



ANNUAL REPORT
1971

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS'
CLUB



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1971

Once again, unfortunately, the death of a member must be recorded. Andrew Leitch died suddenly at one of our meetings. His friendliness at our meetings and on our outings will be missed.

I am happy to report that the enthusiastic and friendly atmosphere of the Club has been maintained during the past year. This is indicated by the volume of records, and the number of species recorded, and by the attendance at lectures and meetings.

The Club evenings have been successful and have produced some very good contributions from our younger members.

Brian Cocking, our President for 1972, has, as Secretary since the formation of the Club, contributed greatly to this atmosphere, and I wish him much pleasure and success in his new office, and thank him, on behalf of the members, for all the work and effort he has given to the Club.

I also tender the thanks of the Club to our efficient Treasurer, Miss Joan Senior, and to John Dale, our Recorder, who, as already mentioned, has had plenty of work to do. John Dale has also been elected to the Ornithological Committee of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union.

I must also, on behalf of the Club, thank the Members of the Committee for the work they have done during the year.

Mrs. Kilvington has very kindly offered to provide the Club with a Presidents' Badge of Office in memory of Gordon. We have gratefully accepted the offer, and hope to provide a worthy design.

Regrettably, no Waxwings accepted our hospitality this year.

C. DISBREY

President.

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THE RECORDER'S REPORT FOR 1971

The field activities of club members during 1971 can be considered to have been fairly successful. With the hide at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir in its second year an even greater coverage was obtained, and of particular interest were observations on visible migration at first light during late October and early November. Mr. D. W. Sill has compiled a comprehensive survey of observations made at the reservoir, for which the Recorder is very grateful.

In the early part of the year Bretton Park was not as well covered as usual on account of continued disturbance by dredging operations on the upper lake, and increased use of the lower lake for boating, resulting in disturbance of the watchers as well as the birds. However, weekly visits to this interesting area were made during autumn and winter.

The club could still benefit from greater coverage of other parts of the area particularly the woodlands lying roughly between Mirfield and Lepton, and between Kirkburton and Honley. To those members who have regularly worked local districts the committee gives its thanks.

The decision of Mr. M. L. Denton to spend most of his bird-watching time locally during the last four months of the year was very welcome as it meant we again had a qualified ringer in the district. The results of his efforts and a few supporting members will be found under the Ringing Report.

A new record total for one year of 149 species were observed in the district. Although these did not include any completely new additions to the Huddersfield list, four species turned up for the first time since the club's formation. These were Ferruginous and Long-tailed Ducks, Osprey and Hawfinch. For the record 201 species have been reliably reported in the district since 1920.

Some records that do not appear in the Classified List have been omitted because the observers have been unable to provide adequate evidence. Please try to make detailed notes at the time on any species that does not turn up frequently in our area. For the second time in three years Nightjar has been reported from near Houses Hill, but unfortunately the information has been received too late for confirmation.

To close I thank once again the records committee of Messrs. M. L. Denton, N. Leece and D. Sykes for their assistance, and to all other members responsible for the increased number of reports.

RINGING REPORT

With the departure of J. G. Ireland and M. J. Palmer from the Muddersfield area no birds were ringed in the first half of 1971, but when D. W. Sill qualified for a ringing permit, efforts were intensified and in the second half of 1971 M.L.D. and D.W.S. ringed 1,408 birds.

Six species were ringed for the first time namely:

Little Ringed Plover, Snipe, Jack Snipe, Curlew,
Greenshank, Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Ringing Recoveries

Key to symbols and terms used:

Age:

- Pull - nestling or chick not yet able to fly.
- Juv. - young able to fly freely.
- I.Y. - bird in its first year of life.
- F.G. - full grown, age uncertain.
- Ad. - adult at least one year old.

Sex:

- M. - male.
- F. - female.

Manner of recovery:

- X - found dead or dying.
- XA - long dead.
- V - caught or trapped and released with a ring.

Date of recovery:

Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets.

All recoveries of 5 Km. or over are published.

BLACK HEADED GULL

EF 38066 Ad. 17.1.71. Stanley, Wakefield (Yorks.)
53°44'N 1°28'W

X 9.6.71. Blackmoorfoot, Nr. Huddersfield
53°37'N 1°52'W
25 Km. W.S.W.

Helsinki

ST 01309 Pull. 15.6.70. Saaksmaki (Hame), Finland
61°09'N 24°02'E

XA 3.8.71. Blackmoorfoot

STARLING

Helsinki

A 420435 I.Y. 2.8.70. Espoo, (Uusima), Finland
60°09'N 24°44'E

XA 27.7.71. Bretton, Nr. Barnsley, (Yorks.)
53°38'N 1°34'W

BLUE TIT

JE 98584 I.Y. 25.8.71. Blackmoorfoot

X (11.12.71.) Lockwood, Huddersfield
53°38'N 1°48'W
5 Km. N.E.

GREENFINCH

EN 14747 Ad.F 3.4.70. Weston Under Lizard, (Staffs.)
52°41'N 2°17'W

X 16.6.71. Fartown, Huddersfield
53°40'N 1°47'W
110 Km. N.N.E.

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TWITE

Paris

1191233	F.G. M.	10.10.70.	Oygh-Plage (Pas de Calais), France 50°59'N 2°03'E
	X	19.5.71.	Holmfirth, Nr. Huddersfield 53°34'N 1°49'W

Interesting things have been learned about longevity in birds and the following are of interest. All the following had previously been ringed by T. D. Bisiker.

BLACKBIRD

GJ 21023

(ex CA 88520)	I.Y. M.	5.1.64.	Blackmoorfoot
	V	23.8.71.	" (8 years)

GJ 21084

(ex 83517R)	Juv.	10.8.63.	Blackmoorfoot
	V	19.10.71.	" (8 years)

GREENFINCH

BB 04640	I.Y. M.	20.1.63.	Blackmoorfoot
	V	31.8.71.	" (9 years)

HOUSE SPARROW

HP 19541

(ex AR 33650)	F.G. F	11.10.65.	Blackmoorfoot
	V	6.11.71.	" (at least 6 years)

Now that there are two ringers in Huddersfield again, it is hoped that 2,500 birds per annum will be ringed.

M. L. Denton.

BIRDS RINGED BY M. L. DENTON AND D. W. SILLDURING 1971

Species	Blackmoorfoot	Edgerton	Kirkburton	Deer Hill	Crosland Moor	Waterloo	Holmfirth	Digley	Lindley Moor	Wessenden	Totals
Little Ringed Plover				2							2
Snipe	7										7
Jack Snipe	1										1
Curlew										4	4
Common Sandpiper				3				1			4
Greenshank				1							1
Lsr. Bl-Bkd. Gull	1										1
Stock Dove	2										2
Tawny Owl	1	1									2
Swift				36							36
Kingfisher			2								2
Swallow	25			1							26
Jackdaw				1							1
Magpie	1								4		5
Jay		1									1
Great Tit	5	6	14								25
Blue Tit	28	16	66			1					111
Coal Tit		2	1								3
Willow Tit			4								4
Long Tailed Tit			5								5
Treecreeper	1	1	3								5
Wren	13	2	14			1					30
Dipper			6								6
Mistle Thrush	2		1								3

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Species	Blackmoorfoot	Edgerton	Kirkburton	Deer Hill	Crosland Moor	Waterloo	Holmfirth	Digley	Hindley Moor	Wessenden	Totals
Song Thrush	3	8	21				6				38
Redwing	3	8	7								18
Blackbird	34	273	29		1			4			341
Wheatear				2							2
Whinchat	1										1
Robin	30	9	27								66
Blackoap		1	4								5
Willow Warbler	4										4
Goldcrest	8		1								9
Duncock	30	17	19		1	1					88
Meadow Pipit	2		2	14							18
Pied Wagtail	2		2			12					16
Grey Wagtail			1								1
Starling	1	1	10		1						13
Greenfinch	182	18									200
Goldfinch			2								2
Linnet	11										11
Twite				8							8
Redpoll	1										1
Bullfinch	6	14	29								49
Chaffinch	2	9	3								14
Brambling	1										1
Reed Bunting	5										5
House Sparrow	8	9	1		60						78
Tree Sparrow	129		3								132
	548	406	297	68	63	15	6	5	4	4	1,408

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ATBLACKMOORFOOT RESERVOIR DURING 1971

Once again the hide really proved its worth during the year and the reservoir was well watched even through the winter months. In all, the hide had 59 visitors on 260 days, some 123 species were recorded compared with 92 of last year, and this gives some indication of how successful the year has been.

January

With the cold weather of December continuing into the new month the year got off to a very fine start indeed, when on the 1st, much to the delight of a few members, a fine male Snow was present. This bird had gone the next day and by the 3rd the water was completely frozen. 41 Mallard and Ca. 1,000 gulls were all that braved the atrocious conditions although a party of 60+ Lapwings moved West later in the day.

With a partial thaw by the 6th came 3 Shelduck, 3 Pochard and 6 Bewicks Swans, the Greenfinch roost at this time was estimated at 300+. On the 8th along with a rather mild S-Westerly, and sunny weather, no less than 32 Bewicks Swans were present, and after many comings and goings reached a peak of 49 on the 9th when 2 Pintail were also on the water. By the morning of the 11th thick fog had set in and although visibility was 'hopeless' 7 Bewicks Swans were recognised, and later in the day with conditions improving considerably the first Glaucous Gull of the winter was seen coming in to roost. This bird was present the following day when 7 Pochard was the maximum for the month.

With conditions varying from mist to thick fog over the next few days nothing of note was recorded until the 16th when 100+ Lapwings were in the area. The weather on the whole continued to be mild and a few Skylarks were singing up to the month end.

Due to the mild weather and the water level remaining low throughout, Snipe wintered in greater numbers than usual and reached a months maximum of 35 on the 22nd.

Little else was observed during the remaining days although Goldeneye and Teal reached their months peak on the last day with numbers of 7 and 6 respectively.

February

With winds generally keeping in the southern quarter the mild weather continued. On the 2nd a Jack Snipe was flushed from the banks and, earlier than usual, the first Golden Plover of the year with 4

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feeding at the water's edge. Snipe reached a maximum of 50 on the 7th, and on the same day a pair of Goldeneye were already displaying. This species was rather low in numbers, probably due to the mild conditions and peaked at only 8 on the 16th and 22nd, roosting Greenfinch numbers too were down during this mild spell to 200+. Apart from a Great Crested Grebe, 3 Wigeon, and an early Curlew on the 26th, little was noted until a change in wind direction to N-W on the 27th. This brought 1 Common Scoter and 6 Shelduck, the latter being present until the month's end when on the 28th a Glaucous Gull was again seen amongst the gull roost.

March

The Northerly winds continued and brought light snow showers on the first day of the month although temperatures were still high.

A Grey Wagtail was a 'first' for the year on the 5th as was a Twite which flew West on the same day. By the 7th Goldeneye had built up to 15 and a Collared Dove, still only an occasional visitor to Blackmoorfoot, was a new bird for the year.

On the 10th for the second successive winter Iceland Gulls were recorded, with 2 on this date and singles on three occasions until the last on the 22nd.

On the same day Goldeneye were at the winter's peak of 20, and a Shelduck was also on the water. Eight Pochard and a Great Crested Grebe had come in by the 13th when 5 Curlews were feeding in the fields behind the hide, and the first Redshank of the year flew West later in the day.

Snipe numbered 27 on the 19th, the highest total for March, and 3 Jack Snipe on the same day was an unusual record for our area. On the 24th 2 Stock Dove flew West, 2 Moorhens were seen, and 10 Shelduck came in. As the mild conditions persisted to the month end the following days were rather uneventful. Although on the 26th a flock of 700+ Starling flew N-W, and on the 27th a Coal Tit, an infrequent visitor to Blackmoorfoot, was another first for the year, and Goldeneye reached 13 on the last day.

April

The month opened with rather strong Easterlies and these brought about the first real signs of spring passage. On the 4th a Wheatear was seen, and the 6th brought a Chiff Chaff, a Goldcrest and a Redshank, which alighted momentarily before flying N-W. With the Easterlies continuing Curlew were moving over daily in small numbers, a Great Crested Grebe appeared on the 8th, and a Shoveler on the 10th. On the 12th came a White Wagtail, a Twite, 2 Redshanks and a party of 70+ Golden Plover containing both northern and southern forms.

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The first Hirundines arrived on the 15th when 3 Sand Martin flew West, and a Goldcrest was again recorded on the same day. The wind changed to S-W on the 18th, this brought a Dunlin, the first Swallow and a Willow Warbler, and 2 Wheatears passed through. Goldeneye numbers were constant at 8-14 until the last on the 28th, and with the exception of Swallow and Willow Warbler in small numbers daily little else was noted during the remainder of April, apart from 7 Shelduck on the 29th.

May

For the most part the weather was, as expected, rather mild. There was not much in the way of rainfall and subsequently the water level began to fall noticeably. Taking advantage of this on the 1st a Common Sandpiper was seen at the waters edge. On the 2nd an adult Kittiwake appeared which was rather an unusual time for this species. A brief and unexpected visitor was an Osprey which passed South on the 9th. The first on record for this reservoir. Yellow Wagtail were recorded throughout May the first being a pair on the 14th, and a House Martin was another 'first' the following day.

Nothing else of note was recorded until following the first rain of the month, a rather heavy fall on the 24th, 2 'Commio' Terns flew N-E on the 25th when the first Swift was recorded. A Corn Bunting flew West on the 27th and a Great Crested Grebe stayed until the months end.

June

With most of the spring passage now over things were, as to be expected, rather quiet. A pair of Shoveler though were interesting visitors on the 5th, these were joined later in the day by a Wigeon. A maximum of 40 Swift were counted on the 9th when Lapwing flocks were noticeably forming with 72 on this date, 96 on the 22nd and 170+ by the month end. A Grasshopper Warbler heard singing in front of the hide on the 21st was pleasing, but apart from an early Redshank, and Ringed Plover at the waters edge on the 27th little else was noted.

July

Despite barely any rain and no wind to speak of throughout July, autumn passage got underway with the advent of the month. On the 3rd along with a Redshank came 4 Common Sandpiper the months maximum, as were 8 Pochard on the same day. By the 5th a Greenshank had arrived with Lapwing numbers now up to Ca. 400, and little else until 5 Common Scoter moved through on the 10th and a Sparrowhawk on the 11th. Three Curlew came in from the East on the 13th when Lapwing had increased to Ca. 550. Wader passage did not disappoint in any way, Dunlin were recorded regularly with a maximum of 10 on the 25th.

Ringed Plover, though only in one's and two's, were recorded throughout the month as were Redshank in similar numbers. Curlew again in small numbers were noted flying East to West, and numbers generally were up on previous years. An Oystercatcher and a Whimbrel were visitors on the 29th, but these had moved on by the following day. The first Tern of the autumn a 'Comic', was seen on the 26th and the first Black Terns arrived on the 31st when the autumn peak of 20 House Martin was also recorded.

August

The month opened with quite heavy mist and this hindered observers somewhat although a Black Tern was seen on the 2nd. Towards evening on the 3rd heavy showers began, these continued throughout the night and brought the expected results, when amongst a number of birds grounded were a Sanderling, a Turnstone and 2 Whimbrel. More normal conditions returned the following day and apart from 2 Oystercatchers and 20-30 Golden Plovers on the 7th little else came until the 10th when, along with a strong NN Easterly, and more heavy rain, came a Little Ringed Plover, and a maximum of 17 Ringed Plovers, which were moving through in small numbers the following day, and had reached a total of 10 by nightfall. The wind stayed light and in the Eastern quarter for most of the remainder of August and new birds continued to be noted daily.

Lapwing reached a peak of 550 by the 16th, and on the 18th 3 Pintail flew West at dusk. By the 21st Yellow Wagtail had reached an autumn peak of 6, on the same date 3 Oystercatchers were on the East bank, and 2 Turnstones accompanied by 4 Golden Plovers flew West late in the day. The largest party of Curlew during the year were seen on the 22nd when 14 flew West, and on the same day 150+ Tree Sparrows were in the area with almost certainly more flocks of similar size over the following few weeks.

Tern passage was less impressive than last year - 'Comics' though recorded regularly, were only in small numbers, Black Terns also were only in one's or two's and were seen on several occasions.

Other interesting sightings over the next few days were Little Gull, Merlin, Sanderling and Ruff with 17 Wigeon on the 24th being the highest daily total for the year.

Swallow were moving through daily in small numbers, and were at a maximum of 50+ on the 28th. Pied Wagtail too were recorded daily reaching 20+ on the 22nd, and a Redstart on the 26th was surprisingly the only record for the year. The wind changed direction once again on the 29th, this time to S-W and much of an anti-climax came to rather an outstanding month, although an immature Little Gull added interest to the scene by remaining for a week feeding at the reservoir.

September

September commenced with the same Westerlies persisting over the first few days. Waders were still being recorded almost daily although numbers were tapering off somewhat, particularly Ringed Plover and Dunlin. However, a Greenshank was present on the 1st when 60+ Swallow was the months maximum, a Bar-Tailed Godwit flew West on the 2nd, and a Little Stint appeared on the 4th. Nine Sand Martins moved South on the 8th and the following day brought 2 Spotted Flycatchers, another 'first' for the year.

On the 10th came a welcome visitor in the shape of a Grey Plover and this bird remained until the 13th. Three Little Stints appeared for half an hour on the 11th before (of all directions) flying N-E.

Wildfowl numbers were by now increasing and on the 16th with light Easterlies came 7 Common Scoter and 24 Teal the largest number recorded for some time on this water. Pochard and Tufted Duck reached months peaks of 10 and 6 respectively, and Wigeon and Shelduck too appeared during the month. A Bar-Tailed Godwit was also seen on the 16th, as was a Green Sandpiper and a party of 4 Ruff which flew West just before nightfall. Things quietened down a little during the latter half of September although Swallows were still moving through the area, 60+ flew South on the 25th as did 20+ House Martins. An odd Wheatear and Whinchat were still being seen as with light Easterlies and no rainfall the month drew to a close.

October

Though for the first few days winds were variable and light for the greater part of the month heavy Westerlies prevailed, and at times they almost reached gale force.

Snipe numbers had reached 40 by the 1st and 60+ by the 5th, when a Spotted Redshank was a distinguished visitor to the banks.

Tufted Duck were up to 14 by the 6th, on the same day a Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen to drop into the grounds, and Mallard at this time had reached a months peak of 36.

In a year when there has been an apparent increase in Goldencrest numbers this was in evidence at Blackmoorfoot, at least 15 birds were calling from the West bank on the 6th when in past years this species has been seldom recorded. The first Fieldfare of the winter were seen on the 8th, and the following day brought 4 Pintail which were recorded on a few occasions before the months end. The first Redwing were not recorded until the 14th and the only Short-Eared Owl of the year came on the 18th.

Over the next few days quite a good deal of movement over the area at first light was noted. This was predominantly Finches although some Skylark and Meadow Pipit were involved, as were late Swallows and a Sand Martin. Chaffinches were at 400+ on three occasions, Brambling reached 67 on the 24th with Linnet and Redpoll at respective peaks of 165 and 113 the day before. Other interesting observations were 23 Reed Buntings on the 23rd, 19 Goldfinches and 10 Grey Wagtails on the 24th and 12 Siskins on the 29th. Over 2,000 birds were counted on two occasions in as little as two hours and movement on this scale is something new to observers at Blackmoorfoot.

A Glaucous Gull on the 23rd was early and a Whooper Swan which flew West on the 29th was the only record for the year. These were the most notable during the remainder of October and the heavy Westerlies which had prevailed for so long had now subsided considerably.

November

The early part of the month was mild and although things were rather quiet a Jack Snipe was flushed on the 6th and a Stonechat was on the East bank on the same day. Colder weather on the 13th brought more northern migrants with a Jack Snipe and a Woodcock, and Lapwings numbered 400+ at this time. With the 14th came 2 Pink-Footed Geese and again Jack Snipe and Woodcock with little else until the 20th when 2 Dunlin and a Curlew appeared, and on the following day 2 Goosander flew N-W. Four Bewicks Swans were on the water on the 26th as were 4 Wigeon and a Snow Bunting was a 'first' for Blackmoorfoot on the same day after cold Easterlies on the previous day. Goldeneye were recorded daily throughout November with a maximum of 6, and with a return to milder conditions nothing out of the ordinary was recorded up to the end of the month.

December

Almost the whole of the month was unseasonably mild and the water remained open throughout. The water level was still very low after a dry summer, and this enabled Snipe to build up to 80+ by the 10th and a Jack Snipe was also seen on the 5th.

A Great Crested Grebe and 14 Bewicks Swans were on the water on the 11th and a flock of ca. 1,000 Lapwings was seen on the 13th. On the 19th Mallard were at 37 when Goldeneye reached 12 and a goosander flew West, with the 21st bringing the second Snow of the year.

Teal numbered 9 on the 28th, this was the maximum for the month and the same day 9 Canada Geese flew N-E but these were all else of note as the continuing mild weather saw out the year.

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Our thanks once again are extended to Mr. & Mrs. Jollans for their continued tolerance of our presence in the grounds, and to all visitors to the hide who helped to make this our most successful year at Blackmoorfoot.

CLASSIFIED LISTGreat Crested Grebe

Bretton. Two pairs reared a total of 5 young. Recorded from February 23rd to the year end. December records are unusual and doubtless due to the mild weather. Maximum of 12 on April 25th.

Ingbirchworth. One pair attempted to nest, results not known.

Occasional records from Blackmoorfoot (1 on February 18th), Deer Hill and Scout Dyke (6 on April 25th.)

Little Grebe

Recorded more frequently than in 1970.

Bretton. Two records early in the year then from 1 - 6 regularly from October 10th to December 27th.

Digley/Bilberry. 1 - 2 from September 7th to October 7th. Other records from Blackmoorfoot, Canal near Deighton, Ingbirchworth and Scout Dyke (6 on October 17th).

Cormorant

Singles seen at Bretton on January 24th (J.M.) and September 4th (P.S.) and at Blackmoorfoot on May 3rd (D.W.S.).

Heron

Records of over sixty sightings which is more than double any previous year.

Bretton. Most frequently recorded from Bretton where there were from 1 - 7 between August 8th and December 27th.

Digley. 1 - 4 from August 5th-November 17th.

Kirkburton. September/October regularly, with 6 on September 11th.

Blackmoorfoot. 1 - 2 on eleven dates and also from Ingbirchworth, Longwood and Scout Dyke.

Mallard

Blackmoorfoot. Present throughout the year with maximum of 51 on January 1st.

Bretton. Breeding successfully. Maxima of 167 on February 14th and 157 on September 12th. Notable flocks elsewhere were 60+ at Ringstone Edge on November 27th and 80 at Royd Moor on December 12th.

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Teal

Blackmoorfoot. 1 - 13 regularly from August 18th-December 28th, maximum 24 on September 16th.

Bretton. Regular outside the breeding season with a maximum of 16 on January 2nd.

1♂ at Black Moss on April 11th was interesting, and 14 were at Bilberry on September 16th. Also records of small numbers at five other waters in spring and autumn.

Gadwall

Bretton. 1 male seen on six dates from January 10th to February 9th. (N.L., J.E.D. et al.)

Cupwith Reservoir. 1 on November 28th (J.M.D.).

Wigeon

Small numbers from seven waters January-April and August-November notably Royd Moor 13 on January 17th and Blackmoorfoot 17 on August 24th.

Pintail

Blackmoorfoot. 2 on January 9th; 3 on August 18th; and during October 1 on 8th, 4 on 10th, 3 on 17th and 3 on 29th-30th.

Bretton. 1 male on January 24th and February 14th.

Shoveler

Blackmoorfoot. 1 on April 11th-12th; 2 on June 5th and 1 on October 17th.

Bretton. 1 on October 31st.

Scaup

Blackmoorfoot. 1 female on October 23rd-24th (P.B., R.S.H., N.L.).

Tufted Duck

Blackmoorfoot. Only four records early in the year, but then almost daily from June 26th-October 30th with three later records. 15 present on three days in October.

Bretton. Isolated records of small numbers January-May and August-September. An autumn build-up observed from October 10th was exceptional and monthly maxima were as follows:-

October (31st) - 43 November (14th) - 66 December (12th) - 100

Also recorded at Black Moss, Deer Hill, Inghirahworth, Royd Moor and Scout Dyke.

Pochard

Blackmoorfoot. From 1 -- 8 January-March and July-December. Most frequent during January, September and October.

Bretton. Recorded on nine dates January-April with 20 on January 24th. A similar build-up in the autumn was noted as with Tufted Duck. Monthly maxima were: October (31st) - 68, November (7th, 14th) - 20, December (5th) - 33.

Also recorded at Broadstones, Deer Hill, Digley, Ringstone Edge, Royd Moor and Scout Dyke.

Ferruginous Duck

1 female was seen at Bretton on November 7th along with Pochard and Tufted Duck (J.E.D., D.M., T.C.). Fourth record for the area.

Goldeneye

Blackmoorfoot. Regular from January 1st-April 28th and October 21st-December 28th. Maximum of 20 on March 11th.

Also recorded at Bretton, Cupwith, Digley (January-March, November-December), Deer Hill, Ingbirchworth, March Haigh, Ringstone Edge and Royd Moor.

Long-tailed Duck

1 male at Deer Hill from May 2nd to 5th (N.L.) Fourth record for the area.

Common Scoter

Blackmoorfoot. 1 on February 27th-28th (D.M., D.H., D.B. et al.); 5 on July 10th (T.S., T.D.) and 7 on September 16th (M.L.D.)

Bretton. 3 on April 14th (M.L.D., J.M.).

Goosander

Blackmoorfoot. 2 on November 21st (J.M.L., N.L.) and 1 on December 19th (M.L.D.).

Digley. 2 on April 7th (M.L.D.)

Snow

Blackmoorfoot. 1 male on January 1st (J.E.D. et al.) and 1 on December 21st (P.B.). Fourth and fifth records for the area.

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Shelduck

Blackmoorfoot. 3 on January 6th; 6 on February 27th-28th; 1 on March 11th, 3 on 24th and 28th; 7 on April 29th; 1 on September 18th-29th; 1 on October 1st; 2 on November 26th; 1 on December 4th and 4 on 26th.

Pink-footed Goose

Blackmoorfoot. 2 landed on the mud at 09.30 hrs. on November 14th and remained for about an hour before departing eastwards (M.L.D., J.M.D., D.W.S.).

Bretton. 1 adult (presumably an escape) observed with the Canada Goose flock regularly from June 9th-December 19th.

Canada Goose

Bretton. Present all the year. The only count recorded of juveniles was of 27 on August 8th. Maximum of 154 on December 19th.

Blackmoorfoot. 9 flew N.E. at 10.00 hrs. on December 28th.

Mute Swan

Records of 1 - 4 immatures at Bretton, Ingbirchworth and Lockwood between January and March. A pair nested on the River Colne (King's Mill Lane) but no juveniles were seen.

Whooper Swan

Blackmoorfoot. 1 flew W. on October 29th at 07.50 hrs. (D.W.S.)

Bretton. 4 arrived at about 10.30 hrs. on October 24th. (J.E.D., B.C., B.W.W. et al.)

Ringstone Edge. 2 on January 10th and 24th (J.E.D.)

Bewick's Swan

Blackmoorfoot. Unusual numbers during January. The figures refer to adults and immatures respectively for each date

January 5th-6th	2 and 4
8th	22 and 10
9th	22 and 10 at 11.15 hrs.
	35 and 14 at 11.35 hrs.
	34 and 14 at 16.00 hrs.
10th	32 and 13
11th	2 and 5

Later in the year 4 adults on November 22nd and 14 on December 11th.

Ingbirchworth. On January 9th 19 adults and 12 immatures and January 10th 20 and 12, these birds being present at the same time as those at Blackmoorfoot.

Ringstone Edge. 4 adults on January 24th.

cont'd.

Sparrow Hawk

Records from two districts only.

Osprey

Blackmoorfoot. On May 9th 1 came in from N.W. and flew at tree top height parallel to the bank, and after hovering briefly departed to the S. (P.B.) Third record for the area.

Merlin

Records of 2 near Emley on January 9th (N.L.); 1 at Digley on April 7th (M.L.D.), and singles flying W. at Blackmoorfoot on August 26th (J.M.D., M.L.D., D.W.S.) and October 8th (D.W.S.)†

Kestrel

Recorded again from many localities with proof of breeding in some of these.

Partridge

Breeding evidence from three localities.

Water Rail

Heard on several dates at Bretton where 1 was seen on December 26th (J.M.L., N.L.).

Coot

Bretton. Brod successfully again. Post breeding season flock began to increase from early August the monthly maxima being: September - 63; October - 103; November - 126; December (27th) - 164. These numbers are greater than any recorded since early 1965. Records also from Blackmoorfoot, Ingbirchworth, Kirkheaton and Scout Dyke.

Oystercatcher

Blackmoorfoot. 1 on July 29th, and in August 2 on 7th, 3 on 9th and 1 on 21st.

Deer Hill. 1 on July 12th and 1 on August 12th.

Lapwing

Breeding in the district. 200-1,000 in the Blackmoorfoot locality from July to the year end. 600+ at Ringstone Edge in September.

Ringed Plover

Blackmoorfoot. 1 on June 27th, then 1 - 10 on thirty dates between July 24th and September 13th. and a maximum of 17 on August 10th.

cont'd.

Ringed Plover-cont'd.

Deer Hill. In May 3 on 20th, 2 on 26th and 4 on 27th and singles on June 15th and 30th, August 7th and September 7th.

Little Ringed Plover

Bred at a new site in the district where 2 young were reared. Recorded from May 30th to August 15th (M.L.D., D.W.S. et al.)

Grey Plover

Blackmoorfoot. 1 in winter plumage September 10th-13th (M.L.D., J.E.D. et al.) Third record for the area.

Golden Plover

Breeding in moorland localities. Few records early in the year at Blackmoorfoot, but regular from July 20th - December 24th maximum being 201 passing W. on October 23rd. Flocks of about 120 near Broadstones on September 12th and 100+ at Ringstone Edge on December 26th. were notable.

Turnstone

Blackmoorfoot. In August 1 on 4th, and 2 flying W. on 21st.

Snipe

Breeding in moorland localities.

Blackmoorfoot. Present throughout the year except for late May - early July. Numbers reached 80+ on December 10th.

Jack Snipe

Blackmoorfoot. 1 on February 2nd. (D.W.S.); 3 on March 19th (D.W.S.) and 2 on 20th (D.P., S.P.); 1 on November 6th (M.L.D., T.S.), 1 on 13th (M.L.D., D.W.S.), 1 on 14th (M.L.D.) and 1 on December 5th (D.W.S.).

Brotton. 1 on November 14th (J.E.D.) and 2 on 21st (J.M.L., N.L.)

Woodcock

Singles seen at four localities between Stockmoor and Cawthorne at dusk on May 18th and 25th. All other records were in November as follows: 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 13th and 14th, 1 at Beaumont Park on 21st and 2 in a plantation near Wilshaw on 11th and 15th.

Whimbrel

Blackmoorfoot. 1 on May 2nd (R.H., S.H., P.B.) and 2 on August 4th (J.M.L., S.N.A.).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Blackmoorfoot. 1 flew W. on September 2nd (D.P., S.P., M.L.D.) and 1 flew in from the E. on September 16th (M.L.D.)

Green Sandpiper

Singles at Digley on June 27th (J.M.D.) and Blackmoorfoot on September 16th (D.M., T.D. et al.)

Common Sandpiper

First record from Bretton on April 19th, last from Blackmoorfoot on September 12th. Breeding in moorland localities.

Redshank

A total of fifty sightings between March 13th and September 12th from moorland sites and reservoirs represents a notable increase on previous years. Maximum of 9 at Black Moss on June 14th.

Spotted Redshank

1 on October 6th at Blackmoorfoot (M.L.D., D.W.S.) Fifth record for the district.

Greenshank

Blackmoorfoot. Singles on July 5th, August 10th, 11th and 16th, September 1st and 2 on September 4th.

Deer Hill. 1 from May 15th - 20th, and in August 2 on 1st and 4th and 3 on 5th.

Ingbirchworth. 2 on August 8th.

Heaton Lodge S.F. 1 on August 8th.

Knot

At Deer Hill 2 on May 25th - 1 in winter and 1 in summer plumage (N.L.) and 1 in winter plumage on November 13th-14th (N.L., J.E.D. et al.) Fourth and fifth records for the district.

Little Stint

Blackmoorfoot. In September 1 on 4th (D.W.S., P.B.), 2 on 5th (P.B., D.M.) and 3 on 11th (B.W.W., T.S.)

Dunlin

Blackmoorfoot. First on April 18th, later regular from July (10 on 25th) to September with three November records up to 28th.

Deer Hill. Regular from April 13th to August 1st, maxima of 15 on four days in June. Also at Black Moss (18+ on June 10th), Cupwith and Ringstone Edge.

Sandwling

Blackmoorfoot. August singles on 4th and 23rd (many observers).

Ruff

Blackmoorfoot. 1 on August 26th (D.S.) and 4 on September 16th (D.W.S., D.P., M.L.D.).

Ringstone Edge. 1 on September 12th (J.E.D.).

Great Black-Backed Gull

Present in the Blackmoorfoot roost January-April and August-December. Maximum count 500+ on December 24th. Also regularly observed at Ringstone Edge.

Lesser Black-Backed Gull

Present practically throughout the year at Blackmoorfoot with peak numbers of 350+ in early August.

Herring Gull

Recorded at Blackmoorfoot in every month of the year. Maximum count of 800+ on December 24th.

Common Gull

Occurred regularly at Blackmoorfoot except for the period mid May-mid July. Maximum counted were about 275 on January 5th and 200+ on November 21st and December 24th.

Glaucous Gull

Blackmoorfoot. It is probable that at least two individuals were present on various dates early in the year. A second year bird was reported on four dates January 11th-21st and fourteen dates February 28th-March 22nd. An adult was present on March 22nd and 26th. A third year bird was seen on October 24th (D.W.S., M.L.D., P.B. et al.)

Iceland Gull

A second year bird was at Blackmoorfoot on March 10th and an adult was seen on this date and also on March 11th, 19th, 22nd and 24th. (M.L.D., A.S.G., J.M. et al.)

Little Gull

Blackmoorfoot. 1 adult on August 23rd (D.W.S., J.M.D. et al) and 1 immature from August 27th-September 2nd (F.J.R., J.E.D., J.M.L. et al.). 1 adult at Heaton Lodge S.F. (Birfield) on September 5th (D.L.J.).

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Black-Headed Gull

Recorded throughout the year at Blackmoorfoot where the fantastic number of 7,000 were estimated to be present in the roost on January 5th. Successful breeding on local moors was again prevented by human interference.

Gull Sp.

Once again a few attempts were made to count the roost at Blackmoorfoot resulting in figures of 8,000+ on January 5th, 3,000+ on August 21st and 4,000+ on December 24th.

Kittiwake

Blackmoorfoot. 1 adult on May 2nd and 1 immature on August 15th (P.B.)

Black Tern

Blackmoorfoot. 2 on July 31st (T.S., S.P., D.P.), 1 on August 1st-2nd (T.D., J.M.D. et al.), 1 on 23rd (N.L.) and 2 on 24th (D.W.S.)

Common/Arctic Tern

Rather less dramatic number at Blackmoorfoot than in 1970. 2 on May 25th; 1 on July 26th and 31st; 1 on August 21st, 4 on 22nd, 2 on 24th and 26th and 1 on September 4th.

Elsewhere 1 flying E. along R. Colne at Linthwaite on May 13th; 5 at Deer Hill on June 8th and 7 on August 9th; 2 at Cupwith on August 22nd, and 1 at Bretton on September 12th.

Stock Dove

Few observers seem to note this species. Breeding in at least four localities. Flocks of 70-80 at Royd Moor on January 10th; 30 at High Flatts on February 14th and 19 at Outlane Moor on December 26th.

Wood Pigeon

Breeding common in the area. Large flocks reported in January as follows:- Netherton 900+ on 9th; Crosland Hill 600+ N. on 18th, Almondbury 700+ S on 20th and Dean Wood 600-700 on 31st.

Turtle Dove

Singles at Emroyd Common May 14th; Stocksnoor/Midgley May 18th; Greenhead Park June 13th and Bretton August 18th and 2 at Cawthorne on June 16th.

Collared Dove

Records covering all months from Mirfield, Kirkheaton, Waterloo, Enley, Birkby/Edgerton, Blackmoorfoot/Crosland Moor and West Vale. A steady increase in records received is occurring annually.

cont'd.

Cuckoo

Very few records received. The first was heard at Digley on April 22nd and the last was also from here on July 7th. Other records from Dean Head, Cawthorne, Middlestown, Ingbirchworth and Yatcholme.

Barn Owl

1 between Clayton West and Bretton on October 15th.

Little Owl

Breeding evidence from Digley (two pairs), Lindley Moor and Linthwaite.

Tawny Owl

Breeding evidence from one locality only, but present in many others throughout the district.

Short-Eared Owl

1 at Black Moss on April 28th (J.M.) and 1 at Blackmoorfoot on October 18th (D.B.)

Swift

First near Maltham on May 7th and last at Blackmoorfoot on September 8th. 120+ were at Deer Hill on June 5th and 100+ at Aspley on June 11th.

Kingfisher

Bretton. Singles on July 6th and 12th, October 23rd and 24th with 2 on 31st and 1 again on November 7th.

Kirkburton. 1 on September 12th and 18th and 2 on October 27th.

Linthwaite. 2 on November 28th by R. Colne.

Green Woodpecker

1 at Beaumont Park on April 12th was the only sighting reported.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Nesting reported at Beaumont Park and Bretton. Records also from Gregory Spring Wood, Middlestown, Cawthorne, Kirkburton, Butternab Wood and Digley.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Bretton. Single males on April 13th (D.W.S.), May 2nd (J.E.D., J.M.D.) October 6th (D.S.), November 14th and 1 female on November 7th (J.E.D.).

cont'd.

Skylark

Movement noted W, and also S, at Blackmoorfoot during October and November. Notably 445 → W. on October 23rd and 384 → W on October 24th.

Swallow

First at Bretton on April 13th, last at Blackmoorfoot on October 24th, 100+ → S. at Cupwith on August 22nd.

House Martin

First at Bretton on April 17th and last at Blackmoorfoot on November 14th. Holding on successfully to the new breeding areas colonised in recent years.

Sand Martin

First at Bretton on April 17th where there were 10 on May 5th and last at Blackmoorfoot on October 23rd. Recorded on twelve days at these localities and also 2 at Ingbirchworth on May 16th.

Rook

A flock of about 3,000 in the Storthes Hall area on November 28th.

Maggie

Roosts of 100+ near Holywell Brook and up to 80 at Blackmoorfoot during the winter months.

Jay

Records from breeding areas as follows:- Beaumont Park, Bretton, Cawthorne, Gregory Spring, Grinescar and Liley Woods.

Willow Tit

Breeding at Bretton Park where there were 9 on November 14th, and also seen regularly at Kirkburton (4 on September 11th). Other records from Digloy 2 on September 22nd, 1 near Deighton on April 7th and September 3rd and 2 in the I.C.I. grounds on October 5th and Blackmoorfoot 3 on October 24th.

Long-Tailed Tit

Breeding at Almondbury, Bretton and Dean Wood, and probably in other woodlands. A total of 20+ in the Bretton area on October 31st.

cont'd.

Nuthatch

1 at Thongsbridge on September 4th (R.V.G.) and 1 at Kirkburton on October 27th (D.W.S., M.L.D.)

Tree Creeper

Recorded regularly in old woodlands in most of which breeding has occurred.

Dipper

Continues to do well in the area. Reported during the breeding season from streams near the following localities:- Bolster Moor, Wessenden, Digley, Yateholme and Holnbridge. 6 were ringed at Kirkburton during September/October.

Fieldfare

The only large flock in the spring was one of 450-500 near Wilshaw from March 31st-April 13th, and 20+ at Deer Hill on April 20th was the last spring record. 18 flying W. over Grosland Moor on October 6th were the first for autumn. Most notable movement at Blackmoorfoot was 468 → S. on October 29th.

Redwing

Largest spring flocks were of about 60 each at Bretton and Grimescar, and the last was of about 10 at Wilshaw on April 13th.

First autumn occurrence of up to 100 at Digley on October 4th when numbers were passing over Dalton after dark. Movements noted at Blackmoorfoot in October/November particularly November 27th when 145 → W.

A roost at Edgerton had a maximum of 250+ on October 27th with smaller numbers to the year end.

Ring Ouzel

First record of 1 male at Digley on March 24th where there were 9 males and 2 females on April 12th. Breeding at Buckstones, Digley and Wessenden, and the last record also from Digley on September 12th.

Blackbird

Nest with eggs at Meltham as early as January 31st. 300+ roosting at Edgerton from October 27th to the year end.

Wheatear

Brooding in moorland areas. First at Blackmoorfoot on April 4th where there were 21 males and 1 female on the 17th, and the last record also from here on September 28th.

cont'd.

Stonechat

1 female or juvenile at Blackmoorfoot quarries on November 6th (D.W.S., J.M.D.)

Whinchat

First at Deer Hill on April 28th and last at Blackmoorfoot on September 26th. Breeding records of small numbers at Dean Head, Digley and Ingbirchworth.

Redstart

First at Digley on April 23rd and the last were singles here and at Deighton on September 17th. Breeding proof from four localities.

Grasshopper Warbler

Heard in song at Dean Wood on May 1st, Blackmoorfoot June 21st, and Royd Moor August 8th.

Sedge Warbler

Singles at Bretton on May 8th and August 8th.

Blackcap

First record was of 2 males and 1 female at Bretton where there was a late female on November 7th. 1 male was caught and ringed at Edgerton on November 13th. Breeding records from Beaumont Park and Bretton only but probably in suitable localities elsewhere.

Garden Warbler

First record from Bretton on May 9th where breeding took place. The only other records were of singles at Cawthorne, Deffer Wood and Berry Brow which provided the last record on September 9th.

Whitethroat

Fewer records received than in 1970. This species does not seem to have regained its status of 1968. First record from Royd Moor on April 25th, last at Bretton on September 12th.

Lesser Whitethroat

1 male in song at Bretton on June 19th (T.C.). Only the third record for the last twelve years.

Willow Warbler

First near Deighton on April 9th, and last at Blackmoorfoot on September 18th and a Phylloscopus Warbler at Edgerton on September 25th. Fairly common and well distributed breeder.

cont'd.

Chiffchaff

First at Blackmoorfoot on April 6th. Then only noted at Bretton, Beaumont Park, Waterloo, Penny Spring Wood and Deffer Wood.

Goldcrest

Breeding confirmed in conifers at Bretton Park and Riding Wood (Yatcholme). At least 15 in the plantations at Blackmoorfoot on October 6th.

Spotted Flycatcher

First at Brockholes on May 15th and last at Kirkburton on September 19th. Well distributed breeder in small numbers.

Pied Flycatcher

1 male at Grimescar on April 26th and 1 female or juvenile at Digley on August 25th.

Meadow Pipit

Common breeder on moorlands and higher meadows. Small numbers present in the winter. Notable movements over Blackmoorfoot in October included 113 → S and 33 → W on 21st, 75 → S on 23rd and 52 → S and 89 → SW on 24th.

Tree Pipit

First at Bretton on April 25th and last at Grimescar on August 23rd. Present in the breeding season at Bretton, Cawthorne, Deffer Wood and Yatcholme.

Pied Wagtail

Well distributed and breeding in many localities. 78 in the Waterloo roost on October 27th. Singles of the continental subspecies White Wagtail in April at Blackmoorfoot on the 12th, 16th and 17th and at Digley on the 15th.

Grey Wagtail

Recorded regularly from streams at Digley, Kirkburton and Lindley Moor. Seen in the late summer/autumn at various waters and notably 10 flying S. at Blackmoorfoot on October 24th.

Yellow Wagtail

First at Bretton on April 25th and last were 4 at Blackmoorfoot on September 12th. Breeding in both these localities.

Waxwing

This species continued to be seen regularly in the area following the autumn invasion.

A full list of this years sightings as follows:-

January 1st -	Fartown/Sheepridge small numbers
February 27th	regularly, maximum about 40 on
	January 3rd.
January 4th - 10th	From 2 - 30 variously reported in
	Marsh/Gledholt.
" 5th - 6th	c.25 near C. Defence H.Q. (Town
	Centre)
" 8th	53 Thornton Lodge
" 10th	5 Brookholes
" 11th	5 Deighton
" 14th	2 - 3 Salendine Nook
" 16th	2 Netherton
" 20th	1 Netherton
" 24th	11 Wooldale
" 28th	10 SE over Crosland Moor
February 2nd	2 - 4 Honley
" 6th	40 - 50 Netherton
" 11th	2 Kirkheaton
" 16th	8 Deighton
March 6th - 7th	8 - 9 Marsh
" 13th - 14th	10 Malthan
" 16th	1 Almondbury
" 24th	2 Fartown
" 29th	3 Brighouse
" 31st - April 8th	5 - 25 Almondbury/Moldgreen
April 2nd	5 Oakes
" 21st	2 Netherton
November 27th	1 Dalton

Foods again included Ash, Cotoneaster, Hawthorn and Holly.

Starling

A flock of about 50 near West Vale on December 28th included two unusual birds one with a white rump and the other with white rump and tail.

Hawfinch

1 in a garden at Crosland Moor on March 31st (M.L.D.).

cont'd.

Greenfinch

Well distributed and common in the breeding season. The roost at Blackmoorfoot held about 1,000 from March 8th - 17th. A flock of 300-400 was near Broadstones reservoir on October 17th.

Goldfinch

Records throughout the year from several localities. A flock of up to 24 at Kirkburton in September, and 20 near Deighton in November.

Siskin

Blackmoorfoot. The following observed flying S. on the morning of each day:- October 1 on 21st, 9 on 23rd, 5 on 24th and 12 on 29th; November 5 on 7th and 1 on 27th.

Bretton. Feeding on alders by the river and lakes January 13th - 13, February 14th - 4; October 24th - c.40, 31st - 3+; November 14th - 44+, 26th - 25; December 5th - 16, 12th - 19, 19th - 13 and 27th - 21.

Digley. November 3rd c.10.

Fenay Bridge. November 15th 10 (alders)

Kirkburton. October 10th - 9, 28th - 6; November 10th - 2.

Midgley. January 24th - 11.

Riding Wood. February 25th - 6+ in larches.

The above represents an exceptional year, especially the autumn.

Linnets

Breeding in good numbers throughout the area. Notable movement in October at Blackmoorfoot included 111 → S on 21st and 137 → S on 23rd. Flocks in the Deighton/Leeds Rd. area showed maxima of c.200 on March 1st and c.150 on September 3rd.

Twite

Breeding in the usual moorland localities at Buckstones, Dean Head, Deer Hill and Holme. Flock of c.50 near Malthan Cop on August 8th.

Redpoll

Breeding in at least five localities. Flock of 50 - 100 in Riding Wood on April 20th. Another of the many species that was observed moving over Blackmoorfoot in the autumn. Movements of the following numbers S. in October 50 on 21st, 89 on 23rd, 73 on 24th, 43 on 29th.

cont'd.

Bullfinch

Small numbers breeding in many localities.

Chaffinch

Still a fairly common breeding bird despite reductions over the last 20 years. Late October movement at Blacknoorfoot included 338 → S on 21st, 285 → W, 127 → S on 23rd, 166 → S, 231 → W on 24th.

Brambling

Bretton. Small numbers from January 17th - April 28th, with a maximum of 30-40 on February 27th. Autumn records of singles only on October 31st and November 7th.

Blacknoorfoot. October movement 15 → S on 21st, 13 → S on 23rd, 67 → NW on 24th and 1 → N on 29th.

Records of 2 each at Deighton, Digley and Kirkburton in November.

Yellowhammer

Well distributed in the breeding season. Flock of c.50 at Holmbridge on March 10th.

Corn Bunting

Few records received. Breeding season reports from Blacknoorfoot, Crosland Hill, Emley Moor, Stainland and Ingbirchworth.

Reed Bunting

Breeding in marshy areas especially in moorland localities but also at such lower levels such as Bretton and by the River Colne.

Shore Bunting

1 female on the shore at Blacknoorfoot on November 26th (J.E.D.)
1 male feeding by tracks near Cupwith on November 27th (J.E.D., M.D.D. et al.)

Tree Sparrow

Breeding in several localities, but not well reported. Over 250 feeding amongst grasses at Blacknoorfoot in late August. 130 near Bradley on April 26th.

In addition the following species, all of which breed in the area, were recorded during the year:-

Red Grouse	Jackdaw	Wren	Robin
Pheasant	Great Tit	Mistle Thrush	Dunnock
Moorhen	Blue Tit	Song Thrush	House Sparrow
Carriion Crow	Coal Tit	Curlew	

cont'd.

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(with apologies for any omissions)

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and many members of the general public who
contributed Waxwing records.

---ooOoo---