

2017 began well with the Surf Scoter at Rutland Water and other rare birds followed with Green-winged Teal, Cattle Egret, Spotted Crake, White-winged Black Tern, Hoopoe, Yellow-browed Warbler, Waxwing and Cory's Shearwater. This latter species was totally unexpected and is unlikely to visit the county again.

A Woodcock roded again at Burley Wood and Nightingales maintained their presence in the county. Successful breeding by Stonechat was an unexpected bonus. A national influx of Hawfinches in the autumn brought birds to several sites. Our Common Birds Census at Beaumont Chase Farm completed its 26th year and wildfowl counts were received from our regular wetland sites. This year, for the first time, counts are included for the series of ponds at Greetham Valley Golf Club. A request for Kestrel records brought a positive response and the records will be forwarded to LROS. Local surveys such as these enable us to monitor the ups and downs of our birdlife. A Ring-necked Parakeet was an unusual (for us) garden record. Time will tell if they eventually colonise Rutland as they have the London area and some other cities.

Sequence of data

Wildfowl counts

- 2 Banthorpe Gravel Pit
- 3 Eyebrook Reservoir
- 4 Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park Lake
- 4 Holywell Lake
- 5 Rutland Water
- 6 Greetham Valley Golf Club

Wader counts

- 6 Rutland Water
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WILDFOWL COUNTS: Banthorpe Gravel Pit 2017

	13.01	09.02	10.03	07.04	14.05	10.06	21.08	08.09	09.10	10.11	07.12
Mute Swan		2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Greylag Goose		79	22	10	12	5					
Canada Goose		2	2	2							
Mandarin Duck	2										
Teal	49	45	15					3	24	24	52
Mallard	22	7	2	4	3	2	3	5	42	46	
Tufted Duck			10						3		
Cormorant			1							4	
Little Egret	1							1		4	
Grey Heron	1	2	1				1	1	1	1	
Little Grebe					1						
Moorhen	3	3	2	1			1				2
Coot		1	3			2			1		
Kingfisher						1					
TOTAL	78	141	60	19	17	12	7	12	73	81	56

WILDFOWL COUNTS: Eyebrook Reservoir 2017

	15.01	12.02	14.03	09.04	14.05	11.06	23.07	13.08	08.10	19.11
Mute Swan	105	63	55	55	50	59	99	89	80	109
Greylag Goose	188	54	19	21	25	158	337	264	476	268
Canada Goose	32	99	3	4	2	166	265	180	286	11
Shelduck			1	3	4				5	2
Mandarin Duck									1	
Wigeon	689	527	744						215	724
Gadwall	76	87	44	22	13	8	12	24	84	150
Teal	376	1	204	46			1	7	160	469
Mallard	198	52	73	52	66	65	231	284	356	241
Pintail	8	3	9						16	5
Shoveler			5	5		1	1		29	8
Red-crested Pochard								2		
Pochard	18	28							13	73
Ferruginous Duck										1
Tufted Duck	247	244	98	10	21	6	6	5	40	201
Goldeneye	64	107	69	1						29
Smew	2	1								
Cormorant	16	45	10	8	5	14	9		27	96
Bittern			1							
Little Egret		1	8	7	6	2	3	7	3	
Great White Egret			1							
Grey Heron	3	1	2		6		3	7	3	1
Little Grebe									4	
Great Crested Grebe	59	119	44	53	66	34	54		52	54
Water Rail			1							
Moorhen	4	1	5				1	1	3	13
Coot	167	73	25	21	15	43	79	178	468	504
Kingfisher				1				1		
TOTAL	2252	1506	1450	309	281	556	1101	1128	2321	2986

WILDFOWL COUNTS: Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park Lake 2017

	13.01	09.02	10.03	10.04	14.05	10.06	22.07	22.08	09.09	09.10	16.11	08.12.
Mute Swan	6	6	6	8	7	10	8	23	22	22	18	17
Greylag Goose	152	264	181	17	19	5	17		4		251	389
Canada Goose			2	3	4							
Egyptian Goose	3		1									
Shelduck		3		3	2	3	5				1	1
Mandarin Duck			2	2						8		
Wigeon	253	155	231							40	82	115
Gadwall	104	96	72	60	38	43	10	38	66	96	15	33
Teal	36	18	14	2				8	11	36	19	78
Mallard	153	137	53	56	63	81	96	168	237	191	202	152
Garganey								1				
Shoveler	4	1	2	2	2	2		23	37	63	13	16
Pochard		1										
Tufted Duck	98	76	96	63	23	35	24	3	14	27	9	27
Goldeneye			1									
Cormorant		2	1	1		2	1			1	1	2
Little Egret	3		1	1		1			1		1	
Grey Heron		1	1	1			3	3	1	1		1
Little Grebe	17	19					2		1	2	14	18
Moorhen	25	21	15	11	6	8	28	51	59	61	34	33
Coot	87	83	60	43	40	59	57	74	90	109	101	100
Kingfisher									1			1
TOTAL	941	883	739	273	204	249	251	392	545	657	761	983

WILDFOWL COUNTS: Holywell Lake 2017

	21.01	13.02	13.03	11.09	17.10	18.12
Mute Swan	3		2		4	2
Greylag Goose	81	60	35	14	29	
Canada Goose	36	24	15	1	28	34
Mandarin Duck		2				
Wigeon	31	31	44			45
Gadwall	15	22	2	2	8	14
Teal	15	10				15
Mallard	204	83	35	88	119	70
Tufted Duck	16	30	10	3		13
Little Egret	2		3		2	2
Little Grebe	14	19	8	10	18	26
Moorhen	22	11	11	13	9	17
Coot	6	4	14	8	2	2
Kingfisher	1			1	1	
TOTAL	446	296	179	140	220	240

WILDFOWL COUNTS: Rutland Water 2017

	15.01	12.02	12.03	10.04	23.05	13.06	11.07	15.08	10.09	08.10	19.11	09.12
Mute Swan	291	212	159	175	294	370	422	320	472	313	383	282
Whooper Swan			8									
Greylag Goose	84	45	73	220	308	818	822	474	722	1082	276	440
Canada Goose	184	198	134	94	167	912	616	335	461	442	795	560
Barnacle Goose	2	2	2							1	2	3
Egyptian Goose	27	13	19	20	43	52	88	52	107	85	71	48
Shelduck	11	17	31	35	23	12	5	9	2		5	10
Mandarin Duck					1	2	2					
Wigeon	4118	3432	2063	36		2	4		97	1818	2962	3932
American Wigeon									1	2	1	1
Gadwall	733	515	217	98	109	313	1272	1597	827	582	967	1013
Teal	1667	495	294	118		4	20	152	269	627	1310	1645
Mallard	796	443	402	283	320	368	847	586	878	627	1082	941
Pintail	182	21	22	4			1	2	16	101	198	185
Garganey								1	1			
Shoveler	62	37	65	46	2	14	22	38	166	130	136	102
Red-crested Pochard	26	17	8					1		5	42	18
Pochard	61	80	26	4		17	13	21	45	62	81	76
Tufted Duck	2579	1661	1297	495	237	292	1480	3414	3834	3139	2995	5403
Scaup	4	7	5						4		2	2
Common Scoter												1
Goldeneye	295	287	239	3						1	146	253
Smew	9	5	8								1	2
Red-breasted Merganser			1								3	
Goosander	17	22	13								4	20
Ruddy Duck	1											
Great Northern Diver		1									2	3
Cormorant	175	199	195	143	176	130	177	277	604	387	327	205
Bittern	2	1							1	1		
Little Egret	29	24	16	12	12	21	102	63	54	59	35	20
Great White Egret	2	5	1				4	3	6	9	15	4
Grey Heron	21	5	7	10	11	17	16	16	18	19	33	28
Little Grebe	71	75	3	4	6	8	26	100	147	123	146	101
Great Crested Grebe	418	350	270	199	132	146	258	334	572	566	451	336
Red-necked Grebe		1							1		1	
Slavonian Grebe	2	2	2									
Black-necked Grebe	3	3	3						2			
Water Rail					6	12		2	12	6	15	6
Moorhen	164	78	94	66	56	51	121	91	170	188	257	132
Coot	2629	1747	431	278	329	508	1238	2362	2817	2383	3316	2869
Kingfisher			1				1	3	4	2	1	2
TOTAL	17294	11747	6109	2298	2232	4577	7557	10253	12310	12760	16060	18643

WILDFOWL COUNTS: Greetham Valley Golf Course 2017

	14.01	11.02	11.03	n/c	15.05	14.06	15.07	21.08	24.09	08.10	19.11	16.12
Mute Swan			2									
Greylag Goose					5					11		
Canada Goose			1									
Gadwall					2							
Mallard	16	6	19		24	30	41	57	65	39	14	4
Little Egret							1				1	
Grey Heron					1		2	1		1	2	1
Little Grebe		1										
Moorhen	36	30	23		11	19	14	23	11	17	22	16
Coot	1	7	11		12	6	1	4	1	3	3	
TOTAL	53	44	56		55	55	59	85	77	71	43	21

WADER COUNTS: Rutland Water 2017

	15.01	12.02	12.03	10.04	23.05	13.06	11.07	15.08	10.09	08.10	19.11	09.12
Avocet				2	2							
Oystercatcher		6	39	23	32	32	24					
Golden Plover		211							2			85
Lapwing	2019	2446	135	37	38	83	172	773	750	543	207	166
Little Ringed Plover				2	3	4	2					
Ringed Plover			2	10	7	8	3	8	13			
Whimbrel		1					1			1	1	1
Curlew	10	8	4				2	1		4	8	6
Black-tailed Godwit							7	2		1	5	6
Ruff								3	8	8		
Dunlin	73	86		1	3		1	11	2		85	90
Little Stint					1					2		
Common Sandpiper					1		10	10	5			
Green Sandpiper	1						2	5	5	3	4	3
Greenshank								3	4	1		
Redshank	10	8	6	19	6	5	3	3			16	15
Snipe		36	25						8	4	15	6
TOTAL	2113	2802	211	94	93	132	449	819	797	567	341	378

BREEDING DATA: Beaumont Chase Farm, Uppingham 2017

Farmland CBC Plot 1450; grid reference: SP 845995; plot size: 65.4ha

A total of 34hrs 24mins of observations were made over ten visits

Surveys were undertaken on 11, 21 & 30 March; 12 & 22 April; 2, 11 & 21 May; 4 & 18 June

Species and numbers of territories held in 2017

Greylag Goose	P	(F)	Coal Tit	P	(1)	Robin	33	(27)
Red-legged Partridge	2	(3)	Willow Tit	P	(1)	Duncock	11	(11)
Pheasant	2	(2)	Marsh Tit	P	(-)	House Sparrow	12n/T	(13n/T)
Red Kite	2	(1)	Skylark	6	(5)	Pied Wagtail	2	(2)
Sparrowhawk	P	(P)	Swallow	2	(P)	Meadow Pipit	P	§
Buzzard	1	(1)	Long-tailed Tit	P	(1)	Chaffinch	10	(9)
Stock Dove	10n/T	(11n/T)	Chiffchaff	7	(5)	Greenfinch	4	(4)
Woodpigeon	39n	(45n)	Willow Warbler	P	(2)	Goldfinch	5	(5)
Collared Dove	P	(P)	Blackcap	9	(10)	Linnet	4	(2)
Cuckoo	P	(-)	Garden Warbler	1	(-)	Bullfinch	1	(2)
Green Woodpecker	P	(P)	Lesser Whitethroat	P	(1)	Yellowhammer	9	(13)
Great Spotted Woodpecker	P	(P)	Whitethroat	11	(12)			
Magpie	1	(2)	Nuthatch	P	(1)			
Jay	P	(P)	Treecreeper	P	(P)			
Jackdaw	25n	(17n)	Wren	23	(25)			
Rook	17n	(21n)	Blackbird	28	(24)			
Carrion Crow	2n	(2n)	Fieldfare	P	(P)			
Raven	P	(1)	Song Thrush	3	(2)			
Goldcrest	1	(P)	Redwing	P	(P)			
Blue Tit	20	(15)	Mistle Thrush	P	(1)			
Great Tit	5	(5)	Spotted Flycatcher	P	(P)			

(bracketed figures are for 2016 counts)

KEY

P species present but territory not confirmed

T territory held

n nests counted

§ seen flying over not holding territory

Commentary

In 2017, 33 species were holding 206 territories or identified nests

In 2016 40 species held 309 territories/nests

Individual species notes

Mute Swan	Two pairs bred at FHP, where one pair produced two Polish morph young in a brood of four. Also bred in Ext Park (two pairs), Banthorpe GP, EBR and RW
Bewick's Swan	One was reported in RWNA on 20.12
Whooper Swan	In the first winter period five were at EBR on 10.01 with seven at RW on 17 and 21.01. 17 flew north at LFP on 20.01 and there were four at RW on 15.02. Five were at RWEg on 23.03 with 12 at the Dam on 28.03 and six there on 05.04. Autumn birds were noted from 22.10, when there were 12 at EBR and on 30.10 two flew over LFP, there were three at RWNA and six flew over Pick. On 02/03.11, six were at RWSA with nine there on 13.11 and eight on 08.12. Four flew over Pilt on 19.12 when four (same ?) were at RWNA
Pink-footed Goose	All records were of autumn flocks, starting with c.130 over Leigh on 06.10 and 30 over Greet GC on 30.10. On 02.11 c.100 flew south-east at RWLynd and 110 north-west on 19.11 at RW Dam
White-fronted Goose	Singles were at RWNA on 10.03 and RWEg on 06.10
Greylag Goose	There were large counts at the reservoirs and FHP with breeding at RW, EBR, Ext Park and FHP
Canada Goose	Bred at both reservoirs and FHP, where up to four were present Feb-May. Now scarce at FHP where 22 on 02.12 was the peak count
Barnacle Goose	A single was at RWSA/Eg on 09 and 13.05
Brent Goose	A dark-bellied bird flew west at LFP on 09.11
Egyptian Goose	Away from RW, one or two were at Leigh/LFP in March with a pair over Pilt on 11.11 and 21.12. six were at LFP on 24.11
Shelduck	Up to three were at FHP from 01.01. to 28.07 and for the first time three young were fledged. One was present from 29.10 to the end of the year. At LFP there were two on 27.02 and one or two from 27.02 to end of May. Nine were at Mthorpe on 27.05. Bred at RW and EBR
Mandarin Duck	There were records from 14.02-21.06 and from 24.09-20.11 with breeding at RWNorm – a female and three ducklings on 13.06. One or two were at Man, Wg Burrows and Fishing Lakes, Leigh, Pilt, FHP and Ext Park, mostly birds flying over. Five were over Pilt on 02.10
Wigeon	Present at FHP to 31.03, with a max. of 149 on 19.02, and from 24.09. to the end of the year with a peak of 92 on 19.12. c.200 were at Leigh throughout Jan. with c.250 on 27.02. 78 were on a flooded field at Cott on 11.02
American Wigeon	A male in eclipse was at RWEg from 28.08-end of the year. A second male, in full breeding plumage was at Eg from 29.09 to at least 08.10
Gadwall	Present at FHP throughout the year with a max. of 117 on 04.01. Two pairs bred here, with breeding also confirmed at RW
Teal	Present at FHP up to 17.04. (max. 23 on 17.03) and from 16.07. to the end of the year, when low water levels attracted a peak of 73 on 08.12. There were high autumn counts at RW.
Green-winged Teal	A male of this American species was at RWNA from 01.01-01.02.
Mallard	Few records received but widespread with breeding at FHP, Ext Park Lake, RW, EBR, Greet GC and Stam Meadows. The FHP peak of 328 on 02.09 was higher than in recent years.
Pintail	Well reported from the reservoirs in both winter periods. Single males on 08.01 and 07.02 were the only FHP records.
Garganey	Up to three were at RWEg/SA between 25.03-14.04. One was present on 09-10.06. with three on 14.06. Autumn birds at RW, all singles, were seen between 14.07-03.10. with one at EBR from 25.08-01.09. One was at FHP 22.08-28.09

Shoveler	Five were at FHP in Jan. with a pair present to 24.06. A female was flushed from a nest containing one egg on 10.06 but sadly it was deserted when sheep were turned into the field soon afterwards. Autumn birds were present at FHP from 22.08. to the end of the year with a max. of 68 on 28.09. Away from the reservoirs, two were at LFP on 05.01 with a pair on 23.04 and one was on a flooded field at Cott on 11.02
Red-crested Pochard	Apart from four at EBR on 06~07.01, all records up to 25.05. were from RW, where there was a max. of 34 on 28.01. Present again at RW from 16.07. with some high counts in SA culminating in 38 on 13.11 and c.20 on 09.12. A pair were at EBR between 12~22.08
Pochard	Lower winter nos. at the reservoirs have become the norm and no breeding records were received. Single females on 09 and 19.02 and 05.11 were the only FHP records
Ferruginous Duck	Last recorded in Rutland in 2003, a male at RWSA on 06.11. was presumably the same as one at EBR from 10.11. to 03.12
Tufted Duck	Present at FHP all year with a peak of 98 on 13.01. but less than 35 regular throughout the autumn. one pair bred. Up to nine were on Ext Park Lake between 10.03~10.06. Bred at RWEg, where one pair had 11 ducklings on 21.07. There were high autumn counts at RW
Scaup	Reported from RW from 02.01. to 02.05. with seven on 20.01. declining to just singles in April. A female in RWSA was the first autumn bird with up to two from 13.11 to the end of the year. At EBR there were singles on 04.01 and 02.12. with two on 03.12 and 16.12
Common Scoter	At RWNA there were singles on 02~08.01, 05~06.06 and on eight dates between 21.11 and 17.12. Three were seen on 16~17.07 and two on 25~26.11
Surf Scoter	Last December's first-winter male remained at RW Dam until 11.01
Goldeneye	The only record away from the reservoirs was a single on Exton Park Lake on 10.03
Smew	In the first winter period RW had birds up to 25.03. peaking at 19 on 01.02, mostly on Eg lagoons. At EBR there were two on 22.01 and 04.03. A redhead at RWEg on 09.11 was the first autumn bird with a max. of four (05.12) to the end of the year. EBR had up to three from 24.11~end of Dec
Red-breasted Merganser	A male was in RWNA on 11~13.03 and three females were at the Dam between 13~19.11
Goosander	A winter visitor now appearing in smaller nos. at both reservoirs. A female was reported at EBR on 02.06 and two at RWEg on 25.07. The first autumn bird was a female over Leigh on 23.10 with another on 29.10. Up to ten were noted at RW in Nov. with another at Leigh on 25.11. We had no records from EBR this year
Ruddy Duck	With a national population of below thirty, following a sustained cull, a female was at RWSA from 13.01. to 27.01, from 08.04. to 20.04 and on 13~14.05
Quail	One sang briefly at Leigh on 09.07
Red-legged Partridge	Widespread and common where birds are released for shooting, as at EBR and Ext. The largest covey noted was 37 near Lynd on 08.10
Grey Partridge	Present in small nos. across the county. There were records from Rid, QF, Cott Airfield, Barrow, FHP and Ext Park. All but two records were of one or two birds, the only coveys being 13 in Ext Park on 27.08 and c.20 there on 06.09
Pheasant	Widespread and common with many released on farms and estates
Great Northern Diver.	One was in RWSA on 01.03. One was at the Dam on 13.11. with two on 19.11, three on 09.12 and four reported on 26.12
Cory's Shearwater	One was found among Great Crested Grebes in RWNA on 02.11. Whilst regular off south-west coasts in autumn, inland records are very rare and this was only the fourth to be seen inland in the UK. Cory's Shearwaters breed on Atlantic and Mediterranean islands. Definitely the bird of the year.

Gannet	Two juvs. flew along RWNA on 09.09
Cormoran	Resident at RW and EBR with breeding in RWBFP. A regular visitor in ones and twos at FHP and Ext Park Lake with three at Ext Park on 25.02
Shag	A juv. was in RWNA on 29.08
Bittern	Reported irregularly from RWEg from 14.01~11.03. with three on 23.01. Present there again from 20.08~ end of the year with two on 03 and 12.09 and three on 06.10. One was at EBR inflow between 04 and 11.03
Cattle Egret	Singles were at RWEg on 05.01 and 09~12.10
Little Egret	Regular at both reservoirs with peak nos. in late summer and breeding at RW. There were also records of one or two from Lang Brook, FHP/HM, Ashwell and Banthorpe GP, where there were three on 26.09
Great White Egret	This species has now become a regular visitor to RW. There were five throughout Jan. declining to one by 02.04. Present then from 09.05~end of the year in increasing nos. with ten noted on 29.10. Surely breeding will occur fairly soon. One flew over Wg on 20.05 and singles were at EBR on 08~09.09 and 06.11
Grey Heron.	Records came from many wetland sites, mostly of one or two – both reservoirs, FHP and Ext Park Lake, Banthorpe GP, Greet GC and the R.Welland at Tin. Bred at RWBFP
Glossy Ibis	One was reported at EBR on 24.11
Spoonbill	One flew over RWEg on 02.05
Little Grebe	Both reservoirs had high winter counts and there was the usual wintering flock at FHP with birds present up to 17.03, peaking at 21 on 28.01. Autumn records there began on 02.09. with a max. of 17 on 08.12. Bred at RW and, for the first time, at FHP where a pair had two chicks on 23.06. Also noted at Holywell Lake throughout the year
Great Crested Grebe	Present at both reservoirs throughout the year with breeding confirmed at both. One was at LFP between 09~18.05
Red-necked Grebe	One was in RWSA from 01.01. to 01.04. with presumably the same bird returning to the area from 24.08~end of the year
Slavonian Grebe	Two remained in RWNA from 01.01~02.04
Black-necked Grebe	Up to four (03.03) were in RWNA in the early months of the year with the last one seen on 30.03. One was in RWSA on 06.08 and one remained in NA from 07.09 to the end of Dec
Red Kite	A widespread species seen over farmland, woodland and settled areas across the county with one scavenging in a Stam garden in Aug. Breeding was confirmed at one site with one chick fledged. The highest counts were eight over A6003 near Cald on 05.07 and seven near FHP on 28.07
Marsh Harrier	A well reported passage species with our first record of a wintering bird. First seen at EBR on 24 and 29.03 with females at RWEg and FHP on 13.04. One was on Eg reserve on 02, 23 and 30.05. with frequent records from 24.06 of a female/juv. to the end of the year. One flew over Wg on 20.05. Autumn passage birds were at FHP on 22.07, EBR on five dates between 11.08 and 02.11 and Leigh on 19.09
Hen Harrier	A ring-tail visited EBR regularly between 19~30.03
Sparrowhawk	Most records were from gardens with birds at Barrow, Oak, Norm and Stam. Prey included Blue Tit, Song Thrush/Redwing and Dunnock. Display was noted in March over BW and WardW
Buzzard	A common species in all woodlands with birds now regular on the edge of Stam. One visited a Wg garden On four Jan. dates. Breeding was confirmed in Ext Park and at FHP. Five over Wg on 14.07 was our highest count
Osprey	The first bird returned to RW on 17.03 and by 24.03 nine were back, including the Man pair. Birds visited FHP, LFP and EBR throughout the summer and five Rutland

nest sites were in use. Our last record was from Leigh on 07.09

Water Rail	One was at FHP on 08.01. Present at RW throughout the year. One heard at LFP on 13 and 15.11 and two were at Geest on 30.11. One near Wg was dissuaded from crossing the road in front of the member's car on 11.12, seeking sanctuary on the grass verge
Spotted Crake	A juv. was at RWEg on 29.09
Moorhen	Common even on small ponds and streams. 30 were on Greet GC ponds on 11.02. The peak count at FHP was 52 on 28.09
Coot	Well represented on larger water bodies with the largest counts in winter involving continental birds. The peak count at FHP was 114 on 29.10
<i>Also see Wader tables</i>	
Avocet	One or two were at RWEg from 09.03~23.05. Two were at EBR on 10.05
Oystercatcher	Reported from RW from 12.02~30.07, with a peak of 39 on 12.03 and nesting on the Eg lagoons. One or two were in the Leigh/Mthorpe area between 02.05~30.06, with six present on 30.06. One was at Banthorpe GP on 11.06 with a pair there on 24.06, an unseasonal bird was at RWEg on 02.12
Grey Plover	Spring birds were at RWEg on 12 dates between 24.03~01.06. with a max. of five on 01.05
Golden Plover	A flock frequented winter cereals near PGW in Jan with 112 on 22 and 200 on 28.01, c.50 flew over Eg on 08.10, 26 flew east at QF on 16.10 when c.100 were at RWEg. 80 near Rid on 09. increased to 200 on 12.11. Also in Nov. there were c.700 at EBR on 05 and c.800 on 24. 550 were at RWEg on 27.11, with 255 there on 02.12
Lapwing	In the first winter period there were 200 at Pilt on 03.01. with c.600 north-west there on 08.01 and 175 over Leigh on 23.01. 200 were in Ext Park on 29.01. Display was noted near Wg on 11.03 and in Ext Park on 17.04. Bred at RWEg with birds present at EBR but breeding unconfirmed. 55 flew south at FHP on 21.11 and 210 flew north at Pilt on 26.12
Ringed Plover	Three at RWEg on 18~19.02. were the first with nos. increasing as passage birds arrived, reaching 35 on 30.04. Double figure counts continued until 15.06 as northern race 'tundrae' birds passed through with 30 on 17.05. Only about eight birds bred and nos. were low in Sept with a peak of 18 on 21.09 and the last three noted on 26.10. Singles called over Wg on 19.08 and Leigh on 22.08. At EBR our only spring record was of two on 06.05. Autumn birds were there from 03.09. to 14.10. with a max. of six on 08.09
Little Ringed Plover	One was at RWEg on 17.03 but nos. were low throughout the summer. Autumn birds were present to 15.08. with a peak of 14 on 06.07. whilst at EBR there were birds from 05.07~05.09. with a max. of four on the first date
Whimbrel	One wintered at RW and was present to at least 25.03. Spring passage extended from 19.04. to 13.05. with up to five (20.04) at or over RWEg/Dam, EBR and Leigh. Autumn passage began on 11.07, with a bird of unknown origin which carried a copper ring and this bird was present to the end of the year. Calling birds were heard over Wg on 19.07 and Man on 07 and 16.08
Curlew	One was calling near Barrow, a regular breeding area, on 28.02 and song and display were observed at Cott Airfield on 13.03 with birds at both sites into June. RWLynd/Eg, Wg and Leigh also provided June records. Six roosted at RWEg on 08.07 and singles flew over Wg on 22.07 and Leigh on 16.09. Six were at RWLynd on 05.11
Black-tailed Godwit	18 were at RWEg on 10.03, the first spring birds, with up to three subsequently to 04.04. There was then a strong movement of Icelandic birds with 557 on 17, 255 on 19 and 234 on 28.04 totalling 1,046. On 28.04 a further 148 passed through with one or two then to 13.05, 18 on 24.06 were probably the first autumn birds with birds then present to the end of the year, mostly under six but 19 on 08.07 and 31

	on 17.07. At EBR there were six on 05.07, three on 14.08, five on 17.08 and one or two to 23.10. Near Wg four flew over on 22.07, and eight on 28.07
Bar-tailed Godwit	Birds on spring migration were at RW between 10.04~18.05, with nine on 30.04. One was at EBR on 06.05
Turnstone	Noted at RW between 13.04 and 19.05, with a max. of five on the last date
Knot	Spring singles were at RWEg between 06~09.05. Two were there on 27.06. Autumn records were singles at EBR on 01.07, and RW on 24.07, with two at RW on 16.09, and one at EBR 25.11
Ruff	Spring birds were at RWEg from 22.04~18.05. with four on 06.05. Autumn records began with one at RW on 13.07 and birds were then present to 21.10, in low nos. with a peak of eight on 10.09. There was a stronger autumn passage at EBR with birds noted from 27.08~16.12, with 17 on 29.09, and 13 on 01.10
Curlew Sandpiper	A spring bird in breeding plumage was at RWEg on 30.04 and 01.05. Two were seen on 06.05. There were few autumn records – singles at RW on 19.09 and 10, 13 and 21~22.11, and 13.11 at EBR
Temminck's Stint	One was at RWEg on 06.05
Sanderling	Spring passage at RW was between 13.04~19.05, with a very late bird on 20.06. The max. was 21 on 17.05. One or two returning birds were at RW between 24.07~31.08
Dunlin	Records were received for all months with fewest birds in June and July. 27 were at EBR on 01.01, and 35 at RW Barns on 23.01. Nos. declined in March with 11 at RWEg on 27. Passage was marked from late April with 97 at RW on 30, and 40 on 01.05. 26 were present on 17.05. Single figure counts were typical in June and July with nos. then increasing with 19 at RW on 05.08. Autumn passage produced no large nos. until 26 at EBR on 16.11, increasing to 35 on 02.12. RW had 47 on 21.11.
Little Stint	One was at RWEg on 23.05, with two on 26 and 29.05, one was at EBR on 08~09.09 and 16.09. At RW, autumn birds were seen between 16.09~17.10, with a max. of five on 17.09
Common Sandpiper	Spring passage at RW was between 04.04~26.05, with a max. of three on 03.05 and a late (early returning ?) bird on 24.06. Singles were at EBR on 17.04 and 05.05, at LFP on 07.05 and FHP on 14.05. Autumn passage was between 01.07~08.10. with seven at RW on 20.07. Up to three were at EBR, and one was at Banthorpe GP on 21.08. One on the peninsula at RW from 12.12 to the end of the year was unusual
Green Sandpiper	Singles were at RW and EBR between 01.0~15.02. There was a spring record of one at RWEg on 19.04. Autumn passage, from 16.06. at RW saw birds at several sites away from the reservoirs; two in Ext Park on 22.07, one at Banthorpe GP on 21.08. with two on 01.09, singles at Leigh/LFP on 22 and 24.08 and 09.12 and three at FHP on 03.09, with one on 03.12. The last EBR bird was on 20.09
Spotted Redshank	Singles were over Leigh and at RWEg on 02.09, the RW bird present next day. One was at RWSA on 04.12
Greenshank	Spring birds passed through between 20.04~26.05, mostly singles but two at RW on the first date and three at EBR on 05.05. One flew north at BCF on 11.05. Autumn migration at the reservoirs was between 06.08~14.10. with a max. of six at EBR 22.08. One was at Banthorpe GP on 21.08, and singles were at LFP/Leigh on 02.09 and 03.10
Wood Sandpiper	Single autumn birds were at RW between 03.08~01.09. with one at EBR on 22.08
Redshank	There were records for all months except April, Sept and Oct. See tables for main counts. One flew over Leigh on 30.03 and breeding occurred on Eg lagoons with a pair and three young on 08.07
Jack Snipe	Singles were at Banthorpe GP on 06.02. RWEg on 17.09 and 03.11, and EBR on 18.12

Woodcock	In the first winter period birds were reported to 31.03, with up to three at FHP, TunnW, PGW, Leigh and WestlandW. 14 were flushed during a shoot at StokeW on 28.01. It was encouraging to have a roding bird in BW again, seen on 06 and 13.05. Autumn birds were noted from 28.10 to the end of Dec. with up to three at Pilt, LyndW, Leigh, TunnW and RWLynd.
Snipe	Present up to 27.04 and from 13.08~end of the year. In the first winter period up to four were at Wg, Banthorpe GP, FHP, LFP, Wg and Peter's Pond on Tin Meadows. 43 were at RWLynd on 06.02. Autumn nos. were low with birds at both reservoirs (16 at RWLynd on 09.11 and ten at EBR on 24.11), FHP, LFP and Wg
Little Tern	One was at RW on 30.04, with two next day and one on 10.06. One was at EBR on 29~30.06, one at RWEg on 08.07, and two at EBR on 21.07
Black Tern	Spring birds were seen between 24.04~24.05. at RW with 23 on 30.04 and 42 next day. At EBR there were three on 24.04 and 01.05 and two on 22.05. All autumn records were from RW with up to four (14.09) between 18.07 and 25.10
White-winged Black Tern	Singles were at RWEg on 26.05 and 09/10.08, the second a stunning adult
Sandwich Tern	In April four passed through at RWEg on 09, with one on 14 and two on 30. One was at EBR on 15.04
Common Tern	An early bird was at EBR on 03.04 with the next at RW on 09.04. 88 were at RW on 13.06, rising to 95 on 15.08, indicating successful breeding on the lagoons. Nesting also took place at EBR, where there were 16 on 11.06. Two passed through FHP on 19.06. The last birds were two at RW on 08.10
Arctic Tern	Singles at RWEg on 14.04 and EBR on 17.04. were the first. Passage at RW extended to 01.05. with c.50 on 26.04 and 66 next day. Six were at EBR on 24.04. One or two were seen to 13.06, with one on 01.08. the first autumn bird and one on 14.09. the last
Kittiwake	An adult was at RWWhit on 24.02
Black-headed Gull	610 were at RW in April. Bred on the RWEg lagoons and in NABFP with 500 at RW and 200 on Luff Airfield in July. 435 were at EBR and 300 at Teigh in Aug. 950 were at RW in Nov.
Little Gull	Spring birds were at RW between 27.03 and 12.05. with a max. of six on the first date. Two were at EBR on 01.04. Single autumn birds were at RWEg/NA/SA between 24..07 and 30.09.
Mediterranean Gull	Singles roosted at RW on two Jan. dates and three March dates. Two were over RW on 20.06. with one there on 30.06. Between 05.07 and 06.08 one or two roosted regularly at Eg with four, an ad and three juvs. on the last date. Singles were at RW and EBR on eight dates from 10.09. to 21.12. with three of these in Nov.
Common Gull	Widespread in winter but scarce in summer. Counts were: RW 10,000 in March, Leigh c.3,500 on 19.03 and c.1,800 on 30.03, RW 11 on 05.05, RW 110 on 26.09, RW 3,000 in Nov, EBR 80 on 24.11
Lesser Black-backed Gull	A regular passage migrant with fewer in winter. Counts were: RW 60 in March, 180 south at Wg on 04.04 and 270 south on 18.04. 124 roosting in Ext Park on 28.09.
Herring Gull	Regular in winter with few in summer. Counts were: RW 31 in March, RW 400 in Nov, EBR 150 in Nov.
Yellow-legged Gull	Noted at RW from 30.03, when there were five declining to four on 10.04. Regular single from 13.06, increasing to six on 23.06, and seven on 11.07. 20 were at RW on Aug. with six in Sept, two on 08.10 and one on 02.11
Caspian Gull	A scarce passage and winter visitor: Counts were RW one on 24 and 26.03, four on 30.03. RW two on 10.04, RW one in July, RW four in Aug, At RW a third-winter bird on 11.11 had been ringed as a chick in Poland in 2015
Iceland Gull	A second-winter roosted at EBR on 04 and 06.01
Glaucous Gull	A juv. roosted at EBR on 01.01 and an ad. on 07.01. A juv. was at RWEg on 07.02

	and a juv. roosted at EBR between 14~16.12 and on 21.12
Great Black-backed Gull	Present at RW throughout the year but more common in winter. Counts were: RW 80 in March, RW 32 in April, RW 22 in May, RW 39 in July, RW 80 in Nov.
Feral Pigeon	Noted at Stam, Oak and Upp but no counts were received. There seem to have been fewer at Castle Cement, Kett, this year. Some colonisation of house roofs with solar panels was noted in Stam, with c.30 on one property in Dec.
Stock Dove	Well distributed on farmland and in woodlands across Rutland and taking advantage of nest boxes at RWEg and Ess for breeding as well as farm buildings at BCF. 48 were at LFP on 21.11, with 83 at Leigh on 06.12. Nine were in a Barrow garden on 12.12 during snowy weather
Woodpigeon	A very common species and well distributed in suburban areas. Autumn passage in the Leigh area between 23 and 30.10. produced 4,807 birds flying south.
Collared Dove	A suburban species and regular at many feeding stations. 21 flew over Pilt on 14.11, and 12 visited a Stam garden throughout Dec.
Turtle Dove	Single birds sang at Stock on 04.07 and LFP on 23.07
Cuckoo	Records of singing birds were received from 15 sites (ten last year) between 17.04. (RW and BCF) and 20.06. These were mostly in larger woods and at RW. There was a late juv. at RWLynd between 05~12.09
Barn Owl	Records came from an encouraging 21 sites (14 last year), mostly in the west of the county. There were six pairs at RW and 16 young were ringed at five nest boxes elsewhere in the county in June
Little Owl	Birds were seen at eight sites (six last year);- Barrow (a juv. on 20.08), Braun, Emp allotments, EBR, Leigh, Lydd, Mor (bred) and Wg.
Tawny Owl	Noted at only nine sites, a considerable decline on the 17 reported last year. A pair at TunnW failed at a nest box but young were heard calling in Barrow in June. Five were calling around Pilt on 02.10, as young birds sought to establish territories.
Short-eared Owl	The only record was of one at RWEg between 26.04 and 01.05.
Swift	Our first record was on the late date of 10.05, at Stam and Bden. Small nos. noted at Emp, Oak and Upp in June/July. The only record of any nos. was 100 over Leigh on 20.07. Seen on three Sept. dates with the last on 16.09 at RW. An under recorded species
Hoopoe	A confiding bird was near Hamb between 06~08.05
Kingfisher	Records came from sites around RW, EBR, Ext Park Lake, LFP, Banthorpe GP, Lang Brook, Wg, Oak Canal and Tin. Most were of singles but on 23.07, five were at LFP/ Leigh
Green Woodpecker	A well distributed and noisy resident with records from 14 sites (12 last year). A breeding pair were followed through the summer at QF and fledged young were at Greet GC and WestW in June. One was anting on Wg lawn on 10 and 26.06. Seven were at Greet GC on 17.07, and eight around Leigh in Aug.
Great Spotted Woodpecker.	Drumming birds were reported from fewer sites this year – RWEg, QF, Geest, Barrow, BW, and TunnW. No records of visits to feeders in the first winter period but noted only at BarnsG on 08.10. Upp in Oct and regular at Barrow in Nov and Dec. Is this evidence of some decline?
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	The only record was of a drumming bird in a copse near Mor on 02.04
Kestrel	A request for all records produced sightings in 44 1km squares across the county, indicating a more positive status than noted by LROS in their 2015 report. With hunting birds over verges and open farmland – this is an easy bird to survey! Three young were ringed from a nest box in Ext Park 13.06, breeding also occurred at Castle Cement Wks. A family of seven was seen near Wg on 15.07
Merlin	A female/imm. was at EBR on 12.11 and a male at RWLynd on 21.11
Hobby	First seen at RW on 26.04 with regular sightings of up to three at Eg during May

and June. Other records were also from wetland sites – FHP and LFP up to Aug. In Sept. one was over Ext Park on 03, and five were at RWEg, with three there on 10. The last was over Rid on 28.09

Peregrine	Present throughout the year with hunting birds at RW and LFP in both winter periods. A pair was at a regular nest site in July but breeding was not confirmed. One was over BCF in mid-July and a juv. was in Ext Park on 09.09
Ring-necked Parakeet	One frequented feeders in a Barleythorpe garden from 25.10 to at least 08.11. One (same ?) was heard and seen over Oak on 19.11. Will we witness colonisation by this divisive introduced species?
Magpie	No records received but well distributed across the county including suburbs
Jay	Regular in woodlands across Rutland with records from Ext woodlands, BW, PGW, BarnsW, FHP, Geest and Greet GC, where a family party was seen in June. Ten were around Leigh on 27.09, when birds are more common in open country as they search for acorns
Jackdaw	Most records related to the GlastW winter roost with Jan. counts in the Pilt area of c.3,000 on 03, 3,500 on 08, and 3,250 on 22. In Nov. c.500 flew over Man on 12 and c.4,000 flew north-west over Wg on 26.11. c.2,800 flew east from GlastW on 31.12. There were 15 nests in BCF buildings with 59 eggs laid but only about 20 young fledging
Rook	No records were received of rookery counts except for BCF, where there were 17 nests (21 last year)
Carrion Crow	No records were received but the species is becoming an important predator of birds in suburban gardens. In Stam birds were seen carrying young Blackbirds in May, a Starling nest was raided for eggs in April
Raven	Reported from 14 sites across the county, mostly one or two calling in flight. 16 were over Leigh on 24.03, and nine over EBR on 15.09. Nests were reported from six sites, two of which failed. The remaining four fledged at least 11 young.
Goldcrest	Noted in an Upp garden in Jan. Well distributed in all types of woodland with birds foraging along hedgerows and at sewage works in winter. 16 were in song around Wg on 24.05
Blue Tit	A common and widespread species. Up to 14 at a time visited TunnW feeders in both winter periods
Great Tit	Well distributed in woodlands and gardens across the county. A regular visitor at TunnW feeders
Coal Tit	Found mainly in conifer and mixed woodland but regular at garden feeders in autumn and winter
Willow Tit	Very local but regular at LFP and Leigh throughout the year with two singing on 25.03. at LFP. Song also at GGorse on 13.03 and near Wg on 24.05. One was heard at RWEg on 21.07 and also present on the BCF CBC site
Marsh Tit	Resident in RW and Ext Park woodlands with records also from BW, WardW, Greet GC and BarnsG. A family party was in CottW on 11.06. Feeders at TunnW, Hall Farm (Ext) and Wg were visited
Skylark	Remains widespread as a farmland breeding bird in reduced nos. Ten were singing over rough grassland at QF on 20.02 – a superior habitat to arable fields these days. Autumn passage was noted over Leigh, Mthorpe and Stam between 03 and 29.10. with up to 114 on ten dates but totalling just 434 birds. c.80 flew south-east near Wg during snowy weather on 11.12
Sand Martin	First noted at RWMan Bay on 28.02, with up to four on the next four days and 40 on 16.03, increasing to 100 by 28.03. Up to eight prospected for nest sites in a stone wall at Park House Norm with many more at the adjacent hotel. Regular in small nos. at FHP throughout the summer. At RWEg 1,623 pulli were ringed at the Sand Martin banks, 1,025 on lagoon two and 607 on lagoon five. In 2016 1,142 pulli were ringed. Last seen at RW ON 13.09.

Swallow	Singles at RW on 21 and Wg on 31.03 were the first records with an early bird back near Pick on 02.04, 10~11.04. saw birds at breeding sites at Mor and Bden, where three nests were monitored throughout the summer. At LFP nos. began to increase in July with c.90 on 20. Increasing to c.200 by 24.08. 100 were near Wg on 23.08. 200 flew south over Leigh on 22.09 and our final birds were 30 at FHP on 28.09.
House Martin	First noted over Leigh on 01.04. Few records of breeding birds but six nests were monitored at a regular Bden site. c.60 flew over Bden on 04.09 and there was a very strong passage at RW on 10.09. with several thousand birds over Eg lagoons. Three flew over Stam on 11.10 and the last was one over Man on 17.10.
Cetti's Warbler	Present at RWEg throughout the year. At LFP in Nov. one sang on 05, with two on 09, and one to the end of the month.
Long-tailed Tit	Up to six were regular in an Oak garden throughout the year. Ten were in a Lang garden on 13.01. and nest building was watched at CQ on 26.03. Flock counts included 25 at Mthorpe on 27.05, and 14 at KQ on 21.11
Yellow-browed Warbler	One was in a Man garden on 19.09
Chiffchaff	Three were on the filter beds at Geest sewage works on 29.01. Full song was heard first at RW on 06.03. Ten were singing at Leigh on 30.03, after the first there on 10.03. Other March and early April sites were FHP, Greet GC, TunnW, QF, KQ, Oak Canal, LyndW, PGW and BW. 32 were singing around Leigh on 28.04, with good nos. there throughout the summer – 37 present on 11.08, with around 60 in the larger surrounding area. Late song was heard at Hall Farm, Ext on 10.10 and there were Oct. records from Pilt on 02.11, and LFP on 13.11. This species is currently thriving
Willow Warbler	First heard at Leigh on 20.03 and near HM next day. Just small nos. were noted by mid-April with six at BW on 13. Widespread but still not common by the end of the month with 29 singing around Leigh on 28, and 34 on 02.05. The last birds were singles at Leigh and QF on 12.09.
Blackcap	No records in the first winter period with one singing at RWEg on 19.03 the first followed by one at Wg on 29.03. Well distributed by early April with eight singing in BW on 07. 25 sang around Leigh on 28.04. One was at FHP on 28.09 and there were no more records until one at Leigh on 23.10. with one at LFP on 29.10. On 31.12 a pair took seed in an Oak garden.
Garden Warbler	An under recorded species favouring woodland and scrubby areas, the first was by Oak Canal on 12.04. Breeding season records came only from RWEg/Lynd, QF,BW, Ext woodlands, KQ, Banthorpe GP, CPW and FHP. As usual there were no significant autumn records and our last was at RWEg on 23.06
Lesser Whitethroat	The first birds were at EBR and RWEg on 08.04. with others at eight hedgerow/ scrubby sites in the breeding season. Peak counts were five in RWSA on 24.04, and eight around Leigh on 02.05. Ten in that area on 14.08 were probably already on passage. One was at FHP on 09.09 and the last was at Leigh on 28.09
Whitethroat	Currently doing well locally, the first was at RWEg on 19.04. Hedgerows and scrub provided records at MM, QF, KQ, Pick, Wg (18 singing on 24.05), BCF, FHP and Ext Park and Emp. Two were in Ext Park on 09.09, the last was at Leigh on 24.09.
Grasshopper Warbler	Once widespread in young plantations and some scrubby areas, this species is now very scarce. One or two sang at Leigh between 11.04~04.07, with singles at RWEg on 23.04, 04.05, and 27.06
Sedge Warbler	First heard at RWEg on 01.04 and well established at there, its county stronghold, by mid-April with singing birds at GHW and LFP on 23.04. One or two were at LFP all summer with other singing birds at Mthorpe, FHP and Wg up to 17.07. One remained at LFP throughout Sept, last noted on 30
Reed Warbler	No first date but well established in Eg reed beds by mid-April. Birds also noted at Banthorpe GP, Wg Burrows and Geest. At LFP one or two sang from 18.05~21.07, with a passage bird nearby at Leigh on 06.08
Waxwing	On 02.01 there were c.22 in Oak declining to 12 on 08.01. Two were at Man on

	16.01, with 11 in Stam next day. Later records were two north at RWEg on 04.03 and three in Oak on 02.04
Nuthatch	Noted at regular sites Ext Park and woodlands, CPW, BW, WardW, FHP, RW woodlands. Visited feeders in TunnW in both winter periods, two Oak gardens (July and Sept) and Upp (Nov~Dec)
Treecreeper	Resident in woodlands across the county. Three together at RW on 31.03. Wellintonia roosts noted at Wg, FHP and Ext Park
Wren	Widespread and currently doing well. 23 territories at BCF this year (25 last year) and 45 singing around Wg on 30.0.
Starling	In Feb. c.2,500 flew west at Wg on 11 and 300 were on pasture in Ext Park on 25. Most records were of autumn migration. 8,310 flew west on eight dates between 21 and 31 10 over Mthorpe, Pilt and Leigh with 3,080 on the last date. Counts on nine dates, between 01.11 and 03.12, produced 7,288 birds with a max. of 1,620 on 07.11
Ring Ouzel	A male was photographed on Emp allotments on 31.03. Single males were also near Wg on 18 and 21.04 and at RW near GGorse on 20.04
Blackbird	On 08/09.02, 116 were noted in the Leigh area, and 77 were counted along the cycle track on the west side of RW on 13.02. These counts undoubtedly included many continental birds. 28 were in song around Leigh on 28.04. Territories at BCF increased from 24 last year to 28. 24 were singing around Wg on 26.05, and 18 on 15.06. c.50 were around Leigh 31.10
Fieldfare	Few large flocks noted this year. 50 were at QF on 20.02, 300 flew north over Leigh on 17.03, and 60 were at BCF on 30.03. The last birds were three at RWLynd on 27.04. Autumn passage was noted from 28.10, with 492 over Pilt, 80 at RWLynd and 30 over Wg. On 30.10. 490 flew west at QF and there were 60 at Greet GC. 800 flew west at Pilt on 31.10. Passage continued to 12.11 in the Pilt/Wg area with 1,480 birds counted on five dates. Few remained in Dec, perhaps due to a dearth of berries, with 55 at Bden on 06, and 50 at Pick Plain on 08. One fed on apples in a Stam garden during cold weather on 16
Song Thrush	Records indicate some revival in the fortunes of the Song Thrush. 22 were in song around Leigh on 16/17/02 and 22 were counted along the cycle track on the west side of RW on 18.02. 18 sang around Leigh on 28.04. In June 12 were in song at Wg on 15 and five at RWEg on 27. Garden records came from Bden and Oak, where one visited a seed feeder on 24.07. 18 were around Leigh on 08.10
Redwing	In the first winter period there were 40 at Norm on 14.01 and 30 at QF on 20.02. 20 were in Ext Park on 10.03, with 14 on 13.03, and the last six at BCF on 30.03. Autumn passage began with 910 west at Luff Airfield on 08.10, and continued through to 03.12, with 2,958 birds counted on ten dates. Two took Pyracantha berries in a Lydd garden during cold weather on 11/12 Dec.
Mistle Thrush	Few records were received. Song noted at BCF, FHP, Ext Park and Greet GC (bred). 11 flew north-east over Leigh on 03.06
Spotted Flycatcher	One at LFP on 09.05 was the first and birds were then noted at 14 sites (ten last year). Bred in gardens at Upp and Wg, at RWEg and probably Norm. Noted at Leigh throughout Sept. with the last on 24
Robin	In Jan. 28 were noted along RW south shore on 19, and 13 were singing there on 31. 56 were counted around Leigh on 08~09.02. At BCF territories increased from 27 last year to 33. 57 were around Leigh on 27~28.08 and 22 were in song on 31.08. In Sept 50 were around RWEg on 21, and c.115 were around Leigh on 26~27.09, with 83 in song. Robins are currently doing well in the county.
Nightingale	First heard at RWEg on 22.04 with up to three singing there by mid-May. One was at GreetW on 23.04. Between 02~18.05 two sang in PGW, and one sang in BW on 06.05. Seven singing birds doubles the total noted last year.
Pied Flycatcher	A male was at RWEg on 20.08

Redstart	Spring passage, between 04~11.04, produced single males at RWVTC, Mthorpe, Man and Wg. There was a well reported and extended autumn passage in the Leigh/Mthorpe area between 08.07~26.09. with birds seen on 19 dates, usually singles but six in the area on 01.09.
Whinchat	The only spring birds were at EBR, one on 06.05, and two on 27.06. Autumn birds were seen between 25.08~25.09 at EBR (three), Luff Airfield (three), Leigh and QF.
Stonechat	Up to 21.03 birds were noted at RWEg, EBR and FHP. Two were at EBR in Jan. with up to four at RW. FHP had one on 05.02, and three on 25/26/02. A pair fledged three young at RW – a first breeding record in modern times for Rutland. A juv. near Wg on 03.08. may have been a RW bird. Autumn birds were seen from 25.09~end of the year, with one or two regular at RWEg and EBR, and three at FHP/Ext Park on 15.10
Wheatear.	Five at Luff Airfield on 19.04. Autumn birds were seen on just five dates between 20.08 and 09.09 at Mthorpe, Leigh, Prest and Luff Airfield with a max. of five at Luff on the last date
Dunnock	Widespread in hedgerows, woodland and gardens. Eight fed around a Norm bird table on 14.01. The BCF population appears to be stable with 11 territories, the same as last year.
House Sparrow	Remains widespread, with the greatest nos. in gardens where regular feeding occurs e.g. c.35 at Stam.
Tree Sparrow	A scarce and local species with RWLynd feeders the most regular site with up to seven reported (Sept). Up to three were near FHP in Jan and Feb and one fed in a Barrow garden in April, June and Nov. One was at QF on 16.10 and 20 flew over Leigh on 23.10. with 25 over on 26.10.
Yellow Wagtail	One at RW Dam on 04.04. was the first and passage extended to 28.04, with one or two at RWEg, and ten over Mthorpe on 23.04. Few noted at likely breeding sites – Cott Airfield, Prest, Stoke, Cow Close Farm and RW Dam. For the first time, there were no breeding birds in Ext Park. Autumn passage noted from 30.07~19.09. with up to 12 on eight dates and the last birds at Prest
Grey Wagtail	Records for all months except June. Birds were noted at RW, Geest sewage works, FHP, Greet GC, Banthorpe GP and Wg. Present in the breeding season at Tin Pumping Station and FHP. Garden ponds at Clips and BCF were visited in Nov.
White Wagtail	Singles were at RW Dam and EBR between 24.03~24.04. with a late bird on 10.05. Two autumn birds were at Man on 01.10
Pied Wagtail	Autumn birds were noted at Leigh: – 75 on 15.09, 25 on 26.09, and 47 on 08.10
Tree Pipit	Passage birds were heard over Leigh between 03.04 and 02.05 (five), and 11.08 and 16.10 (12)
Meadow Pipit	30 were on RW shore near the Sailing Club on 19.01. Spring passage in March produced 535 at Leigh, and RW between 15 and 24. Display was noted in May at Luff and Cott Airfield and GHW. A strong autumn passage at Leigh saw 1,878 birds between 09.09~04.10. 20 were in Ext Park on 24.09, and ten at QF on 04.10.
Rock Pipit	Two were at EBR on 16.10. One was over Leigh on 26.10 and one at RW between 08~16.12
Brambling	Most records in both winter periods were from finch roosts. At Leigh birds were present to 31.03, with a peak of 42 on 05.01. A roost near Wg held birds from 02.01 to 07.04 (last date), with a max. of 23 on 31.03. Up to five were at Whis, Holywell, FHP and Ext village. One over Leigh on 27.09, was the first autumn bird with passage over the area until 31.10. The Leigh roost held birds from 19.10 until at least 22.12, with 19 on 18.12. Two were at Norm feeders on 15.10, there were 14 at Pilt on 31.10 and one at Man on 30.11
Chaffinch	The Leigh roost attracted birds up to 07.03, with a peak of 190 on 05.01. 87, flying east there on 26.03, were probably continental birds leaving Britain. Breeding nos. at BCF remain low with only ten territories (nine last year). Autumn passage at

	Leigh, on four dates between 16~26.10, produced 782 birds. The Leigh roost had 150 on 19.11, and the Wg roost 135 on 30.11.
Hawfinch	One was reported at feeders by Eg Centre on 06.01, with two on the reserve on 12.01. A major feature of the autumn was a large irruption of continental Hawfinches with birds at three main sites; Leigh/Pilt, TunnW and Ext cemetery. At Leigh birds were noted on 32 days between 13.10~22.12. totalling 49, mostly singles, with a max. of six on 28.10. TunnW had birds between 04.11~13.11, with c.15 on the first date. Ext cemetery had seven on 05.11, declining to one by 22.12. Additional birds were at Clips on 04.11, and one over Hamb on 15.11
Bullfinch	Widespread in suitable habitat of overgrown hedgerows and scrub and usually encountered in small nos. but larger nos. noted at Leigh in Jan. (22), Feb. (27), July (43), Aug. (40), Oct (38) and Nov. (27). Other double figure counts came from Wg (16) and CPW (ten).
Greenfinch	Few records received. None visited feeders at Norm in the first weeks of the year, and one on an Oak feeder 30.12 was the first for several weeks. Low nos. (four territories) were maintained at BCF and no double figure counts were received.
Linnet	Most records were of winter flocks. Up to 180 were around Leigh between 02~22.01, with 70 at Mthorpe on 25.01, c.150 at RWEg on 28.02. Leigh flocks were noted from 22.08~26.10, with c.350 on 09.09, c.120 were on oilseed rape stubble in Ext Park on 06.09, 60 were at RWEg on 16.10 and near Pick on 28.10.
Lesser Redpoll	32 were at RW on 04.01, with ten there on 27.01, and seven in Ext Park on 25.02. One or two flew over Leigh, RW and Wg in April. 15 flew over LFP on 04.10 and there were 38 there on 17.10, and 28 on 05.11. Twenty were at Pilt on 14.11, and six at RWLynd in Nov and Dec.
Common Redpoll	One was ringed at Luff Airfield on 27.10, and two were at RWLynd on 20.11
Crossbill	There were records for Feb~April and Aug/Sept. of singles over Leigh, RW and LFP
Goldfinch	11 were at feeders in Oak on 01.02, and c.25 were at QF on 20.02, c.175 fed in game crops at Leigh on 03.09, and c.120 were on thistles near Wg between 03~23.08. At QF a flock of c.40 fed on teasel throughout the autumn.
Siskin	c.48 were at RWLynd on 26.01. One was in full song at TunnW on 29.01. Six were in Ext Park on 26.02 and 11 at Greet GC on 11.03. Singles were noted on five April/May dates over Leigh, RW and Mthorpe. 42 flew west at LFP on 20.10 and there were 20 at Leigh on 05.11, with 25 at RWLynd on 30.11.
Yellowhammer	A flock of c.110 fed on unharvested cereals near Mounts Lodge on 24.01. The decline at BCF continues with only nine territories (13 last year). In Oct. there were 37 at Leigh on 12, and 35 in Ext Park on 29.
Reed Bunting	45 fed near Mounts Lodge 24.01. The next day 3 fed in a Stam garden and 13 were noted in a Mthorpe hedge

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