

*B. W. Woodcock*

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**1972**

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**HUDDERSFIELD**  
**BIRDWATCHERS'**  
**CLUB**

**PRICE 25p**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1972

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Many encouraging features emerged from the activities of our Club in 1972. I am pleased to record that membership passed the 100 mark during the year and that evening meetings showed an average attendance of 57.

It is gratifying to see our Field Meetings attracting full coaches - which in turn lead to relatively cheap fares! Thanks to Mr. Cantwell for organising the trips and, indeed, for volunteering to undertake the job.

The year saw the acquisition of our Presidential Badge of Office, its commissioning being made possible by Mrs. Kilvington's gift to the Club. I am proud to wear this fine memorial to Gordon, and congratulate Mr. Riley on the way he followed up his design project to such a satisfactory conclusion - ably assisted by Messrs. Disbrey and Slater.

1972 was the fifth and last year of the Atlas Survey. Our collected records were duly submitted and the task of collating results on a National scale will now be proceeding. It will be fascinating to have access to the Survey report in course of time.

Much hard work goes on behind the scenes and I express thanks to Mr. Dale and his Records Sub-Committee, to Miss Senior our Treasurer, and to the Committee, for all they do on our behalf. A special word of appreciation to Mr. Slater who became our Secretary at the beginning of the year. His admirable management of the work involved has shown how fortunate we are in having his services.

Our Ringers led by Mr. Denton, continue to break their own records, as witness the details following in this Annual Report. We applaud their dedication to this wide field of research and offer them all possible support.

In all, I feel, a pleasing year which is reflected in practical terms in the following pages - pages to which we have all contributed.

B. COCKING.

CLUB PRESIDENT.

## RECORDER'S REPORT

As will be seen by referring to the various sections of this report, 1972 was another year of great interest and activity. Once again Blackmoorfoot Reservoir was watched for a greater number of days and hours than before. The only end to this increase will be when the hide is used for 365 days in a year! David Sill has again prepared a thorough summary of observations of sightings at the reservoir. Movement of birds across the area does not of course, in every instance indicate migration or weather movements. For example Golden Plovers regularly spend March and April feeding on open country on moorland fringes and are constantly seen crossing the area between feeding grounds. A number of interesting movements are recorded however, such as Waders and Terns during August and September and Thrushes in October.

Mike Denton and David Sill along with four trainees, have intensified their ringing activities. Particularly noteworthy is the work done at Lees Mill where the numbers of Swallows ringed should produce interesting results, particularly if the activities are continued in the future.

Breeding records are summarised by the results of the B.T.C. Atlas survey of the five 10 K.M. squares covered by club members. Gratifying additions to breeding species included the return of Tufted Duck and confirmation of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, both at Bretton.

Two species were added to the area list, Black Grouse and Rock Pipit. Other additions to the clubs list since 1966 are Peregrine and Long-eared Owl and, confirmed at last, Nightjar.

For reference the area from which records are accepted for this report consists of the 10 K.M. squares S.E. 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, and in addition the area south of the River Calder in square S.E. 12.

The recorder thanks Messrs. M.L. Denton, N. Leese and D. Sykes for their assistance in sorting out ticklish problems, and all other members who have sent in reports during 1972, and also Mr. R.L. Brook of Wakefield for kindly sending details of his own observations, and those of other members of Wakefield Naturalists Society, from Bretton Park and surrounding districts in which they do some of their field work.

Finally we hope that members and friends will like our new style of publication.

J.E. DALE

## RINGING REPORT

1972 was rather an exceptional year for the Huddersfield ringers in that 3,344 birds of 64 species were ringed, 13 being ringed for the first time namely: Kestrel, Long Eared Owl, Knot, Cuckoo, Sand Martin, Carrion Crow, Ring Ouzel, Grasshopper Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Wood Warbler, Tree Pipit, Yellow Wagtail and Crossbill. As the birds were not ringed in sufficiently large enough numbers it is unlikely that any will be recovered as the average recovery rate is about 2.5% and is as low as .2% for some species, so it can be seen that large numbers of birds have to be ringed to produce results.

The finding of a Swallow roost near Blackmoorfoot boosted the ringing total by 1,359, a further 8 being caught bearing British rings, these being listed below, 2 were also caught that had been ringed at Blackmoorfoot during 1971. Later in the year Pidd Wagtails took over the roost with 96 being ringed, other interesting birds caught included Moorhen, Whinchat, Sedge Warbler, and Grey Wagtail.

### Ringling 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.
- Ad. - adult at least one year old.

#### Sex:

- M. - Male.
- F. - Female.

#### Manner of Recovery:

- X - found dead or dying.
- - shot.
- V - caught or trapped and released with ring.

All recoveries of 5 K.M. or over are published.

Huddersfield Birds Recovered ElsewhereKestrel

EF59153

Full	5.7.72	Deg. Hill, Nr. Huddersfield. 53° 36' N 1° 54' W
X	30.8.72	Stainton Harold, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, (Leics) 52° 48' N 1° 28' W 100 KM S.S.E.

SNIPE

I.Y.	23.1.72	Blackmoorfoot, Nr. Huddersfield 53° 37' N 1° 52' W
-	15.10.72	<del>Odense</del> Fjord (Fyn) Denmark. 55° 30' N 10° 34' E

BLACKBIRD

I.Y.M.	19.3.72	Egerton, Huddersfield 53° 40' N 1° 48' W
V	26.3.72	Svenner (Vestfold) Norway. 58° 58' N 10° 08' E

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREABLACK HEADED GULL

EF52050

I.Y.	18.2.72	Blackmoorfoot.
X	5.3.72	Denby Dale, Huddersfield. 53° 35' N 1° 40' W 13 KM E.S.E.

BULLFINCH

JJ09260

I.Y.F.	6.11.71	Blackmoorfoot.
V	29.1.72	Egerton. 6 KM N.N.E.

JJ09261

I.Y.M.	6.11.71	Blackmoorfoot.
V	9.1.72	Egerton. 6 KM N.N.E.

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA (Continued)CHAFFINCH

JG10396	I.Y.F.	13.12.70	Bretton, Wakefield 53°37'N 1°34'W
	V	18.2.72	Edgerton 15 KM W.N.W.

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELDSWIFT

SA11989	Ad	7.8.71	Glossop (Derby's) 53°27'N 1°57'W
	V	2.7.72	Deer Hill 23 KM N.N.E.

SWALLOW

JC84728	Juv	11.8.72	South Cave (Yorks) 53°46'N 0°35'W
	V	13.9.72	Blackmoorfoot 80 KM W.S.W.
JE61325	Pull	5.7.72	Appleby (Westmorland) 54°35'N 2°30'W
	V	2.9.72	Blackmoorfoot 107 KM S.S.E.
JH46476	Pull	16.7.72	Rostherne, Knutsford (Cheshire) 53°21'N 2°24'W
	V	11.9.72	Blackmoorfoot 50 KM N.E.
JH73738	Juv	2.9.72	Wigan (Lancs) 53°32'N 2°37'W
	V	9.9.72	Blackmoorfoot 53 KM E.N.E.
JH92950	Juv	16.9.71	Upton Warren, Bromsgrove (Worcs) 52°18'N 2°06'W
	V	2.9.72	Blackmoorfoot 145 KM N.

SWALLOW (Continued)

JJ97036	Pull	2.7.72	Kirkby Lonsdale, (Westmorland) 54 <sup>0</sup> 14'N 2 <sup>0</sup> 34'W
	V	2.9.72	Blackmoorfoot 82 KM S.E.
JK55117	Ad	21.8.72	Dinsheld, Auchtermerty (Fife) 56 <sup>0</sup> 17'N 3 <sup>0</sup> 13'W
	V	14.9.72	Blackmoorfoot 315 KM S.S.E.
JK99113	Pull	6.8.72	Hazel Grove (Cheshire) 53 <sup>0</sup> 23'N 2 <sup>0</sup> 05'W
	V	11.9.72	Blackmoorfoot 35 KM N.E.
<u>GREENFINCH</u>			
BBO4421	I.Y.M.	20.12.67	Peakirk, Peterborough (Northants) 52 <sup>0</sup> 39'N 0 <sup>0</sup> 13'W
	V	22.1.72	Blackmoorfoot 160 KM N.W.
BJ60318	Ad m	5.4.70	Uppminster (Essex) 51 <sup>0</sup> 34'N 0 <sup>0</sup> 15'E
	V	22.1.72	Blackmoorfoot 270 KM N.N.E.
BPC6625	I.Y.F.	11.12.71	Wilmslow (Cheshire) 53 <sup>0</sup> 20'N 2 <sup>0</sup> 13'W
	V	24.2.72	Blackmoorfoot 45 KM N.E.

M.L. DENTON.

BIRDS RINGED BY M.L. DENTON AND D.W. SILL DURING 1972

SPECIES	BLACKMOORFOOT	EDGERTON	DEER HILL	WESSENDEN	KIRK BURTON	HOLMFIRTH	MARSDEN	DIGLEY	LINDLEY	DEAN WOOD	LEFTON	THORNHILL Nr. DEWSEBURY	
KESTREL	1		3			4	5						13
MOORHEN	5												5
TAWNY OWL		2											2
LONG EARED OWL	1												1
LAPWING	19								1				20
SNIPE	13												13
JACK SNIPE	1												1
KNOT	1												1
COMMON SANDPIPER	2												2
BLACK HEADED GULL	1												1
CUCKOO	1												1
SWIFT			68										68
SKYLARK	1												1
SWALLOW	1,359												1,359
HOUSE MARTIN	2												2
SAND MARTIN	10												10
CARRION CROW						3							3
JACKDAW					5								5
MAGPIE	7								3	1	2		13
JAY		4											4
GREAT TIT	7	4											11
COAL TIT	1	4											5
BLUE TIT	40	15											55
WILLOW TIT	1	3											4
TREE CREEPER		1											1
WREN	11	3											14
DIPPER										1			1
MISTLE THRUSH	18	1			3								22
SONG THRUSH	7	34											41
REDWING		102											102
RING OUZEL				3									3
BLACKBIRD	81	665								2			748
WHEATEAR	1		3	2									6
WHINCHAT	3		1										4
REDSTART	1												1
ROBIN	45	26											71
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER												1	1
TOTAL	1,640	864	75	5	8	7	5		4	4	2	1	2,615



SPECIES	BLACKHOOF	EDGERTON	DEER HILL	WESENDEN	KIRKURTON	HOLMFIRTH	MARSDEN	DIGLEY	LINDSEY	DEAN WOOD	LEPTON	THORP HILL Nr. DEWSBURY	
SEDGE WARBLER	4												4
BLACKCAP	1	1											2
GARDEN WARBLER	1												1
WHITETHROAT	1												1
LSR. WHITETHROAT	1												1
WILLOW WARBLER	55												55
CHIFFCHAFF	2												2
WOOD WARBLER	1												1
GOLDCREST	4	3											7
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	3												3
DUNNOCK	52	33											85
MEADOW PIPIT	24		2	4									30
TREE PIPIT	1												1
PIED WAGTAIL	96												96
GREY WAGTAIL	1												1
YELLOW WAGTAIL	10												10
STARLING	2												2
GREENFINCH	230	26											256
CROSSBILL	4												4
LINNET	25												25
TWITE	1							4					5
REDFOLL	3												3
BULLFINCH	24	38											62
CHAFFINCH	2	27											29
REED BUNTING	17												17
HOUSE SPARROW	6	8											14
TREE SPARROW	12												12
TOTAL	583	136	2	4				4					729
TOTAL B/F	1,640	864	75	5	8	7	5		4	4	2	1	2,615
FULL TOTAL	2,223	1000	77	9	8	7	5	4	4	4	2	1	3,344

## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS AT

### BLACKMOORFOOT RESERVOIR DURING 1972

1972 proved to be the most successful year ever as the hide was visited on 292 days, 32 more than last year, and some 50 visitors spent 1,100 hours in the hide and their efforts were well rewarded.

Several species from last years list were missing but even so 127 were recorded and with several 'first', this was 4 more than the previous year. More time was spent ringing over the Autumn passage period, and helped observers to obtain a more complete picture of numbers of birds passing through the area, apart from the interesting species that turned up in the mist nets. Crossbill, Lesser Whitethroat, Wood Warbler and Long Eared Owl were the species that spring to mind that were neither seen before nor after being caught and ringed, and this makes one wonder just what has slipped through unnoticed in previous years. So we look forward to 1973 and can only hope that it is as successful as 1972.

#### January

The year opened with cool, misty weather which prevailed for the first two weeks. On the 1st. Snipe numbered 30 with Lapwings rather high for January at 300+ and, more unusual, was a Jack Snipe. On the water were 22 Mallards, 8 Teal, 6 Wigeon and 8 Goldeneyes, of which only Mallard and Goldeneye remained on the 2nd.

There was little change until the 9th. when 12 Wigeon, 6 Tufted Ducks and 5 Teal arrived, with 14 of the latter by the 14th. a day on which over 6,000 Gulls roosted on the water. Conditions then became cold and frosty. 2 Pochards had come in by the 21st. with the year's first Glaucous Gull, Dunlin and Treecreeper on the following day, and also the months maximum of 14 Goldeneye.

Much milder weather then returned, and with it 3 Pintails on the 23rd., a Grey Wagtail on the 24th., and with heavy rain on the 26th. 11 Shelducks.

The first snow of the year came on the 28th. and activity lessened somewhat, the only birds of interest being a 'small party' of Fieldfare which flew N. and 9 Bewick's Swans which flew W. shortly before nightfall on the 31st.

#### February

The 1st. brought strong, cold N.E. winds with heavy snowfall, and indeed conditions were so unpleasant that even the Goldeneye had moved. Snipe numbers were drastically reduced to 7 although a Jack Snipe was a new arrival.

By the 3rd. the wind had changed to S.W., and in addition to the 20 Mallards which had remained throughout the severe spell, 6 Teal arrived on the water, and in bright sunny weather a Grey Plover flew S.E. Goldeneye were back by the 5th. when 5 were present.

With the warm sunny weather continuing new birds were seen on the 7th, notably a Shoveler, a Grey Wagtail and a Goldfinch, with later in the day, 92 Jackdaws flying to roost. Snipe numbers were back to a more normal 18 by the 9th, when a Pochard was a new arrival. 12 Golden Plovers, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, both firsts for the year, and 4 Shelducks were seen on the 12th. 50 Golden Plovers on the 13th, and 35+ Blackbirds roosting on the 17th, were of interest, but in mild conditions Greenfinches were almost absent from the roost.

Cold Easterlies returned on the 18th, bringing in 20 Goldeneyes, the months maximum, and 10 Teal. Similar conditions on the 20th, brought the first Iceland Gull of the winter to the Gull roost. By the 24th, Teal numbers reached the months peak of 19, with roosting Greenfinches numbering 150+. Wind direction changed yet again, and warm South-easterlies saw out the remainder of the month.

### March

At daybreak on the 1st, the weather was calm and overcast with light rain. On the reservoir were 16 Mallards, 14 Goldeneyes and 10 Teal with a flock of 45 Lapwings on the banks. Heavy rain took over just after midday, and up to 10 Curlews were recorded flying West.

The 4th, brought snow driven by a force 4 South Westerly, and new sightings were, 5 Stock Doves flying West, and a Pintail on the water. Conditions were milder the following day when a Little Owl and a Kestrel were seen, and 20 Goldeneyes were on the water. Teal were in greater abundance than in previous years, double figures being recorded on most days. Hail showers from the East on the 10th, found an increase in Blackbirds in the roost from a 'few' on the 9th, to 40+. The wind increased to force 6, on the 11th, and swung a little to the North. On the morning of the 12th, a Shelduck flew North, 3 Curlews East, and 11 Golden Plovers South. The wind fell considerably on the 13th, when 17 Teal were on the reservoir, and 90 Golden Plovers were feeding in the fields to the East.

As the temperature continued to rise, activity increased, and on the 15th, 45 Lapwings, 4 Curlews and the years first Redshank flew West. 5 Snipe and a Grey Wagtail were on the West Bank, a Great Crested Grebe and a Coot on the water, and new arrivals in the plantation included 2 Goldfinches and 2 Yellowhammers. Curlews continued to move West during the next few days, and on the 20th, 3 Grey Wagtails and 4 Goldcrests appeared.

The 21st. brought 6 Curlews (flying West), a Little Grebe, a Coal Tit, with 17 Teal and 13 Goldeneyes also present. On the 22nd. with a force 4 North Westerly, 80 Fieldfares, 10 Pied Wagtails and a Goldcrest were in the area; 12 Meadow Pipits and 3 Curlews flew West and 38 Golden Plovers North East.

A light South Westerly had set in by daybreak of the 23rd, and 48 Meadow Pipits, 2 Twites and 9 Curlews moved West; 14 Redwings were in the plantations and 2 Bramblings, which later roosted with 90+ Greenfinches.

Light Easterlies and warm sunny weather held out for two days, and 300+ Fieldfares were present on the 24th. The first true summer visitor, a Wheatear, arrived on the 25th. when a Great Crested Grebe, a Redshank and 3 Twites were seen, and 29 Golden Plovers moved West, and a flock of 1,000+ Starlings were feeding in the area.

Squally showers throughout the night with a force 7 North West wind on the 26th, found 2 Redshanks, 2 Curlews and a Dunlin on the banks, whilst the year's maximum of 22 Goldeneyes were on the water with a Shelduck, 5 Field Wagtails, 2 Kestrels and a Great Spotted Woodpecker were also present, and 15 Golden Plovers moved West. Conditions were worse on the 27th, the North Westerly reaching force 8, and bringing rain, snow and hail.

Sunny mild weather returned on the 28th. when 4 Kittiwakes, unusual visitors, a Glaucous Gull, a Redshank and 2 Curlews were seen. On the 31st. after heavy overnight rain, a little movement North was noted, mainly 113 Meadow Pipits, 6 Chaffinches and 4 Goldfinches. A Collared Dove and a Wheatear were also present as well as 10 Redwings.

### April

Wildfowl numbers were much reduced with Goldeneye down to the month's maximum of 8. 24 Meadow Pipits moved North West in heavy rain on the 1st. and a strong South West wind on the 3rd, brought 25 Linnets and 2 Wheatears as new arrivals. On the 4th, the wind moved to South and brought very heavy showers. Teal were at the month's peak of 11, 9 Curlews and 12 Twites flew West, and 30 Linnets South. Present around the banks were 5 Wheatears, 3 Bramblings, 1 Collared Dove, 3 Goldcrests, and 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker flew North. Most of these had moved the following day when a South West gale brought in 3 Pochards and 2 Redshanks.

Clear sunny weather took over on the 6th, but the wind persisted and a Cormorant was seen flying West, and later the year's first Sand Martins, 3 flying North, appeared. Showers came again on the 7th, as the wind fell considerably, and the only Bar-tailed Godwit of the year flew South, and the first Willow Warbler was seen. 17 Fieldfares moved East and 18 Meadow Pipits, North.

The wind dropped during the night and there was much activity at first light on the 8th. The first Chiffchaff, a Wheatear and 3 Goldcrests appeared, 143 Fieldfares moved South, 4 Cormorants, 2 Redwings, 13 Twites, 46 Meadow Pipits and Dunlin moved West as did 2 Curlews and also Curlews flew South.

A light South West wind on the 9th, with showers when 5 Wheatears, a 'Phylloscopus' Warbler, 3 Reed Buntings, 7 Twites and a Redshank were seen. On the 11th. 85 Golden Plovers and a Great Crested Grebe appeared, followed by a Willow Warbler, 7 Wheatears and a Collared Dove on the 12th, and 2 Sand Martins on the 13th. in calm conditions.

On the 14th, with a force 3 North West wind the first Swallow occurred, on the 15th, another Willow Warbler, on the 16th, 2 Shelducks, and on the 17th, 2 Snipe.

The wind moved to East on the 18th, when a Little Grebe was on the water, and on the 19th, 8 Fieldfare and a 2nd-year Iceland Gull were seen. The latter bird was present the following day, when 30 Fieldfare flew South, and again on the 21st, and 22nd. This was commonplace compared to the Peregrine flying North on the 23rd, when a 'Commin' Tern flew East, and 4 Kestrels, 3 Willow Warblers and a Corn Bunting were also recorded.

The mild weather continued to the month's end, and on the 27th, 6 Tufted Ducks were present, and the year's first Common Sandpiper appeared on the 30th.

## May

The first two days saw light Southerly winds, and warm sunny weather during which at least 8 Willow Warblers were singing on the 2nd. The wind moved to North, North East on the 3rd. In showery conditions the first House Martin flew North, as did 2 Collared Doves and 7 Swallows; and 2 Goldfinches were in the plantation.

These conditions, persisted to the 7th, when a light Southerly wind brought drier weather, and the first Swifts (2) were seen moving West. A Dunlin and a Canada Goose were on the shore, and 3 Wheatears, 10 Swallows, 2 Corn Buntings and 4 Redpolls were in the area. A force 7 South East wind set in on the 8th, and with a heavy downpour late in the day more migrants appeared. A Ring Ousel was in the quarries, 15+ each of Willow Warblers and Swallows, 2 Wheatears and a 'Commin' Tern were seen. The wind fell the following day when 3 Common Sandpipers were new arrivals. With clear sunny weather on the 10th, a notable feature was the increase to at least 25 Willow Warblers in the plantations.

The 12th, saw strong East winds and showers which kept things quiet until the rain subsided on the 15th, when the first Yellow Wagtail and Cuckoo arrived. Swallows numbered over 60 and a Great Crested Grebe was on the water.

Gradually the wind fell to a complete calm by the 18th, and hot sunny weather prevailed for a few days. Things were quiet although a Tawny Owl was seen on the 18th, and a Garden Warbler caught and ringed on the 21st.

With a force 6 North West Wind early on the 27th some activity was evident. 41 Swifts moved West, as did 2 ('Commin' Terns and 1 Dunlin, and 2 Little Ringed Plovers came from the East and landed on the North bank. The following day with a strong West South West wind, Swift movement reached a peak with 379 flying West, whilst 4 Sand Martins and a least 12 House Martins were hawking under the shelter of the West bank treeline. 2 Sanderlings moved West, a Cuckoo East, and the presence of at least 6 Redpolls completed two eventful days. After overnight showers at first light on the 29th, a Sedge Warbler singing near the 'Bulls Head' was another 'first' for the year. 6 Sand Martins, 8 House Martins, 10 Swallows and 5 Swifts mainly moving West were also recorded.

The 30th produced another 'first' when a Whitethroat was caught and ringed. 17 Swifts and a 'Commin' Tern moved West. Similar conditions of strong West winds saw out the remainder of the month, and a Cormorant, Cuckoo and Yellow Wagtail were of interest on the 31st.

## June

Light South West winds prevailed for the first four days, and on the 1st. there was little of note except 10 each of Swallows and Willow Warblers. On the 2nd. there was more Swift movement with over 180 going West, and 30 Swallows, 12 House Martins, 2 Sand Martins and a Cuckoo were present. A Tree Pipit, a Collared Dove and probably the same Cuckoo were seen on the following day.

The light winds changed temporarily to South East, but moved back to South West again on the 7th., and remained in that quarter for the rest of the month. Things were fairly quiet as might be expected at this time, but a Dipper was in the catchwater on the 14th. a Spotted Flycatcher in the plantation on the 15th. when a flock of over 150 Lapwings were on the fields to the East.

Things remained quiet to the month end with a Redshank on the 23rd, a Great Crested Grebe on the 25th, and 2 on the 30th; 2 Common Sandpipers on the 28th, and 3 Curlews flying West on the 29th.

## July

After a quiet spell, light westerlies and rain on the 7th. were followed with some activity on the 8th. when 158 Swifts, 1 Dunlin, 50 Lapwings, 1 Arctic Tern and 3 Herons moved West. There were also 450+ Lapwings on the banks, and over 35 Swallows were in the area. On the 13th, with the same-conditions prevailing, 2 Herons and a Redshank moved West.

For more than a week the hide was nearly deserted as regular observers were away in greener avian pastures. On the 23rd, a Little Grebe and at least 100 Lapwings were present, and on the 27th, 12 Redpolls, 1 Redshank and 50+ Swallows were logged. A North North East breeze came on the 28th, bringing 38 Swifts, but had changed to South by the 31st when 200 Lapwings, 2 Dunlins, 17 Golden Plovers and 1 Curlew were on the shore and, rather unusual on the water, a Red-Breasted Merganser.

## August

August proved to be quite an outstanding month thanks to an abundance of Westerlies with some showers, conditions which rarely fail to be productive during the period of the Autumn passage.

On the 1st a 'first' for the area occurred as 2 Crossbills flew North, calling, and 56 Swallows were feeding over the reservoir.

On the 2nd. Lapwings numbered 240+, 1 Dunlin and 1 Greenshank moved East, and new arrivals in the area were, 1 Tree Pipit, 8+ Willow Warblers, 15+ Pied Wagtails and 1 Yellow Wagtail. Also moving South were 70 Swifts, 14 House Martins and 6 Sand Martins.

With a West wind on the 3rd. Pied Wagtails numbered over 25 and Yellow Wagtails 4 and a Lesser Whitethroat, new for the reservoir area, was caught and ringed.

Showers on the 7th. had little effect, but with S.S.W. Winds reaching force 6 on the 8th. an Arctic Tern came in from the East, and 40+ Swifts moved South. The wind continued from the West quarter for the next few days, and on the 10th. 6 'Commic' Terns flew West as did 30 Swifts, 3 Common Sandpipers were on the banks and 100+ Swallows in the area. Apart from 3 Shelducks flying N.W. on the 11th. little was recorded until the wind moved to East on the 14th, when noteworthy waders were singles of Green Sandpiper, Dunlin, Oystercatcher (all moved West), Greenshank and Common Sandpiper. Passerines present or moving through the area on the same day included 1 Wood Warbler, another 'first', 1 Redstart, 1 Spotted Flycatcher, 10+ Willow Warblers, 23+ Pied Wagtails, 3 Yellow Wagtails, 1 Grey Wagtail, 100+ Swallows, and finally about 40 Linnets which flew North. On the 15th, more new birds which moved West were, 1 Ringed Plover, 9 Curlews, 2 Redshanks and 4 'Commic' Terns, and a Spotted Flycatcher was in the plantation.

Strong West winds returned on the 16th, when at least 10 Meadow Pipits, 1 Chiffchaff and 1 Wheatear were present, and a few waders moved West including 1 Redshank, 1 Greenshank, 1 Dunlin and 1 Oystercatcher as well as 3 of the latter which came in from the East just before nightfall. The 17th was showery, and again a few waders moved West notably 8 Ringed Plovers, 4 Knot, 1 Dunlin and 1 Greenshank. 2 Spotted Flycatchers were present and 4 Yellow Wagtails, which increased to 6 on the 18th, when 1 Garden Warbler, and 7 House Martins appeared.

There were at least 13 Willow Warblers on the 19th as the strong Westerlies persisted, 50+ Linnets were in the plantations, and 400+ Lapwings with 24 Golden Plovers were feeding to the East. The 20th brought more new arrivals as the daily turnover continued with 1 Sedge Warbler and 6 Skylarks on the banks, 6 Dunlins flying West, and 7 Shovelers on the reservoir.

More West movement was evident on the 21st, when 7 Curlews, 2 Turnstones and 2 'Commic' Terns were involved. The 22nd. brought yet another 'first' for Blackmoorfoot when a Kingfisher flew along the North bank, a Tree Pipit and a Ringed Plover appeared 2 Ruff moved West, and 64 Golden Plovers were in the area. 5 Teal were new arrivals on the 23rd as warm sunny weather continued, and a Greenshank flew S.E. on the following day.

The wind moved to East by the 25th and 4 Curlews (W), 1 Little Grebe, over 25 Meadow Pipits, 2 Spotted Flycatchers and a Willow Tit appeared. However more exciting the following day was a Spotted Redshank. On the 27th, an Oystercatcher flew West, and 25+ Redpolls, 15 House Martins, 1 Sand Martin, 20+ Meadow Pipits and 3 Yellow Wagtails visited the area.

With showers on the 28th. 3 Pintails and 2 Wigeon arrived on the water; 2 Greenshanks, 2 Redshanks, 1 Dunlin and 1 Ringed Plover moved West and 1 Wheatear, 1 Goldcrest and 1 Twite were in the grounds. 2 'Commic' Terns, a Greenshank, and a Spotted Redshank flew West on the 30th. during an otherwise quiet spell at the end of a busy month.

## September

Light Easterlies continued during the first five days of the month. On the 1st. there was little activity although 2 'Commic' Terns flew West, and a few Willow Warblers and Yellow Wagtails moved through. 5 Snipe were on the banks on the 2nd. and the last Swifts were seen as 3 moved East. On the 4th, a Dunlin moved North, and 19 Golden Plovers came into the area.

A light S.W. wind took over on the 6th, which increased to force 3 due West on the 7th when 9 Teal arrived. The 8th was windless but during mid-morning rain, 3 Black Terns and a Heron moved North. Rain continued overnight to the 9th; and the morning saw 20+ Pied Wagtails, 1 Grey Wagtail, 30+ Hirundines in the area and 1 Arctic Tern flying South.

A brief period of force 4 Westerlies from the 10th - 12th, brought on the first day a Whimbrel flying North, followed by a Blackcap the next day, and on the 12th, 4+ Goldcrests and 2 Grey Wagtails were noted as 2 Arctic Terns flew West. The day showed the first signs of Snipe build up with 16 on the West bank.

Fine weather with a light N.E. wind on the 13th, brought little of note until the 14th, when a Common Scoter and a Wigeon arrived on the water, and 1 Blackcap, 30+ Meadow Pipits, 4 House Martins and 2 Coal Tits were seen. On the 15th, 25+ Pied Wagtails were on the shore, the year's last Yellow Wagtail flew South, and 1 'Commic' Tern flew West, and a total of 12 Wigeon were on the reservoir by nightfall.

During mild conditions on the 16th, 2 Knot flew North, and on the 18th a Dunlin, and a Whinchat were recorded. A strong N. Easterly had risen by the 19th and on the 20th singles of Wheatear, Whinchat and Spotted Flycatcher were in; the first Fieldfares were recorded as 6 moved West, as did 3 Grey Plovers, and 2 Herons moved North. New arrivals on the 21st, with light Westerlies, were 50+ Pied Wagtails, 60+ Meadow Pipits, 3+ Willow Warblers, 1 Tree Creeper and 1 Knot, which was caught and ringed. In warm sunny weather on the 22nd, another Knot was present, Snipe numbered 24, 30+ Swallows were in the area, and just before dusk a Long-Eared Owl was caught and ringed.

Light N.E. winds covered the next six days, with Meadow Pipits increasing to 75+ on the 23rd. Lapwings to 450 and 3 'Commic' Terns present on the same day. The month was rather short of heavy rainfall and water passage was a little disappointing with Little Stint a notable absentee. It was quieter to the month end apart from 2 Common Sandpipers on the 25th, Snipe up to 31 on the 27th, and on the 29th, 35 Golden Plovers and 2 Dunlins were feeding on the shore.

## October

Wind from the Eastern quarter for the first few days brought colder conditions than normal for this time. A Dunlin and a Curlew flew South on the 1st, 12 Tufted Ducks were on the water on the 2nd. when a 'first' for the area, a Rock Pipit, flew South during the evening. 7 Wigeon had arrived by the 4th, when 2 Dunlins moved West, and on the 5th, a party of 7 Redwings, the first of the Autumn, flew North.



The wind had dropped by the 7th. when a Little Grebe came to the reservoir, 2 Swallows moved South, and 73 Golden Plovers were on the East shore.

A light South wind and sunny periods on the following day when many more birds were recorded. The most pleasing were 4 Crossbills which were caught and ringed. 112 Redwings moved South at first light, and later also South, were 12 Swallows, 7 Redpolls, 10 Twite and 13 Goldfinch. The first Jack Snipe of the winter was flushed from the West bank where there were 127 Golden Plovers with about 400 Lapwings. The wind was variable for a time but returned to East on the 10th., and stayed in that quarter for eight days.

Things were fairly quiet, but 2 Great Crested-Grebe appeared on the 13th. and Lapwing numbers reached 600 on the 14th. and Golden Plovers 150 on the following day. Also on the 15th. a Knot appeared, and 2 Shelducks came in from the East, whilst a Great Spotted Woodpecker was in the grounds. On the 17th., the first Autumn Goldeneye appeared and on the 18th. 50 Redwings moved North.

The temperature had been falling during this period, and on the 19th. when the wind swung to N.W., at least 72 Snipe were on the bank; 1 Dunlin appeared and 3 Little Grebe were on the water. The 20th. brought another unusual sight when 11 Scaup arrived, though they had gone by the next day when 1 Pintail and 6 Goldeneye were on the bank, and a Rock Pipit moved East. 150 Fieldfares moved West early in the day and about 100 were feeding in Orange Wood. The wind rose to force 5 with showers and some movement was evident on the 22nd. with mainly Fieldfares 354 West, and 920 South, and Redwings 219 South involved. A Siskin flew North, Goldeneye numbered 10, and over 130 Golden Plovers and 1 Dunlin were present.

Similar conditions saw out the month, but little of interest was recorded, although Lapwings were at 600+ on the 28th., and 450 on the 30th., and Golden Plovers over 100 on these dates.

## November

The mild South Westerlies and sunny weather opened the month and things were fairly quiet. 4 Durlins on the 1st. were on the shore with reduced numbers of Lapwings and Golden Plovers. A light N.E. wind blew on the 4th. but moved back to S.W. on the 5th. and strengthened to force 4. On this day a Kittiwake was present, and a Chiffchaff was caught and ringed, and there was some southerly movement including 153 Fieldfares, 6 Redwings, 18 Linnets, 9 Goldfinches and 8 Redpolls.

The wind remained West for the next few days and conditions were mild, and the maximum of only 7 Goldeneye was rather low for November. A Scaup was present on the 6th. and also 10th - 12th. 85 Snipe had been present on the 4th. and there were at least 40 on the 6th. In heavy rain on the 11th. 3 Teal and a Dunlin arrived, and 13 Bewick's Swans flew West on the 12th.

The first really cold, frosty weather came on the 15th. and on the 16th. an Iceland Gull was with other gulls on the shore. A Coot arrived on the 17th. and remained to the year end, and after a night of severe frost a Jack Snipe was on the West bank on the 18th. Steady rain was falling on the 20th, when a Goosander

came in from the N.E. and in finer weather, 5 Bewick's Swans were on the shore on the 21st.

Cool showery weather with West winds up to force 4 persisted for the last week, and apart from 4 Dunlins on the 25th, 6 Great Crested Grebes on the 27th, and about 300 Lapwings on the 30th, things were quiet.

### December

Mainly S.W. winds, with occasional spells from the South, bringing showery weather on most days, but exceptional downpours on the 1st. and 4th, culminated in a fantastic fall on the 5th which led to flooding of the path to the hide to a depth of nearly a foot. Teal numbered 8 to 11 during this period, over 100 Fieldfare and 7 Bullfinches were present on the 2nd., when 3 Bramblings flew East. 2 Scaup and 4 Goldeneyes were present on the 6th.

An end came to the wet weather on the 10th, when 2 Scaup were again present, and 120 Redwings moved S.W.

The weather continued mild, and 20 Goldeneyes were noted on the 17th, and on the 21st. 9 Wigeon arrived.

Another 'first' for the year, a Stonechat, was seen on the 23rd, when a Shelduck was on the reservoir, and 23 Golden Plovers flew West. The last 'first' was a Woodcock on the 26th, when about 130 Fieldfares were on the East bank.

During mild weather of the last few days, Snipe numbered up to 27; Fieldfares in the area reached 180 on the 30th, and on the last day 9 Reed Buntings on the West bank, and 1 Wigeon and 1 Shelduck on the water were of interest.

D.W. SILL.

C L A S S I F I E D   L I S T  
=====

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Bretton     3 up to January 16th. then 1 - 10 from February 19th. - December 31st. 10 on April 8th. Three pairs reared a total of 6 young.

Ingbirchworth     1 - 5 March 12th. - October 1st. One pair sitting on eggs in June.

Blackmoorfoot     1 - 2 on eighteen dates, and 6 on November 27th.

Scout Dyke         1 - 2 on five dates, and 5 on September 17th.

LITTLE GREBE

Bretton     Present in every month for the first time since 1964. Breeding not proved. 9 on November 12th.

Gawthorpe     One pair reared 2 young. Scattered records of 1 - 4 from Bilberry, Blackmoorfoot, Cannon Hall, Digley, Ingbirchworth, Scout Dyke and Langsett.

CORMORANT

1 flying West over Linthwaite on April 6th. 4 at Blackmoorfoot on April 8th. and 1 on May 31st. 1 at Digley on May 7th., and 1 at Bretton October 19th. - December 14th.

HERON

The increased number of sightings was maintained for a second year.

Bretton     Records for every month. 8 on July 20th.

Ingbirchworth     Records on sixteen dates at reservoirs near here with 9 on July 30th. and September 17th.

Blackmoorfoot     1 - 3 passed overhead on eight dates July 8th. - September 20th. Also at Digley, Fenay Bridge, Ramsden Reservoir and Waterloo.

MALLARD

Blackmoorfoot.     All year with a maximum of 34 on February 13th.

Bretton     All year with a maximum of 180 on December 31st. Bred at both the above and elsewhere in the district.

Other flocks included 62 at Royd Moor, January 16th. 50+ at Ringstone Edge. January 22nd. and 123 at Ingbirchworth in September.

TEAL

Blackmoorfoot     1 - 19 from January 1st. - April 27th. and 1 - 11 from August 14th - December 31st. Maximum of 19 on February 24th.

Bretton     Fewer than usual due to higher water levels. 1 - 3 from January 1st. - March 19th. and 3 - 20 from September 17th - December 31st. the maximum of 20 on November 5th.

Small numbers at five other waters outside the breeding season including 20 at Ingbirchworth on October 1st.

#### GADWALL

Bretton 1 on September 9th (N.L.) and 5 on November 19th. (P.B., J.M.D., N.L.D.)

#### WIDGEON

Blackmoorfoot Three dates in January with 12 on 9th.; 1 on April 6th., and 2 - 9 on ten dates, August 28th - December 31st.

Elsewhere 1 - 4 on five other waters up to March 18th. and September onwards with 13 - 16 at Ingbirchworth in the last week of December.

#### EINTAIL

Blackmoorfoot. 3 on January 23rd. 1 on March 4th, and 3 on August 28th.

Bretton 1 on March 5th.

#### SHOVELER

More records than in any previous year.

Blackmoorfoot 1 on February 7th, and 2 on February 27th; 4 on August 2nd. and 7 on 20th.

Bretton 3 on February 27th; 1 on March 18th. - 19th., 2 on July 9th. 3 on October 1st. 5 on 14th, 6 on 15th., 1 on 21st., 2 on November 5th. 3 on 18th. and 2 on 19th.

Royd Moor 2 on September 5th - 6th.

#### SCAUP

Blackmoorfoot 11 on October 20th. 1 on November 6th - 12th., 2 on December 6th. and 12th.

Digley 1 on October 24th.

Royd Moor 1 on November 12th.

#### TUFTED DUCK

Blackmoorfoot 1 - 6 on seven dates up to May 7th., and then regular from August 5th. - December 31st. maximum 13 on October 1st.

Bretton Present throughout the year. Early year maximum 53 on March 4th. and there were over 90 at the end of December. Two pairs reared 5 and 4 young respectively, this being the first breeding success here since 1964.

Observed on many other waters. A flock of 46 at Royd Moor on September 17th.

## POCHARD

Blackmoorfoot 1 - 6 on eleven dates from January 21st. - April 6th., and eighteen dates from August 22nd. - December 31st.

Bretton Regular. January 2nd. - April 16th. (44 on March 4th).  
9 on June 28th. 4 on July 11th. and regular from September 17th. - December 31st.  
by which date an exceptional build up had reached 154.

Small numbers at the Ingbirchworth area reservoirs maximum being at Royd Moor, 25 on February 13th. and 23 on November 12th. Also 1 - 4 on a total of seven dates at Black Moss, Digley and Ringstone Edge.

## GOLDENEYE

Blackmoorfoot Regular from January 1st. - April 30th. and October 17th.-  
December 31st. Maximum of 22 on March 26th. Also at Bilberry, Bretton,  
Broadstones, Deer Hill, Digley, Ingbirchworth, Ringstone Edge (14 on April 25th.)  
and Royd Moor.

## COMMON SCOTER

Blackmoorfoot 1 on September 14th (P.B., M.L.D. et al)

## RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Blackmoorfoot 1 on July 30th; (D.B. S.P.)

## GOOSANDER

Blackmoorfoot 1 on November 20th.

Bretton 6 in February 12th - 13th. and 19th., and 1 on March 9th.

Digley 1 on January 4th., and December 27th.

## SHELDUCK

Blackmoorfoot 11 on January 26th., 4 on February 12th., 1 on March 12th.  
and 26th. 2 on April 16th; 3 on August 11th., 2 on October 15th., and 1 on  
December 31st.

Bretton 4 on February 12th.

## GREY GOOSE SP.

60 flying E.S.E. over Lockwood on December 23rd.

## GREY LONG GOOSE

Calls of this species were heard from a skein of 24 flying N.N.W. over  
Lindley Moor on December 24th.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Bretton The single bird seen regularly with the Canada Goose flock last year was present up to April 23rd.

Calls heard from a skein of about 170 which flew West over Crosland Hill on January 21st.

SNOW GOOSE

Two records of presumed escapes at Bretton on April 11th. (R.L.B.) and Royd Moor on September 5th. (P.B.)

CANALA GOOSE

Bretton Present all the year. Maximum 160 on December 17th. 26 Juveniles were reared successfully from six broods.

1 at Blackmoorfoot on May 7th. and 12 flew South at Deer Hill on September 2nd.

MUTE SWAN

Bretton 2 - 3 regularly from October 14th. - December 31st. with 5 on December 2nd. Seen regularly on the R. Colne at Kings Mill Lane.

WHOOPEE SWAN

Ringstone Edge 4 from January 15th. - 20th.  
Broadstones 8 flew N.W. on March 12th.

BEWICK'S SWAN

Blackmoorfoot 9 flew West on January 31st., 13 also West on November 12th. and 2 adults and 3 immatures on November 21st. left 1 immature on 22nd. which was dead on 23rd., presumably killed by a fox.

BUZZARD

1 at Honley Wood on January 30th. (K.W.A.N.)

SPARROW HAWK

5 records from three districts only.

PEREGRINE

1 flying North over Linthwaite on April 23rd. (M.L.D., D.M.P.)  
First record since 1953

### MERLIN

Two pairs bred in the area, one pair being successful in rearing 1 young, and in another breeding locality a female was seen twice in June. (M.L.D., J.E.D.)

1 flew over (South) Hall Bower on September 1st. (D.S.), and 1 flew N.E. over Aspley on November 5th. (P.E.)

### KESTREL

Well distributed throughout the area. Breeding by eight pairs confirmed.

### RED GROUSE

Regular in moorland localities with about 60 on Slaithwaite Moor on January 29th.

### BLACK GROUSE

A pair at Yateholme on September 24th (C.W.) First record for the area.

### PARTRIDGE

1 - 6 from six localities with breeding confirmed at Bretton.

### PHEASANT

Small numbers breeding in the area. Reports from Bradley, Bretton, Cawthorne, Farnley, Grimescar and Kirkburton.

### WATER RAIL

Bretton 1 on January 2nd; February 19th; October 20th; December 2nd. - 3rd; and 2 on 27th. 1 on October 29th.

### MOORHEN

Up to 50 at Bretton where breeding occurs as it does by many ponds, and stream and river banks throughout the area.

### COOT

Bretton About 16 broods yielded 40 young (R.L.E.) Maximum of 167 on February 13th., and in the Autumn over 200 from November 26th. - December 31st., when there were 256 which represents the largest number recorded here.

Records from Blackmoorfoot, Ingbirchworth (1 pair bred) and Scout Dyke.

## CYSTERCATCHER

Blackmoorfoot 3 on February 27th, 1 on August 14th; 4 on 16th, and 1 on 27th.

Colne Valley 1 flew N.W. on June 4th.

Dear Hill 1 on August 9th.

Wessenden Valley 1 flew South on July 9th.

## LAPWING

Autumn flocks of 200 - 300 at Digley, Ingbirchworth, Wilshaw and Blackmoorfoot where there were about 600 on October 14th. Breeding in the area.

## RINGED PLOVER

Blackmoorfoot 1 on August 15th; 8 on 17th; 1 on 18th; 22nd. and 28th.

Ingbirchworth 1 on August 17th.

## LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Blackmoorfoot 2 on May 27th. (D.W.S.) Not observed at the two breeding sites in the area.

## GREY PLOVER

Blackmoorfoot 1 flew S.E. on February 3rd. (D.W.S.) and 3 flew West on September 30th. (M.L.D.)

Ingbirchworth 1 on October 15th (A.S.G., D.M.) 4th - 6th. records for the area.

## GOLDEN PLOVER

Blackmoorfoot Scattered records from February 12th. - April 11th. then regular from July 30th - December 27th. with a maximum of about 400 on October 15th.

Other large flocks were of 216 at Ringstone Edge on February 3rd. 120 at Ingbirchworth on September 16th. and 300 near Emley on October 22nd. Breeding in moorland localities.

## TURKSTONE

Blackmoorfoot 2 flew West on August 21st.

## SNIPE

Blackmoorfoot Present throughout the year except mid May - early August. Autumn maximum about 85 on November 4th.

Breeding in moorland localities.



## JACK SNIBE

Blackmoorfoot Singles on January 1st. (M.L.D. et al); February 1st. (T.W.S.)  
October 8th. (T.D. et al), and November 18th. (P.B., J.M.D. et al).

## WOODCOCK

The number of records received continues to increase. Reported in the breeding season at Bretton, Cawthorne and Langsett, and outside the breeding season at Blackmoorfoot, Bretton, Edgerton, Flockton, Lindley Moor and Riding Wood.

## CURLEW

First and last at Blackmoorfoot on February 29th. and November 3rd. respectively. Breeding in moorland localities.

## WHIMBREL

Blackmoorfoot 1 flew North on September 10th. (M.L.D.)

## BAR-TAILED GODWIT

Blackmoorfoot 1 flew S.S.W. on April 7th. (D.W.S.)

## GREEK SANDPIPER

Singles at Blackmoorfoot on August 14th. (M.L.D.) Inghirchworth on August 23rd. (A.S.G., D.M.) and Bretton on October 15th. (J.E.D.)

## COMMON SANDPIPER

First at Bretton on April 23rd. and last at Blackmoorfoot on September 25th. Breeding in moorland localities.

## REDSHANK

Continues to be observed more frequently. Most records were of singles or pairs, and distraction display was noted at two localities in June. 1 was at Inghirchworth as late as November 26th. and the first had been, 1 at Blackmoorfoot on March 15th.

## SPOTTED REDSHANK

A considerable increase in records this year. Only five previously, all between 1959 and 1971.

Singles as follows:-

Blackmoorfoot August 26th. and 30th. (M.L.D.)

Digley August 28th. (K.L.)

Inghirchworth September 10th. (C.D.), 12th. (D.B.) and 16th. (P.B., J.E.D., M.L.D.)

## GREENSHANK

Blackmoorfoot Singles on August 2nd, 14th, 16th - 17th, 24th, and 30th, and 2 on 28th.

Bretton 1 on August 6th.

Deer Hill 1 on August 5th.

Ingbirchworth Singles on August 12th; 17th; 23rd, and 26th, and 2 on 25th.

## KNOT

After only five previous records all between 1938 and 1971, this species has also been seen more frequently.

Blackmoorfoot 4 flew West separately on August 17th; 2 flew North on September 16th; and two singles were present on September 21st. (caught and ringed) and 22nd.

Ingbirchworth 1 on September 17th; (P.B., J.E.D., M.L.D., D.W.S.)

## DUBLIN

Blackmoorfoot Records for every month except December, but maximum low at 6 on August 20th.

Small numbers elsewhere with birds present in known breeding area.

## SANDERLING

Blackmoorfoot 2 flew West on May 28th.

## RUFF

Blackmoorfoot 2 on August 22nd.

Ingbirchworth 2 on August 23rd, and 25th, and 3 on 26th.

## GULL. SPP.

Blackmoorfoot During the year serious attempts to count the roost were made on twenty five dates resulting in monthly maxima as follows:-

January 14th.	6,000+
February 27th.	3,000+
March 24th.	c.600
April 22nd.	c.400
August 16th.	c.1,150
September 7th.	2,500+
October 20th.	3,000+
November 1st.	c.3,650
December 10th.	c.3,400

### GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Blackmoorfoot roost regularly January 1st. - late April, with a single adult throughout the summer, numbers returning from October 5th. onwards. Maximum approximately 400 on January 14th, and 300 on December 10th.

### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Present throughout the year at Blackmoorfoot with a spring maximum of c.250 on April 22nd., and in autumn c.1,000 on September 7th.

One bird on April 24th. appeared to be of the Scandinavian race.

### HERRING GULL

Blackmoorfoot throughout the year. Maxima 1,500+ on January 14th. and 600+ on December 10th.

### COMMON GULL

Observed at Blackmoorfoot throughout the year except June 2nd., July 6th. Maximum c.350 on December 12th.

### GLAUCOUS GULL

Blackmoorfoot First winter birds were seen on January 22nd. (D.W.S.) and March 28th - 29th (J.E.D., M.L.D. et al).

### ICELAND GULL

Blackmoorfoot First winter bird on February 20th. (T.D., D.M.P., S.P.)  
a very pale second winter bird April 19th. - 22nd. (P.B., J.M.D., J.C.G. et al)  
and a third year bird on November 16th. (J.E.D.)

### BLACK-HEADED GULL

Blackmoorfoot Again an ever present species with about 3,500 on January 14th, nearly 3,000 on October 20th, and 2,000+ on December 10th.  
No report from breeding area.

### KITTIWAKE

Blackmoorfoot 4 adults on March 28th. and 1 on November 5th.

### BLACK TERN

Blackmoorfoot 3 on September 8th. ( M.L.D. et al)

Ingbirchworth 1 on September 16th - 17th (P.B. et al)

### COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

As usual it has been necessary to group these two species together. However the species is named in cases of positive identification.

Blackmoorfoot 1 on April 23rd. 1 on May 8th., and 2 on 27th., 1 on 30th. 1 on July 8th. (Arctic); 1 on August 8th. (Arctic), 6 on 10th., 3 on 15th., 2 on 21st. and 30th., 2 on September 1st., 1 on 9th. (Arctic); 2 on 12th (Arctic), 1 on 15th., and 3 on 23rd.

Bretton 1 or June 24th - 25th (Common); 1 on August 14th. (Common) and 1 on August 29th.

### STOCK LOVE

A flock of 65 on Outlane Moor on January, 15th, and 22nd.

Seen regularly and probable breeding near Blackmoorfoot, Bretton, Ingbirchworth and Lindley Moor.

### WOOD PIGEON

No really large flocks this year. Bretton had 200+ in January and October - December with c.350 on December 16th.

### TURTLE DOVE

2 flying East at Dalton on May 10th. Pairs during the breeding season at High Wood (Bretton), Cawthorne and Skelmanthorpe.

### COLLARED DOVE

For the first time gatherings of 10+ have been reported with 18, at Cawthorpe in July, and up to 14 at Egerton in December. Observed in nine localities during the summer.

### CUCKOO

Few records received. First at Bigley on May 1st., none after July 1st. Seen at Armitage Bridge, Bradley, Bretton, Blackmoorfoot, Deer Will, Largsett, Lockwood, Stocks Moor and Ysteholme.

### BARE OWL

1 seen at Meltham on two dates in early May. A pair feeding 2 young at Almondbury on July 8th. 1 at New Hall, Flockton on August 18th. 1 found exhausted at Dalton on October 23rd. was released after rest and feeding at Lindley Moor on October 25th.

### LITTLE OWL

Breeding evidence again from Digley and Lindley Moor, also observed regularly at Blackmoorfoot, Crosland Moor, Emley Woodhouse, Grimescar and Houses Hill.

### TAWNY OWL

Breeding proved for four pairs which is probably only a fraction of those that do breed in the area.

### LONG-EARED OWL

1 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on September on September 22nd. (K.L.D. et al). Only the 2nd record since the 1930's. Known to breed just outside the area.

### SHORT-EARED OWL

An increase in the number of records. Digley 1 on April 25th; Slaithwaite Moor, 1 on April 27th., 1 on August 7th. and 2 on November 16th, Langsett 1 on four dates, June 14th. - 26th. Ingbirchworth 2 on August 27th. and 1 on 28th., 1 on September 12th. and also on two other dates late August - early September; Wesserden 1 on June 24th; Hazelhead 1 on September 3rd. - 4th.

### NIGHT JAR

Whitley. 1 on May 22nd. and June 15th (D.S.)

### SWIFT

First at Farnley Tyas on April 30th. and last at Flockton on September 16th. Large concentrations included c.300 at Leer Hill on July 2nd., c.150 on 25th, and 100+ at Bretton on August 6th.

### KINGFISHER

Bretton 1 - 2 observed on sixteen days covering every month except June and August.

Blackmoorfoot 1 on August 22nd.

Cannon Hall 1 on February 13th.

Gunthwaite 1 on August 3rd.

Linthwaite 1 on October 8th.

Royd Moor 1 on October 4th.

### GREEN WOODPECKER

Slight increase on last year's records. 1 heard regularly at Kirkburton April 7th - May 24th; 1 at Dean Wood May 9th - 15th; 1 - 2 at Digley September 26th. - November 21st. and 1 at Bretton on September 6th.

### GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

One breeding pair each at Bretton Park and Butternab Wood. Records on various dates through the year at Beaumont Park, Blackmoorfoot, Cawthorne, Clayton West, Dean Wood, Deffer Wood, Edgerton, Flockton, Grimescar, Slaithwaite and Thunder Bridge.

### LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Bretton A male was feeding young in a nest on June 4th. Singles on April 2nd and 4th; June 11th; October 28th; and December 30th. and 2 on December 23rd.

Deffer Wood 1 on July 6th.

### SKYLARK

Breeding on moorland and meadowland throughout the area.

### SWALLOW

First 5 at Bretton on April 9th. and last 3 at Edgerton on October 28th.

Roost at Lees Mill, Linthwaite numbered about 3,000 in early September.

An albino was caught and ringed here on August 15th.

### HOUSE MARTIN

First at Bretton on April 15th. and last at Crosland Moor on October 13th.

Continue to flourish in residential areas.

### SNED MARTIN

First at Blackmoorfoot on April 6th. and last 50+ at Bretton on September 17th. Apart from these localities the only others reported were by the R. Colne at Linthwaite.

### CARRION CROW

Generally distributed and fairly common in the east of the area. On the moorland fringes to the west, where it was unknown twenty years ago, a number on pairs now breed.

### ROCK

Large numbers roost in the Lenby Dale/Skelmanthorpe area during the winter months. The roost numbers, along with Jackdaws, over 5,000 birds.

### JACKDAW

Common resident away from moorland areas. Numbers up to 30 feed occasionally on the shore of Blackmoorfoot.

### MAGPIE

The Blackmoorfoot roost consisted of at least 80 birds in February and 88 were at Gosport Clough, Outlane on April 9th.

### JAY

Reported from the following known and probable breeding localities:- Almondbury, Bretton, Cannon Hall, Dean Wood, Digley, Edgerton, Grimescar and Yateholme.

### GREAT TIT )

BLUE TIT ) Common both as breeding species and winterers in the area.

### COAL TIT )

### WILLOW TIT

Breeding in woodlands in the Bretton - Cawthorne - Skelmanthorpe - Flockton area and Dungeon Wood also reported from Blackmoorfoot, Deighton, Edgerton, Ingbirchworth and Kirkburton.

### LONG-TAILED TIT

Breeding at Bretton, where 14 were seen on November 12th, Beaumont Park, Cawthorne, Coxley Valley, Leon Wood, Deffer Wood and Kirkburton.

### NUTHATCH

1 at Beaumont Park on February 2nd., March 11th. and April 4th. (D.M.), and 1 - 2 seen regularly at Bretton from July 28th - December 31st. (J.E.D. et al)

### TREE CREEPER

Breeding in old woodlands and gardens throughout the area with notably about eight pairs in the woods around Bretton Park lakes.

### WREN

Common all the year, and well distributed throughout the district.

### DIPPER

A reduction in the number reported. The only breeding season records were from Blackmoorfoot, Bilberry /Digley, Kirkburton and Riding Wood.

### MISTLE THRUSH

Generally distributed and breeding throughout the area. About 40 at Digley from September 13th. - 16th.

### FIELDFARE

Flock of c. 350 at Bradley in late March, c.700 in two flocks at Emley and

Bretton on April 23rd. and last 20 at Digley on May 4th. where in autumn the first 2 were seen on September 13th. Interesting autumn movements of c.1,000 flying West over Dalton and c.650 West over Lindley Moor on October 21st. and c.370 flying West and c.220 South over Blackmoorfoot on October 22nd.

#### SONG THRUSH

Well distributed breeding species. Less common during the winter.

#### RELVING

Up to 100 were at an Edgerton Roost in late January and about 300 in December. At Bretton there were 250+ on March 19th. and 300+ on October 15th. The last spring record was 2 on April 8th. at Blackmoorfoot where the first 7 in autumn appeared on October 5th. On October 21st. c.1,250 flew West over Lindley Moor and on October 22nd. 220 flew South and c.1,350 flew West at Blackmoorfoot.

#### RING OUZEL

An early arrival of 3 males at Digley on March 21st. where the last was 1 on September 14th. Breeding confirmed at Wessenden and present in breeding localities at Buckstones, Digley and Ripponden.

#### BLACKBIRD

Very common and well distributed breeding species. A roost at Edgerton had at least 300 both early and late in the year.

#### WHEATEAR

First at Digley on March 23rd. and last at Bradley on September 23rd. Breeding on higher meadowlands and moorland fringes.

#### STONECHAT

More records than in earlier years. 1 male seen twice at Yateholme during May, and also seen feeding a juvenile here in early July. Near Deer Hill 3 on October 14th. 2 on 15th. and on December 2nd; 2 at Bradley on October 17th; 1 at Lintbwaite on December 2nd. and 1 at Blackmoorfoot on December 23rd.

#### WHINCHAT

First at Wessenden on April 15th. and last at Blackmoorfoot on September 20th. Present in breeding areas at Deer Hill, Digley, Ingbirchworth and Yateholme.

#### REDSTART

First at Digley on April 17th. and the last here on September 13th. Indications of a decrease at Beaumont Park and Bretton where breeding season records were limited to two sightings in each locality.



Breeding was confirmed at Deffer Wood and Digley, and woods near Clayton West, Flockton and Mirfield.

#### ROBIN

Common Breeding species. Interesting to note that 45 were ringed at Blackmoorfoot.

#### GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Records of singing males as follows:-

- 1 at Gawthorpe on May 17th. 2 - 3 at Bullcliffe Wood, June 8th. and July 1st.
- 1 - 2 at Whitley Beaumont late June - early July; 1 at High Wood on June 24th.
- 1 at Cawthorne on June 29th. and 1 at Calder Farm (Mirfield) on July 23rd.

#### SEDGE WARBLER

Singles at Bretton on May 14th. and September 6th. Blackmoorfoot on May 29th. and August 20th. and 1 - 3 observed regularly at Lees Mill, Linthwaite, August 15th. - September 13th.

#### BLACKCAP

First at Bretton on April 15th. and last a first year male ringed at Edgerton on October 26th. Breeding records from Armitage Bridge, Beaumont Park and Kirkburton, and also well distributed in woods between Middlestown - Cawthorne - Flockton - Mirfield.

#### GARDEN WARBLER

First at Bretton on May 6th. and last at Blackmoorfoot on August 18th. Breeding at Beaumont Park (1 pair) and Bretton (3 pairs) as well as Coxley Valley, Bullcliffe Wood, Cawthorne, Bower Hill and Highwood.

#### WHITETHROAT

First at Bretton on May 6th. and last at Kirkburton on September 25th. Other reports from Armitage Bridge, Blackmoorfoot, Beighton, Linthwaite and Whitley Beaumont, and on the east of the area Bullcliffe Bank and Bentley Spring Woods, Cawthorne district and Coxley Valley.

#### LESSER WHITETHROAT

1 male in song at Bretton on May 13th. and 2 on 14th. and 1 at Cawthorne on June 29th. and 1 ringed at Blackmoorfoot on August 3rd.

#### WILLOW WARBLER

First at Blackmoorfoot on April 7th. and last here on September 22nd. Well distributed and breeding where suitable throughout the area.

#### WOOD WARBLER

Near Derby Dale on May 21st. 2 males were singing and a third bird was present, 1 was in song on June 12th., and 25th. on which date a second bird was food carrying, 1 singing in Bullcliffe Wood on June 6th. 1 ringed at Blackmoorfoot on August 14th.

### CHIFFCHAFF

First at Bretton on March 31st. and last at Blackmoorfoot on November 5th. Well distributed and breeding in woodlands to the east of our area between Middlestown and Cawthorne. Reports from many localities during April in the west of the area, but only present at Edgerton and Meltham May - July.

### GOLDCREST

Regular throughout the year at Bretton with unusual numbers in October, such as c.40 on the 15th. 50+ in conifers at Yateholme on November 5th. Spring and autumn records of 1 - 4 from many localities immediately around Huddersfield, and breeding records from woodlands in the Bretton/Cawthorne area.

### SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

First at Bretton on May 6th. last at Dean Wood on September 24th. Breeding evidence from Beaumont Park, Bretton, Digley, Edgerton and Longley, and woodlands near Clayton West and near Mirfield.

### PIED FLYCATCHER

One pair at Bretton on May 4th. and 1 male, Bullcliffe North Wood on June 8th.

### DUNNOCK

Common and well distributed breeding species. Breeds at 1,250 feet above sea level near Buckstones.

### MEADOW PIPIT

A flock of c.100 at Digley in early April. Very common breeding species on the higher ground.

### TREE PIPIT

First at Bretton on May 4th. and last at Blackmoorfoot on August 22nd. Breeding evidence from Rishworth, Digley, Yateholme/Holmbridge, Wilshaw, and from woodlands between Mirfield, Cawthorne and Middlestown.

### ROCK PIPIT

Singles at Blackmoorfoot on October 2nd. flying south and calling (M.L.D., D.W.S.) and on October 21st. flying East also calling (J.E.L., J.M.D.) First records for the area.

### PIED WAGTAIL

Roost at Waterloo not observed this year but over 100 at Lees Mill, Linthwaite on October 7th. Other numbers 50+ at Blackmoorfoot September 21st., 22nd. and c.30 at Wilshaw on October 1st. Breeding throughout the area.

### GREY WAGTAIL

Observed during the breeding season at Bretton, Cawthorne, Dean Wood, Digley, Holmbridge and Riding Wood with records at waterside elsewhere during the winter.

### YELLOW WAGTAIL

First at Bretton on April 24th. and last at Blackmoorfoot on September 15th.

At least four pairs breeding at Bretton and other probable at Blackmoorfoot and Cawthorne.

### STARLING

Breeding throughout the area, and roosting in large numbers in the town centre.

### GREENFINCH

The Blackmoorfoot roost was rather smaller than usual this year with a maximum of about 100 in February and March. 200+ were feeding on recently scattered seed on the motorway verge at Lindley Moor on October 21st. Breeding throughout the area.

### GOLDFINCH

Breeding indications from Bretton, Edgerton, Holywell Green and Kirkburton. Notable flocks of 22 at Primrose Hill on March 5th. c.90 at Lindley Moor on October 7th. and 60 - 70 at Bretton on December 2nd.

### SISKIN

Bretton Regular up to March 19th. with a maximum of c.60 on February 19th. First during the autumn were 17 on October 15th. then observed regularly to December 31st. with a maximum of c.100 on November 19th.

1 was flying North at Blackmoorfoot on October 22nd. and 5 were at Cawthorpe on November 5th.

### LINNET

Well distributed breeding bird of open country away from higher moorlands. A flock of 100+ at Wilshaw on August 20th. was the largest reported.

### TWITE

Breeding reported from Buckstones, Digley, Scamonden and Wassenden.

### REDPOLL

A flock of 16 at Bretton on October 30th. included a few of the rare Mealy Redpoll. Breeding in small numbers in woodlands throughout the area.

### BULLFINCH

Breeding records from Bretton, Cawthorne, Clayton West, Deffer Wood, Edgerton, Flockton, Grimescar Wood, Holywell Green, Mirfield and Skelmanthorpe.

### CROSSBILL

Blackmoorfoot 2 flew North on August 1st. and 4 were caught and ringed on October 8th. (W.L.D.)

Bretton Singles on October 14th. - 15th., November 12th. and December 27th. (J.E.D.) and 5 on October 22nd. (N.L.)

Cawthorne Park 11 flying West on December 23rd. (P.S. R.L.B.)

Deffer Wood c.9 on July 6th. (R.L.B.)

### CHAFFINCH

The largest winter flock was of only about 50 near Wilshaw in January. Still apparently decreasing slowly as a breeding species.

### BRAMBLING

Scattered records of small numbers early in the year up to April 15th., when 2 were at Bretton. 1 at Holmbridge on October 2nd. was the first of the Autumn, and numbers at Bretton increased from 17 on October 15th. to over 200 in late November and fell to about 80 by the year end,

Also 20 at Royd Moor on November 26th.

### YELLOWHAMMER

Breeding in small numbers in open country away from the higher ground.

### CORN BUNTING

Observed in the following localities during the breeding season:-  
Crosland Hill, Emley, Ingbirchworth, Stainland and Whitley Beaumont.

### REED BUNTING

Small numbers breed in the area over a wide range of habitats from the R. Calder at less than 100 ft. above sea level to moorland at 1,200 ft.

### HOUSE SPARROW

A partial albino was at Blackmoorfoot throughout the year.

### TREE SPARROW

At Bretton on April 23rd over 100 were feeding in recently ploughed land, but otherwise numbers reported were small. Breeding in old woodlands throughout the area.

BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY

ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS

1968 - 1972

For the purposes of this project the club agreed to cover five 10 kilometre squares. All these squares were within the 100 kilometre square S.E., and their numbers are indicated at the top of each column.

The number within each column indicates the best category of evidence of breeding obtained for each particular species.

For simplicity these are classified as:-

- 1 - Possible breeding, i.e. present in the breeding season.
- 2 - Probable breeding, i.e. holding territory, displaying, visiting nest sites or nest building.
- 3 - Confirmed breeding, i.e. nest with eggs or young, adults feeding young or with food for young and recently fledged young.

N.B. The evidence obtained is not necessarily indicative of breeding etc. in more than one of the five seasons.

10 Kilometre squares concerned are:-

- |         |                            |
|---------|----------------------------|
| S.E. 00 | Wessenden - Chew Valley    |
| S.E. 01 | Ripponden - Meltham        |
| S.E. 10 | Holmfirth - Dunford Bridge |
| S.E. 11 | Huddersfield               |
| S.E. 21 | Lepton - Bretton.          |

SPECIES	00	01	10	11	21
Great Crested Grebe					3
Little Grebe			3	3	2
Mallard	3	3	3	3	3
Teal	3	1			
Tufted Duck					3
Canada Goose					3
Mute Swan			3	3	1
Kestrel	3	3	3	3	3
Red Grouse	3	3	3		
Partridge			2	3	3
Pheasant				3	3
Moorhen		3	3	3	3
Coot					3
Lapwing	3	3	3	3	3
Golden Plover	3	3	3		
Snipe	3	3	3		
Woodcock			2		3
Curlew	3	3	3		
Common Sandpiper	3	3	3		
Redshank	3	3	3		
Dunlin	3	3	2		
Black-Headed Gull	3				
Stock Dove	3	3	3	3	3
Woodpigeon	3	3	3	3	3
Turtle Dove					3
Collared Dove				3	3
Cuckoo		2	3	2	2
Little Owl	3	3	3	3	3
Tawny Owl	3	3	3	3	3
Short Eared Owl		1			
Nightjar			2		2
Swift	1	3	3	3	1
Kingfisher		1		3	1
Green Woodpecker			2	2	3
Great Spotted Woodpecker			2	3	3
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker					3
Skylark	3	3	3	3	3
Swallow	3	3	3	3	3
House Martin	3	3	3	3	3
Sand Martin		3			3
Carrion Crow	3	3	3	3	3

SPECIES	00	01	10	11	21
Rock	3	3	3	3	3
Jackdaw		3	3	3	3
Magpie	3	3	3	3	3
Jay			3	3	3
Great Tit	3	3	3	3	3
Blue Tit	3	3	3	3	3
Coal Tit	1	3	3	3	3
Willow Tit				3	3
Long Tailed Tit				3	3
Nuthatch					1
Treecreeper		3	3	3	3
Wren	3	3	3	3	3
Dipper	3	3	2	3	
Mistle Thrush	3	3	3	3	3
Song Thrush	3	3	3	3	3
Ring Ouzel	3	3	3		
Blackbird	3	3	3	3	3
Wheatear	3	3	3		
Stonechat			3		
Whinchat	3	3	3	3	3
Redstart	3	3	3	3	3
Robin	3	3	3	3	3
Grasshopper Warbler				2	2
Sedge Warbler		1			1
Blackcap		3	2	3	3
Garden Warbler				3	3
Whitethroat		3		3	3
Lesser Whitethroat					1
Willow Warbler	3	3	3	3	3
Chiffchaff				2	3
Wood Warbler		2		2	
Goldcrest			3	2	3
Spotted Flycatcher	1	3	3	3	3
Pied Flycatcher					1
Dunnock	3	3	3	3	3
Meadow Pipit	3	3	3	3	3
Tree Pipit		3	3	3	3
Pied Wagtail	3	3	3	3	3
Grey Wagtail	1	3	3	2	3
Yellow Wagtail		3		2	3
Starling	3	3	3	3	3
Greenfinch	1	3	3	3	3
Goldfinch		3	3	3	3

SPECIES	00	01	10	11	21
Linnet	3	3	3	3	3
Twitè	3	3	3		
Redpol	3	3	3	3	3
Bullfinch		3	3	3	3
Cheffinch	3	3	3	3	3
Yellowhammer	3	3	3	3	3
Coun Bunting		3		3	3
Reed Bunting	3	3	3	3	3
House Sparrow	3	3	3	3	3
Tree Sparrow	3	3	3	3	3

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