and to catch birds the size of Bittern, and larger birds of prey could assist with catching mammals. The birds of prey would work in conjunction with a team of dogs who would flush out birds from their hiding places and sometimes fetch the catch or help to capture larger prey.

In Norwich the remains of a Gyr Falcon were discovered during the Norwich Castle/Shirehall redevelopment, clearly belonging to a king residing at Norwich Castle (Curl, 2007). The faunal assemblage from the Norwich Forum site produced the bones of a Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* and a Merlin, indicating birds owned by a Yeoman and a Lady – these may have been a wealthy couple in the 15th to 16th Century in Norwich, possibly affluent enough to own the Barbary Ape *Macaca sylvanus*, whose remains (of the same date as the falcons) were recovered at the Forum. The Barbary Ape, an imported animal from Northern Africa, would have been a very expensive curiosity or pet and a clear symbol of high status at the time (Curl, 2006b). A Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, a bird flown by a Page or Yeoman, was recovered from the Chaplefield shopping centre; the Hobby was dated to the 16th to 17th Century and associated with a large number of wild birds which it may have helped to catch.

The excavations at the site of the old Nestle factory and at Chantry House, prior to the construction of the Chaplefield Development in Norwich, produced at least 81 species of mammal, bird, fish and herpetofauna, including at least 40 species of wild bird and nine species of wild mammal. The bird bone assemblage from the Chaplefield Development is probably the richest recovered from Norwich. The remains included bones from Great Bustard, Indian Peafowl, godwit, Bittern, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*, swan, grouse, Jay *Garrulus glandarius*, Redwing *Turdus iliacus*, Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, Raven and Hobby. The wide range of species is indicative of high status meats for banquets, demonstrating wealth and extravagance, together with the ownership of interesting pets (possibly Goldfinch and Jay) and falconry.

The Bittern was a popular dish from the Medieval period onwards until the 19th Century. In the London poultry markets, between the 13th and 17th Centuries, there was a 500% increase in the price of Bitterns, rising from sixpence to two shillings and sixpence; roughly the same as swan (swan being the most expensive table bird). In the Medieval period, most skilled labourers (such as a mason) would have had to have worked for around 21 days to buy a brace

of Bitterns (Cocker & Mabey 2005). Even by 1802 a Bittern could still fetch half-a-guinea, the average weekly wage of an agricultural labourer (Cocker & Mabey 2005). The Bittern would have been available in much larger numbers than today, particularly in the Norfolk reedbeds; it is quite probable that the Bittern at Chapelfield would have been caught locally during a day's hawking. The 17th Century natural historian Sir Thomas Browne wrote of Bitterns in Norfolk, that '*The Ardea stellaris botaurus, or Bitour is also common and esteemed the better dish*' and writes of one '*I kept in a garden for two yeares feeding it with fish mice and frogges, in defect whereof making a scrape for sparrowes and small birds to maintaine herself upon them*'.

Cormorants are normally coastal birds, but often found on inland waters, especially in winter. They are excellent at fishing, something which the Chinese utilised from around the 4th Century BC, tying cord around their necks to stop them swallowing the fish. There are few records of Britons using the Cormorant's fishing abilities, although the practice was briefly tried by James I who maintained an aviary of Cormorants (as well as Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* and otters) for fishing.

Godwits were another popular, although expensive food item. Sir Thomas Browne wrote in the 17th Century that '*Godwyts taken chiefly in marshland, though other parts not without them accounted the daintiest dish in England and I think for the bignesse, of the biggest price*', clearly showing that the presence of this bird also demonstrates the high status of this faunal assemblage.

A number of very large bones recovered from 16th to 17th Century pit fills at Chantry House were identified as Great Bustard. The humerus showed numerous knife cuts around the shaft and had been chopped at the distal end. The Great Bustard is a massive ground dwelling bird, weighing up to 39 pounds (18kg), with meat that apparently tasted somewhere between turkey and goose and was deemed a '*rare union of gastronomical excellence*' (Cocker & Mabey 2005). The Great Bustard was resident in the more open areas of Norfolk, such as the Brecks, until the 1830s. Sir Thomas Browne, writing in 17th Century Norwich, noted '*Bistardae or Bustards are not unfrequent in the champain or feildie part of this country a large Bird accounted a dayntie dish, observable in the strength of the brest bone and short heele layes and egge much larger then a Turkey*'. There were a variety of ways to catch these large, flightless birds; there are accounts of shooting or using cross-bows from the 16th Century onwards and falconry may have been employed using some of the larger raptors. There is even an account in the 17th Century of the Earl Of Pembroke using a greyhound pack to hunt bustards.

Bones from Redwing were also found. These birds, along with Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris*, are winter visitors to this country, often forming large flocks in the search for food. It is possible that this bird (and others) were caught at Blickling Hall Estate, which often provided food to Chantry House. Large flocks of these birds do visit Blickling during the winter months and would have been easily caught using falcons.

Birds such as Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and Snipe were all much favoured eating and again indicate high status foods; plovers cost 2d to 4d in the 16th Century, with the price rising to 10d at the turn of the 17th Century (Simon 1944). These birds were preferred when '*fat in winter*' (Markham, 1614) and may well have been caught using hawks at the same time as the winter-visiting Redwings. Woodcock and Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* were found in good numbers, with Woodcock bones being almost as frequent as goose. Woodcock was a prized bird, which enjoyed a good gastronomic reputation for a long time and further suggests high status. In the 16th to 17th Centuries these birds would fetch between 1s and 2s per bird (Simon 1944).

One Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus* tarsometatarsus was recovered from the fill of a rubbish pit. It is likely that this bird was bought rather than hunted locally. The Red Grouse provides around 500g-600g of meat and was undoubtedly bought for consumption.

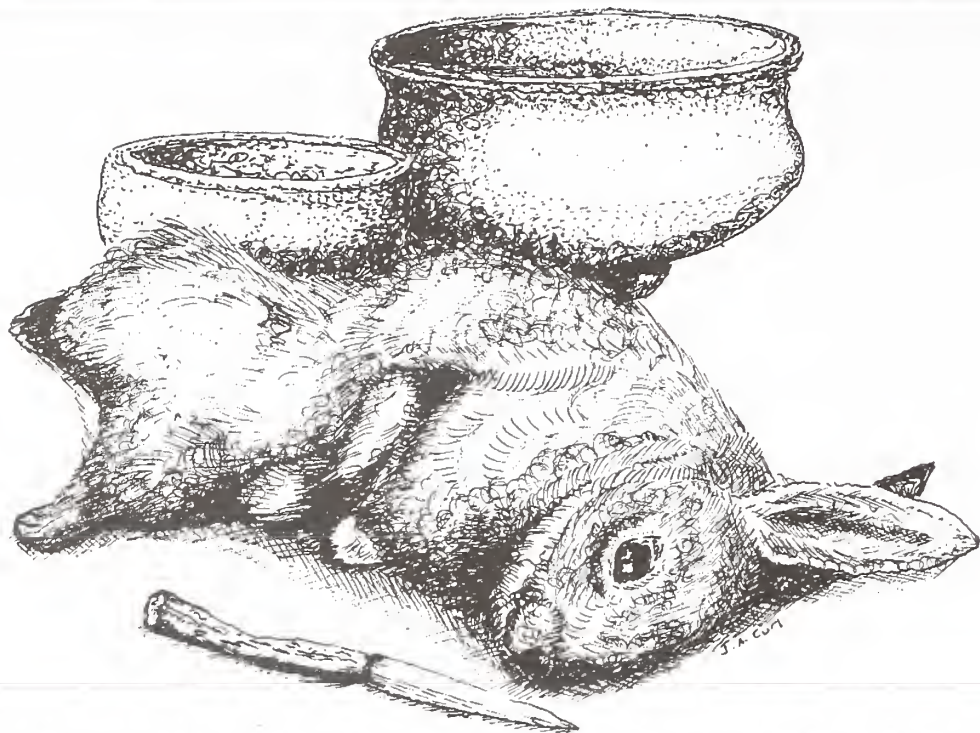
Birds such as the Jay, Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, thrushes, Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, Siskin *Carduelis spinus* and Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* may have been wild garden birds, but equally may have been kept as caged pets. The Jay particularly is a known mimic – capable of actually speaking and apparently communicating with their owners (Cocker & Mabey 2005). Starlings are known mimics and could also have possibly been kept as pets, but may have been residents in central Norwich. The Blackbird too is capable of mimicry and the more striking males may have been kept as entertaining pets, but they are also well documented as being a popular food amongst all classes. All of the thrush family was once eaten, with the price for a dozen set at sixpence in the late 14th Century, rising to a shilling in the 17th Century.

It is quite probable that many of the small birds, such as finches and Redwings were used for providing additional dishes at banquets. Woolgar (1999) details the account for banquets held by the Duke of Buckingham in the 16th Century; the list of birds includes ‘three dozen small birds (possibly sparrows)’. The rather exotic looking Goldfinch was sometimes kept as a pet by wealthy families, as is seen in the painting of the 10th Earl of Cobham, William Brooke and his family; the children have a variety of exotic pets and foods from South America and one child has a Goldfinch sitting on his hand. Sir Thomas Browne in 17th Century Norwich calls Goldfinches ‘*drawe waters*’ and writes that ‘*they take with trap cages in Norwich gardens and fastening a chaine about them tyed to a box of water it makes a shift with bill and legge to draw up the water unto it from the little pot hanging by the chaine about a foote belowe*’.

Bones of Crow *Corvus corone*, Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* and Raven were identified at Chantry House, all known scavengers and, at that time, resident in urban environments; these birds may have picked over rubbish discarded at this site. It is also possible that, given the mimicry talents of corvids, they could also have been kept as pets. Ravens were still resident in Norwich until the 19th Century. Writing in 17th Century Norwich, Sir Thomas Browne notes that Ravens were ‘*in good plenty about the city*’. Crows have been recorded at many archaeological sites around Norfolk and Ravens have been found at several more. Nationally, the Raven is often associated with very early Prehistoric human habitation and has long been associated with ‘ritual’ deposits.

The mammal remains at the Chapelfield Development include Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*, Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus* and Fallow Deer *Dama dama*, Bank Vole *Clethrionomys glareolus*, Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*, Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* and hare. Numerous bones, from both adult and juvenile Rabbits, were recovered. While some Rabbit remains are viewed as intrusive due to the burrowing nature of the species, this cannot be applied to the remains at Chantry House. Around half of the Rabbit remains in this assemblage are butchered, clearly showing their use for meat. Four areas in particular had larger concentrations of Rabbit bones and all of these occurred with larger groups of birds (including Indian Peafowl), mammals (including deer) and fish, suggesting the use of Rabbits in banquets at Chantry House. The hares in the assemblage would have also been used for meat.

Rabbits have always been thought to have been reintroduced into this country by the Normans in the 11th Century, after becoming extinct during the last Ice-Age. The Norman introduction may have been when the Rabbit escaped from captivity and became firmly established in England again, but recent archaeological evidence from Norfolk and Sussex



Roman rabbit (with Iron-Age/Roman transitional pottery) (*Julie A Curl*)

shows that they were also brought here during the Roman period. While Rabbits can be an intrusive species, burrowing into a range of archaeological deposits, the butchered remains from a site in Sussex and from Lynford in Norfolk prove otherwise: butchered Rabbits cannot burrow! The butchered Rabbit remains from Lynford in Norfolk are the earliest in the country and date to the 1st Century AD (the remains in Sussex are from the 3rd Century). The limb bones from the Norfolk Roman Rabbits show clear knife cuts and they were found in a sealed and undisturbed pit fill, with a distinctive pot that dates them to within a short period. It is possible that these early Rabbits had been brought to this country dead for a supply of fur and meat, but it is more likely that the Romans brought them here and kept them safely in properly constructed '*leporaria*' – a small walled garden built specifically for breeding Rabbits. The Rabbits brought here in the Roman period would have come from Spain and indeed the measurements of the bones of our Rabbit in Norfolk compare well with the smaller Spanish Rabbits. These Spanish Rabbits, which would have been used to a Mediterranean climate, would have survived well in captivity, but would have failed to survive if they escaped in the colder English climate.

Remains of Red Deer, Fallow Deer and Roe Deer are found on many archaeological sites in Norfolk. Both the Red and Roe are native to England and these are found on sites dating from the Prehistoric period. In earlier periods these animals were more readily available in woods and forests surrounding the areas where people lived and hunted for their meat and hides for centuries. From the Neolithic period (*c.* 5,000 BC), people would have trained dogs to hunt with them. Apart from the exploitation of deer for meat and hides, their strong antlers would be used for tools (such as the antler picks used at Grimes Graves, near Thetford) and for making decorative or useful objects like combs. Fallow Deer, as with rabbits, were native prior to the last Ice-Age and mainly re-introduced to Britain by the Normans, although some were brought here by the Romans as sparse remains have been found on Roman sites, such as at Scole in Norfolk. By the Medieval period, deer had become the property of the King and few could hunt them, resulting in them being re-classified as 'high status food' in later periods. Butchered deer have been found at many archaeological excavations in Norwich, such as the

Castle Mall and Castle Redevelopment, Norwich Cathedral and the Chaplefield excavation – with all of these sites the remains suggest that they were eaten during feasts and banquets. In later periods the antlers (and bones) were used for a wider variety of objects including handles, combs, dice and decorative plates for boxes.

Other interesting mammal remains recovered from archaeological sites include occasional finds of dolphins, porpoise, whales and seals. These animals, as now, could have been occasionally washed up on the Norfolk beaches. Others may have been caught while fishing or, as is the case with Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*, they come ashore for producing their young. When found on the beach it would seem that these animals would be collected and sold at market as a rare and expensive food item. Sometimes, the large flat whale vertebrae can be found with numerous chop and cut marks across the flat surfaces, clearly demonstrating that they were used, as early as the Roman period, as chopping blocks. Excavations at the Cathedral Refectory in Norwich produced a butchered Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* and Common Seal *Phoca vitulina*. These mammals, because they came from the sea, were often included as fish and allowed at the table on days when normal meat was forbidden (Curl, 2006b).

While many small mammal remains on archaeological sites can be dismissed as intrusive, since they may have burrowed into earlier features, some species may have been associated with human habitation. Wood Mouse is frequently found in samples of soil taken from the floor areas of Saxon sunken-floored buildings, where they would have been living and eating the food dropped through the floorboards; today they live under our sheds.

Remains of mammals such as the Red Fox, Badger, Otter and the now extinct Wolf *Canis lupus* and European Beaver *Castor fiber* are occasionally found on archaeological sites, often bearing cut marks that indicate their popular use for furs – these mammals would have been hunted and utilised from necessity for food and fur in early Britain; in later periods they would have been hunted as sport and for decorative items, the over-hunting of some species leading to their rare status or even extinction.

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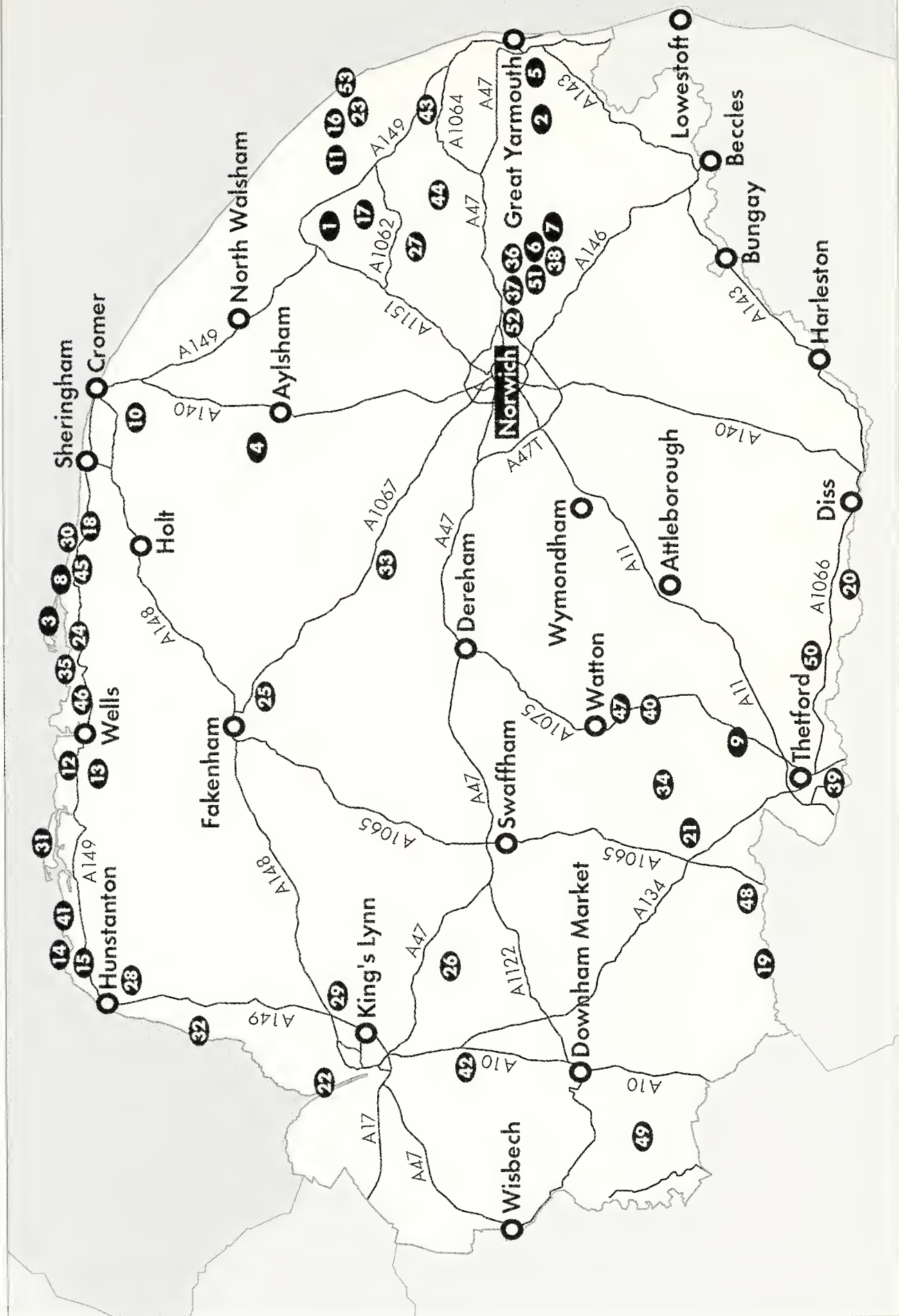
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18	Kelling WM		38	Surlingham/Rockland Marshes	53	Winterton Dunes	EN
19	Hockwold Washes		39	Thetford Nunnery Lakes			
20	Lopham Fen	SWT	40	Thompson Water			
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	BTO =	British Trust for Ornithology		NWT =	Norfolk Wildlife Trust		
	BS =	British Sugar		PWT =	Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust		
	EN =	English Nature		RSPB =	Royal Society for Protection of Birds		
	HE =	Holkham Estate		SWT =	Suffolk Wildlife Trust		
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