



HBWC

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**1973**

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

**PRICE 25p**

## THE PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR 1973

In looking back over the year, I have to admit to a sense of pleasure - not at any major milestones passed - but at a year of consolidation, and strengthening of our Club's roots.

The behind the scenes activity gave us excellent field and indoor programmes, and this Annual Report bears witness to the general activity of our members. My thanks to all those who have worked so hard to make our enjoyment possible. A full list of Officers, main Committee and Report Sub-Committee Members is included for the first time in this Report. I also express thanks to Mike Denton and his helpers, whose ringing work is evidenced in the following pages.

The sad news of Douglas Bisiker's death came to us in 1973. Douglas was our Founder President, indeed it is doubtful that our Club would exist without his drive and inspiration. We owe him a great deal, and many of us remember him as a dear friend. The Club will be receiving a tangible reminder in the form of his bird books, which he wished us to have.

Our congratulations to John Dale, who now becomes Recorder for our local vice-county for the Yorkshire Naturalist's Union. This means that in 1974 he will be handing our Recording work to Paul Bray, who has helped a lot of late, but will still be available in an advisory capacity. I am sure that we are all pleased to see one of our members holding a job such as this.

In conclusion, I should like to offer my best wishes to my successor, Brian Woodcock, in the hope that he will enjoy his two year term of office as much as I have enjoyed mine.

B. COCKING.  
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## RECORDER'S REPORT

Another interesting year has again been put on record. The Blackmoorfoot hide has been visited on more days than ever before, and the summary of observations in 1973 has been prepared by Mr. Paul Bray. The Ringing Report compiled by Mr. Michael Denton includes a complete list of species ringed in the area since 1960 as well as full details of birds ringed and recovered in 1973.

It has been gratifying to prove successful breeding of both Merlin and Barn Owl for the second consecutive year. An increased number of Short-eared Owl, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker and Stonechat sightings were of interest as well as the record of Lesser Whitethroats at Deighton, whilst of wintering species Siskin reached a new high level at Bretton Park in the 1972-73 winter. On the debit side Cuckoo and Redstart continue to be less frequently recorded.

A Black Redstart in April was a new species for the area list, and two species rarely noted. Peregrine and Lapland Bunting, were also observed. A total of species were recorded in the area which comprises 10 KM. squares S E 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21 plus the area in SE 12 south of the River Calder.

Two species which were 'excapes' are not included in the classified list. These were two Bahama Pintail at Bretton Park in September, and two Barnacle Geese which were at Gawthorpe from mid-November to the year end.

It has been necessary once again to reject a number of reports for which there was insufficient evidence. This may be the outcome of a number of factors:

(a) lack of detail due to observers oversight or difficult conditions at the time of observation; (b) inexperience generally on the part of the observer or (c) no previous experience of the species concerned. We hope that those who have had a record rejected will not be discouraged. There is not a birdwatcher living who has not made a mistake at some time or other. The recorders committee wish to set a standard which would be acceptable at any level, and do not wish to put a record into print which might at a later date be proved inaccurate. It may always be possible to add a record to a later report in the light of further evidence. Some of these reports were eliminated from the Blackmoorfoot log on the day of recording and the observers mistakes were rectified, but others of interest that could not be adequately checked included Turnstone, Cormorant and Black Terns, Nuthatch and Shore Lark.

Once again I thank Messrs. Paul Bray and Michael Denton for their efforts referred to above and for their help generally, and to Messrs. Norman Leece and Donald Sykes for their criticisms of this report.

Finally as this may be the last local report for which I shall be responsible, I thank all those who have helped in the last five years to make a worthwhile and meaningful publication, and ask you to support my successor in a similar manner.

J. E. DALE  
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## BIRD RINGING

Since January 1st, 1960, 16,996 birds of 86 species have been ringed in the Huddersfield area.

The following is a list of species ringed in Huddersfield up to December 31st, 1973.

MALLARD	ROOK	CHIFFCHAFF
MERLIN	JACKDAW	GOLDCREST
KESTREL	MAGPIE	SPOTTED FLYCATCHER
WATER RAIL	JAY	DUNNOCK
MOORHEN	GREAT TIT	MEADOW PIPIT
LAPWING	BLUE TIT	TREE PIPIT
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER	COAL TIT	PIED WAGTAIL
SNIPE	WILLOW TIT	GREY WAGTAIL
JACK SNIPE	LONG TAILED TIT	YELLOW WAGTAIL
WOODCOCK	TREECREEPER	STARLING
CURLEW	WREN	GREENFINCH
COMMON SANDPIPER	DIPPER	GOLDFINCH
GREENSHANK	MISTLE THRUSH	SISKIN
<u>SKNOT</u>	FIELDFARE	LINNET
DUNLIN	SONG THRUSH	TWITE
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL	RED WING	REDPOLL
BLACK-HEADED GULL	RING OÜZEL	BULLFINCH
STOCK DOVE	BLACKBIRD	CROSSBILL
CUCKOO	WHEATEAR	CHAFFINCH
LITTLE OWL	STONECHAT	BRAMBLING
TAWNY OWL	WHINCHAT	YELLOW HAMMER
LONG-EARED OWL	REDSTART	REED BUNTING
SHORT-EARED OWL	ROBIN	HOUSE SPARROW
SWIFT	GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	TREE SPARROW
KINGFISHER	SEDGE WARBLER	
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER	BLACKCAP	
SKYLARK	GARDEN WARBLER	
SWALLOW	WHITETHROAT	
HOUSE MARTIN	LESSER WHITETHROAT	
SAND MARTIN	WILLOW WARBLER	
CARRION CROW	WOOD WARBLER	

M. C. Denton

## RINGING REPORT

With the departure of David Sill from the Huddersfield area we were once again left with only one ringer, so a drop in total to 2,840 birds of 53 species was not surprising. Eight species were ringed for the first time namely: Merlin, Water Rail, Woodcock, Little Owl, Short-eared Owl, Rook, Fieldfare and Stonechat. The only pulli ringed were 2 Merlin, 5 Kestrel, 11 Lapwing, 3 Stock Dove, 5 Jackdaw, 18 Pippie, 7 Blue Tit, 8 Mistle Thrush and 4 Blackbirds.

As usual Blackbird, Greenfinch and Swallow made up the bulk of the total, but because of bad weather (which makes mist netting impossible) and the early departure of the birds, Swallow totals were down, but Pied Wagtails took over the roost earlier than usual and this accounts for the large total of 216. During the last three months of the year Blackbird numbers at Edgerton were rather low, but a large 'turnover' of birds was experienced and more than usual were ringed. A 'turnover' was also apparent in Greenfinches at Blackmoorfoot, so that in January/February nearly twice as many were ringed as were recorded on any one night.

Once again several species just turned up in mist nets and would probably have been missed were it not for the presence of these nets. These include Water Rail at Lee's Mill, Woodcock at Edgerton, Short-eared Owl, Stonechat and Siskin at Blackmoorfoot.

Five Swallows and a Willow Warbler were caught which had been ringed in 1972 and a Redwing ringed December 1972 was retrapped November 1973.

## RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used:

<u>Age:</u>	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

<u>Sex:</u>	M.	-	Male
	F.	-	Female

### Manner of recovery:

V.	-	Caught or trapped, and released with ring
X.	-	Found dead or dying
KA.	-	Long dead

Date or Recovery: Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets.

All recoveries of 5 Km. or over are published.

The recovery of Swallow JN52308 was received too late for inclusion in the 1972 report.

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDS RECOVERED ELSEWHERE

SWALLOW

JN52120	Juv.	3.9.72	Blackmoorfoot, Nr. Huddersfield 53°36'N 1°52'W
Sexed M	V.	24.8.73	Appleby (Westmorland) 54°35'N 2°30'W 114 Kms. NNW
JN52308	Juv.	6.9.72	Blackmoorfoot
	V.	4.10.72.	Tarifa (Cadiz) SPAIN, 36°01'N 5°36'W
JN52481	Juv.	3.9.72.	Blackmoorfoot
	X.	5.8.73	Kirkby Malkeard, Ripon (Yorks) 54°10'N 1°39'W 60 Kms. NNE
JN68236	Juv.	11.9.72	Blackmoorfoot
	V.	(28.5.73)	Eddles on (Peebles-shire) 55°43'N 3°13'W 250 Kms. NNW
JP79326	Juv.	23.8.73	Blackmoorfoot
	V.	28.8.73	Wetherby (Yorkshire) 53°36'N 1°23'W 43 Kms. NE

BLACKBIRD

CJ82725	I, Y. M.	25.11.72	Blackmoorfoot
	V.	23.10.73	De Koog, Texel, Frisian Isles, Netherlands. 53°06'N 4°48'E

GREENFINCH

BP73553	I, Y. F.	20.10.72	Blackmoorfoot
	V.	3.12.73	Melton Wood, Doncaster (Yorks) 53°31'N 1°14'W 45 Kms ESE
BP73556	F. G. F.	4.11.72	Blackmoorfoot

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDS RECOVERED ELSEWHERE (Continued)

	V.	28.1.73.	Hagsworth, Pontefract (Yorks) 53°37'N 1°21'W 30 Kms E.
BP73567	Adm.	18.11.72	Blackmoorfoot
	V.	28.3.73.	Tandle Hill, Rochdale (Lanes) 53°35'N 2°09'W 20 Kms W.

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREASWALLOW

JN68325	Juv.	12.9.72	Blackmoorfoot
	XA	Ca.15.7.73	Thurstonland, Huddersfield 53°34'N 1°48'W 7 Kms. ESE

BLACKBIRD

CH39548	I. Y. M.	16.11.73	Edgerton, Huddersfield 53°40'N 1°48'W
	V	26.11.73	Blackmoorfoot 6 Kms. SSW

PIED WAGTAIL

JJ09100	I. Y.	2.10.71	Kirkburton, Huddersfield 53°36'N 1°43'W
	V	6.9.73	Blackmoorfoot 10 Kms W.

GREENFINCH

BN 28882	I. Y. M.	18.11.72	Bretton Park, Wakefield. 53°37'N 1°34'W
	XA	13.1.73	Blackmoorfoot 18 Kms W.
BR07764	I. Y. M.	24.2.73	Edgerton
	V.	5.3.73	Blackmoorfoot 6 Kms SSW

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELDSWALLOW

JK74278	Pull	18.6.73	Worsthorne, Burnley (Lancs) 54°48'N 2°11'W
	V	13.8.73	Blackmoorfoot 30 Kms SE
JR16136	Juv	12.8.73	Spurn Point (Yorks) 53°35'W 0°06'E
	V.	16.8.73	Blackmoorfoot 125 Kms. W.

BLACKBIRD

CJ12629	Ad.m.	18.3.72	Glossop (Derbys) 53°27'N 1°57'W
	V.	11.3.73	Edgerton 25 Kms. NNE
CJ48613	I. Y. M.	6.12.70	Sander Stone (Staffs) 52°53'N 2°05'W
	V.	15.3.73	Blackmoorfoot 85 Kms. NNE

PIED WAGTAIL

JJ44244	I. Y. M.	13.1.73	Reading (Berks) 51°26'N 0°59'W
	V.	8.3.73	Blackmoorfoot 250 Kms NNW

GREENFINCH

BH50299	Juv.	16.8.72	Hathersage (Derbys) 53°19'N 1°39'W
Sexed F	V.	10.2.73	Blackmoorfoot 35 Kms NNW

M. C. Denton

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## LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES 1973

In Huddersfield the majority of birds are ringed in areas that are accessible to the public, so it is not surprising that a large number of 'local' birds are found by such people e.g. dead on road, killed by cat, etc.

Large numbers of retraps are also handled many years after ringing, these being tabulated below.

The top lines show the approximate period which had elapsed between ringing and either retrap (Table 1) or death (Table 2). The figures show the number of individuals either retrapped or found dead at their place or ringing.

TABLE 1 - RETRAPS

	1YR.	2YRS.	3YRS.	4YRS.	5YRS.	6YRS.	7YRS.	8YRS.	9YRS.	TOTAL
Swallow	5									5
Great Tit	1									1
Blue Tit	5	4								9
Wren		1								1
Song Thrush	1									1
Redwing	1									1
Blackbird	83	23		1	3	2				112
Robin	7	5			2	1				15
Willow Warbler	1									1
Dunnock	7	3								10
Greenfinch	8	3						1		12
Bullfinch	3	2								5
Chaffinch	2									2
House Sparrow	1	3								4
Tree Sparrow		1								1
										<u>180</u>

TABLE 2 - RECOVERIES

Blue Tit				1						1
Song Thrush	1						1			2
Blackbird	13	6		1	2	2				24
Robin						1				1
Dunnock	1									1
Greenfinch		2								2
										<u>31</u>

The absence of three year old birds is due to a lack of ringing during that period.

M.C. Denton

BIRDS RINGED IN HUDDERSFIELD DURING 1973

SPECIES	BLACKMOOR FOOT	EDGERTON	CROSLAND MOOR	MOLDGREEN	DEER HILL	GOLCAR	KIRK BURTON	DIGLEY	MOORLAND LOCALITY	
MALLARD	2									2
MERLIN									2	2
KESTREL						5				5
WATER RAIL	1									1
MOORHEN	3									3
LAPWING	16									16
SNIPE	21									21
WOODCOCK		1								
STOCK DOVE								3		3
LITTLE OWL	2									2
TAWNY OWL	1									1
SHORT EARED OWL	1									1
SWALLOW	431									431
HOUSE MARTIN	5									5
SAND MARTIN	5									5
ROOK			2							2
JACKDAW							5			5
MAGPIE	19		1							20
GREAT TIT	16	6								22
BLUE TIT	35	13		7						55
COAL TIT		3								3
WILLOW TIT	1									1
LONG TAILED TIT	5	6								11
TREE CREEPER		2								2
WREN	7	8								15
MISTLE THRUSH	14	3								17
FIELDFARE	1									1
SONG THRUSH	7	41								48
REDWING	1	47								48
BLACKBIRD	106	771	2							879
WHEATEAR					5					5
STONECHAT	1									1
REDSTART	1									1
ROBIN	41	11	3							55
SEDGE WARBLER	1									1
BLACKCAP	1	1								2
WILLOW WARBLER	30									30
CHIFFCHAFF	2									2
TOTAL	777	913	8	7	5	5	5	3	2	1725

SPECIES	BLACKMOORFOOT	EDGERTON	CROSLAND MOOR	MOLDGREEN	DEER HILL	GOLCAR	KIRKBURTON	DIGLEY	MOORLAND LOCALITY	
GOLDCREST	12	4								16
DUNNOCK	19	12	4							35
MEADOW PIPIT	29									29
PIED WAGTAIL	216									216
GREY WAGTAIL			1							1
STARLING	1		51							52
GREENFINCH	439	56								495
GOLDFINCH	1									1
SISKIN	2									2
LINNET	7									7
REDPOLL			1							1
BULLFINCH	11	17								28
CHAFFINCH	1	14								15
REED BUNTING	39									39
TREE SPARROW	178									178
TOTAL	955	104	56							1115
TOTAL B/F	777	913	8	7	5	5	5	3	2	1725
FULL TOTAL	1732	1017	64	7	5	5	5	3	2	2840

## SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS AT BLACKMOORFOOT RESERVOIR DURING 1973

A stranger paying a casual visit to Blackmoorfoot Reservoir might consider it to be ornithologically uninteresting. So it can be on many days, but first impressions are often deceptive. With extensive watching, the reservoir and its immediate surroundings continue to yield a good number of interesting species. It is thanks to the enthusiasm of club members and the numerous hours which they spend in observing the comings and goings of the birds that such a volume of information is gathered as to warrant the writing of this summary.

In 1973 the reservoir was visited on 325 days by 70 observers who maintained a watch for a total of over 800 hours, during which 109 species were recorded. The high level of coverage of the reservoir which is shown by these figures was initiated in 1970 by the opening of the new hide. The results which have been obtained since that year have demonstrated the value of watching continually at one place and have revealed the frequency with which several of the scarcer species visit our area. Foremost among these species are the Glaucous Gull and Iceland Gull which by now have been confirmed as annual winter visitors. Other examples can be found among the ducks, waders and terns. This raises the question of what further discoveries might be waiting to be made, both at the reservoir and at other venues in the Huddersfield area, and thereby provides the incentive for a continuation of effort.

As a relative newcomer to the club, I am grateful to the organisers for their foresight and energy in constructing and maintaining the hide, which makes birdwatching so much more pleasurable, and without which the coverage would be less complete. Thanks must also be extended, on everyone's behalf, to Mr. & Mrs. Jollans for their continuing tolerance of our presence in the grounds of the reservoir. It is in everyone's interest that the facilities which they and the Water Board make available to us are put to their full use.

In these days of increasing pressure on reservoirs as places for recreation of many different kinds, there will be increasing demands that Blackmoorfoot Reservoir be opened to sailing, angling, etc. These activities are, to a greater or lesser degree, incompatible with our own and it is proper that we should express concern about any proposals to admit sports which would disturb the birds or which would hinder birdwatching. This concern is not derived from a feeling of selfishness, but is instead based upon a recognition of the different requirements of different parties and the rights of each to express their point of view. It is our contention that the number of reservoirs within a ten mile radius of Huddersfield is sufficient to accommodate all the various interests on separate waters. And furthermore that the number of years for which birdwatching has been pursued at Blackmoorfoot serves as justification for our continuing as users of the reservoir.

Clearly, then, our case for retaining Blackmoorfoot can be presented most effectively by demonstrating that the club makes frequent and active use of the reservoir in a responsible manner. Evidence of this lies partly in the figures which have been quoted above and it can also be shown in two other ways. One is in maintaining the appropriate

behaviour when in the grounds of the reservoir, hence it is important that the rules of conduct which are displayed in the hide be adhered to. The other is in the keeping of accurate records in the log book, which provides written evidence of our serious aims as an ornithological society. The log is intended to record the frequency of occurrence of the observers as well as the observed, so that watchers should enter their names in addition to a careful account of sightings. These points ought to be noted particularly by our younger members lest they forget the responsibilities which go with the privileges of entering the grounds and using the hide.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir is valued as one of the principal haunts for Huddersfield birdwatchers. If it is treated with respect, it may remain so.

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## JANUARY

New Year's Day saw a single Coot and Dunlin at the reservoir, in addition to seven Shelducks which stayed until the following day. A count of the gull roost on the 1st resulted in a total of nearly 8,600 birds, of which about 6,000 were Black-headed Gulls.

The period up to the 13th was characterised by light winds and mist, with variable and unexceptional numbers of ducks, whilst the maximum number of Snipe for January was 29 on the 3rd. A Tawny Owl was heard on the 13th. As the wind strengthened and veered from east to south on the 14th two Pink-footed Geese flew over the water, followed shortly by a drake Goosander. A second Dunlin was present on this date.

During the next few days the weather was calm and cold, causing partial ice cover on the reservoir, and there was little to note other than the usual Mallard, Teal, Tufted Ducks, Pochard and Goldeneyes. The first two species reached their maxima of 30 and 10 respectively on the 20th, a day of fresh south-easterlies and snow showers, and on the same date another drake Goosander appeared. Also on the 20th, Lapwings numbered 89 and there was one Golden Plover.

The weather was changeable for the remainder of the month, with winds mostly in the western quarter. A Grey Wagtail flew over on the 21st and the roosts were estimated to contain 150 Greenfinches and over 6,500 gulls on the 27th. Goldeneyes reached 15 on the 28th, when the third Goosander was recorded and Pochard numbered approximately 20 on the 29th, when another Pink-footed Goose flew over in a westerly direction.

## FEBRUARY

The second month opened with a calm spell, during which there were up to 17 Tufted Ducks, 20 Pochard, 21 Goldeneyes and 24 Snipe. The maximum number of gulls for the month was observed on the 2nd when over 5,700 were counted. A Pink-footed Goose flew south-west on the 3rd and then six Pintails came in during wintry showers on

the 9th. There were further showers and strong north-westerly winds on the 10th and two Pinkfooted Geese were again seen passing over the reservoir: these same individuals were probably responsible for some, if not all, of the previous sightings.

Winds stayed in the western quarter for the next five days and moderated. Two Shelducks arrived on the 13th. The Greenfinch roost contained over 250 on the 14th and Mallard totalled 20 on the 15th, when there was a small amount of ice on the surface of the water. After a day of light easterlies on the 16th the wind moved back to the west. An immature Glaucous Gull was on the reservoir on the 18th and this same bird was found in the roost on the 21st. Strong winds after snow on the 23rd brought the year's only Kittiwakes, three in number.

The month ended as it began with a period of calm weather. Over 200 Golden Plovers and 70 Lapwings were in the area on the 25th and four Wigeon were on the water the day after. Single Shelduck and Moorhen visited the reservoir on the 27th and the first Oystercatchers appeared on the 28th. On the latter day, a female Merlin was watched pursuing its preserie prey along the east side of the reservoir.

### MARCH

As is only to be expected, the numbers of roosting birds began to visibly decrease during March. While no figures were recorded for Greenfinch, gulls dwindled from nearly 5,000 on the 2nd to 1,500 on the 29th and Magpies decreased from 120 on the 2nd to 60 on the 29th.

For the first few days of the month the weather was typically cyclonic. An Oystercatcher flew west on the morning of the 3rd and the first Curlew arrived on the 4th, after which this species was seen with increasing frequency. Also on the 4th a Little Owl which had been seen regularly since late January on a barn close to the reservoir was netted and ringed. Goldeneyes numbered 14 on this date.

By the 5th Lapwings were performing territorial displays in fields adjacent to the reservoir. On this calm, overcast day with light rain the first Iceland Gull of the year was discovered, a first winter bird. It reappeared on the 7th.

From the 8th to the 15th winds were light and mainly from the east. A drake Shoveler and two Shelducks were present on the 9th. A Great Spotted Woodpecker visited the bankside plantations on the 10th, when a Moorhen arrived to stay until the 22nd. There were 15 Mallard on the 12th. Two more Shelducks were present on the 13th and a flock of 180 Fieldfares was seen in the trees. The calm period was brought to a close on the 15th when the second Glaucous Gull was seen a sub-adult showing some grey on the mantle.

On the 18th the wind became WNW and increased in strength. The year's first Redshanks were seen when two individuals flew over separately to the west. This wader was recorded on five other dates in the month. Both Curlews and Redshanks return to their breeding grounds at this time of the year, and it is impossible to

say whether birds at Blackmoorfoot are local visitors or migrants on their way to distant places. Dunlins, on the other hand, are late arrivals on the moors so that birds in March are less likely to be coming into the area to stay. One in winter plumage was recorded on the 16th and there were sightings on two other days. Lapwings and Golden Plovers were well represented on the 16th, numbering 200 and 300 respectively. Meadow Pipits began to occur in some numbers, indicating their return movement, with 12 on the 16th and a maximum later in the month of 96.

The wind remained in the west on the 17th and 18th and was light. Another moorland breeding species which put in its first appearance was the Twite. Six flew west on the 17th and sightings occurred almost daily thereafter. Following scattered reports earlier in the year, Goldenests started to appear with some regularity at about this time, continuing until mid April. A Stonechat was ringed on the 18th.

A period of warm weather began on the 19th when the Moorhen which was still present from the 10th was joined by a second bird and the Glaucous Gull on the 15th paid another visit. On the 21st a Partridge was heard calling from fields to the west of the reservoir, an unusual species for the Blackmoorfoot area. The sky was overcast and the wind was moderate southerly on the 24th when the first summer species arrived, a male and a female Wheatear. Two Siskins were ringed on the morning of the 25th and a Cormorant arrived at mid-day. Twites flocking in fields on the east side of the reservoir reached 75.

On the 27th, a cool day with overcast sky and a light SSE wind, a flock of 13 Golden Plovers near the east bank quarries included at least three of the northern sub-species. On the same day the first Great Crested Grebe was on the reservoir and the first Chiff-chaff was in the plantations along with another unspecified Phylloscopus warbler.

The month ended with a return to westerly weather and three more Shelducks passed through on the 30th.

#### APRIL

There were still up to 12 Mallard at the beginning of April, mostly in pairs, but they decreased later, with drakes in the majority by the end of the month when the ducks were away nesting. Goldeneyes left unusually early and failed to reach their spring peak. A single drake stayed until the 7th. Teal were noted on one occasion only, a male and a female on the 11th and Wigeon were last seen on the 14th when there were four. Tufted Ducks and Pochard were absent.

Golden Plovers were still seen in flocks until late in the month, the maxima being 180 on the 9th and 120 on the 20th, but Lapwings had dispersed and were seen in small numbers only. Redshanks continued to appear and there were records on eight dates up to the 18th, white Curlews were noted on ten dates throughout the month. Snipe were seldom seen.

Gulls decreased further in numbers, especially after mid month. Also, the population changed in relative size as the Black-headed Gull was replaced by the

Lesser Black-back as principal species.

The first two days of the month had been cold with fresh westerlies, hail and snow. Five Great Crested Grebes came in during this unseasonal weather on the 2nd. The wind dropped to a light northerly on the 3rd, when there was a Grey Wagtail, and then increased to near gale force on the 4th and 5th, when there were still 50 or more roosting Magpies.

The weather was mostly cold and unsettled up to the 24th, during which period single Great Crested Grebes were noted on two occasions. The last winter thrushes were seen on the 19th, about 40 Redwings and a few Fieldfares flying southwest. The first Swallow arrived on the 21st in cold northerlies and rain. There was a White Wagtail on the reservoir banks on the 24th.

The first definite Willow Warbler did not appear until the 25th, a warm, sunny day with light south-easterlies, when a bird which had been ringed at the reservoir on 27th May 1972 was retreapped. A Chiffchaff was singing on the same day and subsequently both Willow Warblers and Swallows were seen daily.

## MAY

There was a small amount of activity at the beginning of the month and then the reservoir settled down to its quiet period. Little was noted throughout the month in the bankside plantations apart from the usual common breeding species.

The wind was from a westerly direction on the 1st when a Great Crested Grebe and two Dunlins were present. A short period of easterlies and sunny weather saw the arrival of three Shelducks and two Tufted Ducks on the 3rd followed by three 'Comic' Terns on the 5th, on which date the first House Martins were recorded. Another Dunlin was seen during a calm day on the 7th, after which the weather became changeable.

Easterlies set in again on the 12th and continued until the 21st. Along with a Little Grebe on the 14th came the belated arrival of the first Sand Martin, and then an overdue Swift turned up on the 16th.

Weather conditions varied towards the end of the month. A Great Crested Grebe appeared on the 28th and on the same date a female Mallard emerged with a brood of 11 ducklings.

## JUNE

What is normally the quietest month of the year at Blackmoorfoot was enlivened by the occasional appearance of birds on passage, the first being a Common Tern which flew over into a light westerly wind on the 3rd. The number of young Mallard had been reduced to seven by the 5th when a second brood, containing six birds, made its first appearance. A drake Shoveler was seen on the 6th. The wind was from an easterly direction on the 7th and 8th and then it returned to



the west, whereupon a Little Ringed Plover flew over on the 11th and two Whinbrels passed over the reservoir on the 14th. A change to southerlies on the 15th brought a Great Crested Grebe which stayed until the 16th.

Lapwings had already begun forming post-breeding flocks by the middle of June, a hundred or more being present on the 18th. Curlews were noted occasionally, most probably local birds, and there were one or two Snipe to be seen.

There were light north-easterlies on the 23rd, when six Shovelers and two Tufted Ducks appeared. An unexpected arrival on the same day was an immature drake Goldeneye which was seen again on the 24th, when, during calm wet weather, two Spotted Redshanks paid a brief visit. A Little Grebe was seen on the 29th.

## JULY

Although there was a moderate amount of exposed shore on the western side of the reservoir at the beginning of the month, most of this was covered by grass and other vegetation, with the result that fewer waterside birds were to be seen compared with preceding years. These conditions affected the remainder of the autumn passage season as well. The situation was not helped by the rise in water level after a period of rain around the second week of the month. The effect was particularly noticeable on waders, of course, and Ringed Plovers were conspicuous for their complete absence. Nevertheless small numbers of waders did occur in July: Common Sandpipers on ten dates, Curlews on five dates, Redshanks on four and Dunlins on three. Three Greenshanks were seen to arrive on the evening of the 5th and a Whinbrel flew over on the 25th. The numbers of Lapwings in the fields on the east side of the reservoir increased during the month and reached 1,000 by the 29th, while Golden Plover flocks started to form at about the middle of the month and reached 70 by the same date. Snipe were still observed in only very small numbers.

Tufted Ducks were seen frequently throughout July, with a maximum of 12. Pocard nearly all of which were drakes, occurred less often and generally in smaller numbers except for 14 on the 5th. The immature drake Goldeneye returned to the reservoir on the 2nd and remained until the end of the month. Apart from Mallard in small numbers, the only other species of duck which was noted was the Common Scoter, of which there were five on the 13th.

House Martins were seen on most days, by far the highest figures being 30 on the 7th during calm, rainy weather. A similar number of Swifts occurred on a few dates around mid month. A Sand Martin was over the reservoir on the 12th, another on the 24th and two on the 25th. Swallows had not yet started to appear in numbers and never exceeded 20. A flock of Tree Sparrows frequenting the shore and plantations on the west bank built up to 60 by the 12th and increased to its maximum of about 100 on the 20th.

Among the temporary visitors to the reservoir was a Heron on the 8th, a Grey Wagtail which flew over on the 16th, a Yellow Wagtail on the 24th and Great Crested Grebes on two dates, two birds on each occasion. A pair of Little Owls in the barn on the west side was seen to have reared one juvenile.

## AUGUST

The month started with a day of sunny, windless weather during which a 'Comic' Tern flew over the reservoir in a southerly direction. On the following day when the wind had risen to a moderate south-westerly, a first-year Little Gull was found on the reservoir. It was seen to rise from the water and to begin circling, gaining height continuously, until it finally disappeared into the distance. The only Willow Tit of the year was caught and ringed on the same day.

The wind stayed in the southwestern quarter up to the 10th: it was light on the 3rd when two Great Crested Grebes and a Greenshank were seen, and it was strong on the 5th when three Oystercatchers flew south-east. The Tree Sparrow flock were still 70 strong on the 6th and another Oystercatcher flew over on the 8th. The first Teal of the autumn arrived on the 10th and there were 200 or more Swallows over the reservoir on that evening. These were no doubt gathering prior to going to roost in a reed bed in the nearby Colne Valley a roost which held about 3,000 later in the month.

Moderate north-easterly winds on the 11th produced a day of considerable interest. The birds on the water included a Great Crested Grebe, a Little Grebe, a drake Common Scoter, two Shovelers and the maximum number of Tufted Ducks for the month, 15. A party of five Wimbrels with two Curlews passed over in a westerly direction at midday, an Oystercatcher flew east a short time later and two Greenshanks came down on the north bank in the evening. A Grey Wagtail was also seen during the day, while Lapwings were noted to be maintaining their numbers of the previous month, there still being about 1,000 in the area.

The wind retained an easterly content until the 16th. There was a 'Comic' Tern, a Dunlin and a Greenshank on the 12th and three Shovelers on the 14th. Golden Plovers had continued to increase in numbers since July and reached 130 by the 14th.

Common Sandpipers were seen almost everyday until the 17th, up to four in number, but then they disappeared for a period. Herons, on the other hand, began to occur with some frequency, starting with three on the 17th. There was a Dunlin on the same date.

The weather was calm on the 19th and little was recorded, with the notable exception of 29 Teal. The reservoir was hidden under fog on the 20th, but by the 22nd the weather was brightening and the wind became moderate south-easterly. A Greenshank and two Yellow Wagtails were seen. In addition, a flock of eight 'Comic' Terns and a total of 12 Curlews passed through. Another 'Comic' Tern appeared on the following day when the wind was easterly, and there was a single Shoveler. Swifts were scarce in the area by this time and the last bird of the month was recorded on the 23rd. Gulls had begun their autumn increase earlier in the month and there were about 1,500 in the roost. North-easterly winds on the 24th saw the arrival of the only August Pochard,

five drakes.

From the 25th to the 27th, the wind veered slowly from north-east to south, steadily decreasing in strength. The immature Goldeneye which had stayed through the month finally departed and was last observed on the 25th. A few more Snipe were being seen on the reservoir banks and there were 13 on the 26th. During light showers on the 27th, 17 Pintails arrived, the largest number ever recorded on the reservoir. Five Wigeon were also present, the first to be seen since April, and there was another Shoveler on the water. With a change to moderate westerlies on the following day, all but one of the Pintails left, but new arrivals were two Great Crested Grebes, a juvenile Shelduck and a Dunlin.

The wind was southerly again on the 29th when four Dunlin were seen and the first autumn Goldenest was heard. Showers occurred with a strong south-westerly on the last day of the month and a Grey Plover in summer plumage flew west over the reservoir.

## SEPTEMBER

A high level of activity was maintained during the first half of September with new birds coming into the area almost daily. The south-westerly wind continued for the first two days, but it had moderated by the 2nd, on which date a Ruff and a Reeve flew west at midday and a flock of 10 Knot, an unusually large number for Blackmoorfoot, flew over in the same direction in the afternoon. Also on the 2nd, 22 Twite were seen feeding near the north-west corner of the reservoir. The wind had decreased further in strength by the 3rd and showers occurred. A Heron and a Great Crested Grebe were present and the last Snipe of the year passed through, heading south. A Sedge Warbler was seen in the willows on the west bank on the 4th.

During the morning of the 5th, the weather was calm and overcast and a Whimbrel flew west, while later in the day there was a light westerly wind and a 'Comic' Tern was seen, followed by nine Dunlins. Golden Plovers reached their autumn peak of 150, and the last two Phylloscopus Warblers were recorded.

The wind back to near southerly on the 6th and increased in strength, which brought an adult Shelduck, a drake Common Scoter, a Shoveler, two Pintails, a Black Tern and 19 Dunlins. In addition, the last Wheatear of the year was seen near the disused quarries on the east side of the reservoir. The wind returned to a westerly direction on the following day and all these birds disappeared, but there was instead a juvenile Shelduck. A large increase in the number of Snipe was noted on the 8th when 51 were flushed from the waterside vegetation on the west bank. A Spotted Redshank which was moulting from summer plumage was seen late on the same day.

A period of easterlies started on the 10th, when three Pintails were on the water. A 'Comic' Tern and six Dunlins passed over on the 11th and there were two Shovelers and a Twite on the 12th. The 13th was relatively quiet, although two Herons were present, and then eight Canada Geese visited the reservoir on the 14th.

Weather conditions varied a good deal during the second half of the month, and there were several days of rain. The water level took an upwards turn, towards its high July level, covering much of the shore which had been exposed during the intervening period. Nevertheless, Snipe were still numerous, reaching 67 on the 23rd, but other waders became less frequent. Common Sandpipers, Curlews and Redshanks had been seen on the six, four and two dates, respectively, during the first half of the month, but of these species only the Common Sandpiper occurred in the second half, the last one appearing on the 18th. There was, however, a Sanderling on the 26th and a Little Stint on the 30th. Lapwings and Golden Plovers had passed their peaks, decreasing to 700 and 120, but gulls were still increasing, reaching 2,000 or more. The only terns to appear during the second half of the month were two Black Terns which stayed from the 19th to the 20th. There were a few other noteworthy visitors towards the end of the month: a Merlin which flew over on the 23rd, a Blackcap which was ringed on the 27th and a Redstart which was ringed on the 30th. Two notable absentees for September, and indeed for the year, were Whinchat and Spotted Flycatcher.

Although Swallows were seen throughout the month, with a maximum of 50 on the 5th, they became distinctly irregular towards the end. House Martins were about until the 19th, when there were 20, and then no more were seen until October. Sand Martins occurred only once, seven on the 5th. Goldcrests were noted on a few occasions and five were ringed on the 30th.

Of the common duck species, Mallard and Tufted Ducks were present throughout the month, up to 23 and 17 respectively. Teal were seen on every day except the 1st and 2nd, though the maximum was only 9. Pochard were as erratic as ever, numbers appearing on one day and disappearing on the next. They were seen on eleven dates with a maximum of 13. A few Wigeon were present for much of the month, not exceeding 3.

## OCTOBER

October is a month of transition at the reservoir, usually seeing the departure of the last summer visitors and the arrival of some of the white species. House Martins departed as early as the 1st, but Swallows lingered slightly late with single birds passing through on the 1st, 13th and 20th. The 20th was also the date of the first Redwings. Although Fieldfares had arrived and were seen elsewhere in the Huddersfield area, none were noted around the reservoir.

Goldeneyes made their first appearance on the 11th, when there were four, but no more were seen until the 19th, and then small numbers were present until the end of the month, ending with six on the last day. Other ducks occurred in moderate numbers: up to 15 Mallard, 8 Teal, 16 Tufted Ducks and 18 Pochard. Wigeon were seen on four dates, 1 on the 4th, 13 on the 5th, 10 on the 8th and 9 on the 11th. White Scaup were seen on three occasions, single females or immatures on the 11th, 19th and 23rd. The numbers of roosting gulls rose steadily from 2,000 to 4,000 whereas Lapwings and Golden Plovers decreased to 200 and 100.

Rainfall during the second and third weeks of the month caused the loss of more exposed shore, but this was still not enough to displace all the Snipe and of 54 at the beginning of the month there were 40 remaining at the end. Single Dunlins were present on five dates up to the 14th and then a flock of 17 came down

to the water's edge on the 23rd. The only other wader to appear in October was the Little Stint. One was seen flying round the reservoir on the 4th.

Four Twites flying over on the 7th were the last to be seen, and only the third record of the autumn. A Little Grebe arrived on the 8th and stayed until the 11th, when there was a Heron in the north-east corner, and then two Great Crested Grebes were present on the 19th. A new visitor to the trees on the west bank came on the 20th a Coal Tit, and more visitors appeared on the 22nd, a party of eight Long-tailed Tits. Goldcrests were seen in ones and twos on a few occasions.

The weather was untypically mild and sunny, with a light southerly wind on the 24th and this brought the year's only Bewicks Swan. Little Grebes returned in force on the 28th, when there were 10, and four Cormorants were seen to come down onto the water on the same day.

## NOVEMBER

Only one count of the gulls was made in November: 3,500 on the 11th. Ducks were most numerous at the beginning of the month with 15 Mallard, 20 Teal, 12 Tufted Ducks, 13 Pochard and 4 Wigeon in the first four days. The weather was calm during this period, but strong north-westerlies arose on the 5th, when a Knot and a Dunlin appeared on the west bank, and later in the day three more Dunlins flew over westwards. The numbers of Snipe varied during the month from 60 on the 10th to 30 on the 25th, while the downward trend for Lapwings and Golden Plovers was still evident, the highest figures being only 150 and 30. There was a late Redshank on the 25th.

Redwings and Fieldfares were frequent in small numbers and Goldcrests were seen on two days, the last one being on the 10th. A flock of 130 Woodpigeons flew over southwards on the 11th. There was a female Goo-sander on the 14th and another on the 17th. An unusual bird for the reservoir, in the shape of cock Pheasant, took up temporary residence in the grounds from the 7th to the 22nd. The use of mist nets payed dividends on two consecutive days in mid month, when five Long-tailed Tits and a Tawny Owl were caught on the first, and a Short-eared Owl was ringed on the second. There was a period of cold weather with snow showers over the last week of the month and Goldeneyes increased to 13 on the 28th.

## DECEMBER

The cold weather intensified during the first two days of December, with the result that the reservoir was almost completely covered by ice. Many ducks left the reservoir while the severe conditions lasted, but Mallard numbers went up to 31 and Goldeneyes eached a maximum of 14. A few Dunlins were seen during this icy spell, one coming down onto the banks on the 1st and a total of five appearing on the following day.

There was a complete thaw on the night of the 2nd and six Shelducks arrived on the water on the 3rd. A Merlin made a brief appearance on the same day, over fields to the south-east of the reservoir where it was seen in active pursuit of a small bird. The weather was mild and damp with new gale force westerlies on the 4th and

the last Golden Plovers flew over the reservoir, a flock of 17 heading west. Also on the 4th 26 Wigeon arrived and 14 of these birds stayed until the end of the month, taking advantage of the vegetation on the west bank, where they could often be seen grazing on the grass at the water's edge.

The wind remained in the west from the 5th to the 8th, during which time a single Dunlin was present, and then a change to southerlies on the 9th brought another Shelduck. The weather was very unsettled around mid month, with gales on the 13th and 16th, but there was little of note until the arrival of three Pintails on the 22nd. Gulls numbered approximately 7,000 on this date and there were 60 Magpies roosting in the trees on the south side. Greenfinches were seen regularly coming into the rhododendrons in the evenings, up to 50 in number.

After their initial peak, Mallard had become less numerous and then they increased again until they reached an overall maximum for the year of 39 on the 23rd. Some of the other duck species reached their rather lowly maximum figures for the month a few days later: Teal, 4; Tufted Duck 10 and Pochard 6. There were still about 100 Lapwings in the area towards the end of the month and about 20 Snipe remained on the shrinking area of shore on the west side. A first winter Iceland Gull was found in the roost on the 29th and finally the year was brought to a fitting close by the appearance of five Whooper Swans on the 31st.

P. Bray.

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## CLASSIFIED LIST

### GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Bretton 1 up to 14th January, then 1-8 adults 3rd February - 21st November, and 1 on 22nd and 29th December. Three pairs reared a total of 8 young.

Blackmoorfoot 1-5 on sixteen dates 27th March - 19th October

Ingbirchworth 1 - 4 20th January - 3rd August and 1 on 10th November

Royd Moor, Scammonden and Scout Dyke had 1 - 2 during March and April.

### LITTLE GREBE

Bretton - Present throughout the year with a maximum of 14 on the 18th November, and one pair reared 2 young.

Adults with young seen at Boshaw Whams, Gunthwaite and Royd Moor July- September.

Other records from Bilberry, Blackmoorfoot (10 on the 28th October), Cawthorne, Ingbirchworth, Lockwood and Scout Dyke.

### CORMORANT

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 25th March and 4 on 28th October

Bretton - 1 from 3rd - 11th February

## HERON

Bretton - 1 - 2 present throughout the year with 3 on 9th September.

Scattered records of 1 - 3 from eighteen other waters including every month except December.

## MALLARD

Maximum numbers at the principal waters as follows:

Blackmoorfoot	39	23rd December	Bretton	307	1st-2nd December
Ingbirchworth	33	17th September	Langsett	191	9th December
Royd Moor	82	18th November	Scammonden	70	December

Bred at or near all of the above, and elsewhere in the area.

## TEAL

Blackmoorfoot - 1 - 6 from 18th January - 28th February, 1 on the 11th March, 2 on 14th April, and 1-11 from 10th August - 28th December with maxima of 29 on 19th August and 20 on 1st November

1-10 at nine other waters, and 62 at Langsett on 9th September. Proof of successful breeding from three moorland localities,

## WIGEON

An exceptional year with more records and larger numbers than normal.

Blackmoorfoot - 1 - 4 on seven dates from 8th February - 14th April, 1 - 16 on twenty six dates from 27th August - 17th November, then 14-16 throughout December with a maximum of 26 on 4th December.

Ingbirchworth - At least 13 present up to 21st February with the maximum at 40 from 19th - 22nd January. 5 on 18th November.

Elsewhere 1 - 11 on six other waters up to 14th April and from 6th September onwards, and also 15 at Digley on 6th September and Royd Moor on 22nd December.

## PINTAIL

Blackmoorfoot - 17 on 27th August is the highest number ever seen in the area, otherwise 6 on 9th February, 3 on 13th March, 1 on 28th August, 2 on 6th, 1 on 9th and 3 on 10th September, and 3 on 22nd December.

Bretton - 1 on 21st January

Langsett - 1 on 17th November.

## SHOVELER

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 9th and 30th March, 1 on 6th, and 6 on 23rd June, 2 on 11th, 3 on 14th, 1 on 23rd and 27th-28th August. 1 on 6th, and 2 on 12th September and 1 on 27th October.

Bretton - 1 on 10th March, 2 on 7th April, 2 on 16th September, 3 on 8th, 1 on 16th and 29th December.

Langsett - 2 on 14th October and 22 on 22nd December.

## SCAUP

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 12th, 19th and 23rd October.

Deer Hill - 1 on 2nd October

Royd Moor - 1 on 18th February, 15th April and 2 on 18th November.

Scout Dyke - 1 from 4th January - 28th March

## TUFTED DUCK

Blackmoorfoot - 1 - 4 up to 26th March, 2 on 3rd May and 1-17 regularly from 23rd June-31st December, the maximum of 17 on 11th September

Bretton - Present throughout the year. Early maximum 71 on 14th January and autumn maximum 169 on 17th November.

Observed on nine other waters with 29 at Ingbirchworth on 11th July and 35 at Royd Moor on 16th September.

## POCHARD

Blackmoorfoot - 1 - 20 up to 21st March, 1-14 from 3rd-10th July, 5 on 24th August and 1-13 from 5th September-31st December.

Bretton - Regularly from 1st January (c.150) - 1st April (1), 1 on 28th April and 1st May, 3 on 3rd, and 5th August, then regular from 9th September-31st December with a maximum of 48 on 4th November.

Present on the Ingbirchworth area reservoirs particularly in the second half of the year with maxima of 40 at Ingbirchworth on 15th July and 31 at Royd Moor on 18th November. Other records from Black Moss (6 on 25th June) Ringstone Edge and Scammonden.

## FERRUGINOUS DUCK

Langsett - 1 on 4th September (K.C. ; W.V.S.) 5th record for the area.

## GOLDENEYE

Blackmoorfoot - Regular from 1st January-7th April and 1 immature male from 23rd June-25th August, and regular from 11th October-31st December. Maxima 18 on 25th February and 14 on 2nd and 30th December.

Also at Black Moss, Bretton, Broadstones, Deer Hill, Digley, Ingbirchworth, Langsett, Ringstone Edge, Royd Moor, Scammonden and Scout Dyke.

## COMMON SCOTER

Blackmoorfoot - 5 on 13th July, 1 on 11th August and 6th September.

Boshow Whoems - 1 on 14th July

Royd Moor - 1 on 29th July.



## GOOSANDER

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 14th, 20th and 28th January and 14th and 17th November

Bretton - 2 on 20th November.

Langsett - 1 on 17th and 18th February and 4 on 18th November.

## SHELDUCK

Blackmoorfoot - 7 on 1st-2nd January, 2 on 13th and 1 on 27th February, 2 on 9th and 13th and 3 on 30th March, 3 on 3rd May, 1 on 28th August, 6th-7th September and 6 on 3rd and 1 on 9th December.

Bretton - 8 on 1st January.

Digley - 19 on 4th December.

Horbury, The Wyke - 1 on 5th December

Ingbirchworth - 2 on 12th March, 4 on 2nd May and 2 on 14th September.

Langsett - 1 on 24th January, 2 on 18th April and 1 on 15th December.

Ringstone Edge - 2 on 24th September.

## GREY GOOSE SP and 'GEESE'

Small skeins not specifically identified as follows:

Blackmoorfoot - 30th September 6 → N    21st October    15 → W and 26 → W  
11th November 7 → W

Lockwood - 28th November 50+ → S

Outlane - 25th November 9 W

## GREY LAG GOOSE

Bretton - 2 on 16th April

## PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Blackmoorfoot and Crosland Hill - 1 - 2 probably the same birds on 14th, 29th and 31st January and 3rd and 10th February

South Crosland - 28th November 85 → SW

## CANADA GOOSE

Bretton - Present all the year except November. Maxima about 140 on 2nd January and 134 on 26th December. 6 young from early brood were seen in May and 10 young were present in August from later broods.

Elsewhere - 8 at Crosland Hill on 24th January and Blackmoorfoot on 14th September, singles at Royd Moor on 29th April and Ingbirchworth 8th and 22nd August, and 40+ NW over Edgerton on 27th December.

## MUTE SWAN

One pair reared 3 young at Bretton and another pair at Kings Bridge had eggs taken. One pair also near Gawthorpe and a single at Gunthwaite.

## SWAN SP

At Lockwood on 28th November 30+ flew W.

## WHOOPEE SWAN

2 adults and 3 immatures were at Ringstone Edge on 29th-30th December and Blackmoorfoot on 31st December.

### BEWICK'S SWAN

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 24th October

Bashaw Whams - 2 from 9th - 28th January

### SPARROWHAWK

Records of sightings on five dates from two localities.

### HEN HARRIER

Single females or immatures were at Fulshaw on 20th October (D.H.) and Digley on 29th October (Nil)

### PEREGRINE

One seen overhead at Lindley Moor on 1st July (J.M.D.) for a few minutes came from the south and flew back southwards. 2nd record since 1953.

### MERLIN

One pair successfully reared 2 young, Sightings in two other breeding localities. Singles at Blackmoorfoot on 28th February, 23rd September and 3rd December, and near Scammonden on 11th March, 20th April and 2nd December.

### KESTREL

At least 14 pairs regularly present in the breeding season.

### RED GROUSE

Regular breeder in moorland localities. A covey of 50+ on Slaithwaite Moor on 2nd December.

### RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Bretton - 1 on 18th March (R.L.B.)

Ingbirchworth and Royd Moor - 1 on 26th April, 3 on 17th and 1 on 24th June and 1 on 1st July (P.B., M.L.D., P.B.W.)

### PARTRIDGE

Breeding confirmed at Bradley and fairly certain near Clayton West, Ingbirchworth and Whitley Beaumont.

### PHEASANT

Small numbers breeding in the area. Reported from Blackmoorfoot, Bretton and Crosland Hill and Bullcliffe, Deffer and Gregory Spring Woods.

### WATER RAIL

Bretton - Single on 7th, 20th and 27th January, 2 on 10th February, 1 on 4th, 18th and 26th March, 2 on 1st and 1 on 2nd December.

Lees Mill, Linthwaite - 1 caught and ringed on 3rd March.

### MOORHEN -

Breeding throughout the district near waters of all types.

### COOT

Bretton - At least 31 young reared from 18 broods (R.L.B.) Approximate maxima of 245 on 7th January and 350 on 24th November.

Records from Blackmoorfoot, Gunthwaite (1 pair bred) Royd Moor (1 pair bred) Scammonden and Scout Dyke.

### OYSTERCATCHER

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 28th February, 3rd March, 3 on 5th, 1 on 8th and 11th August.

Bretton - 1 on 18th March

Digley - 1 on 8th August

Ingbirchworth - 2 on 4th February and 1 on 25th May

### LAPWING

Post breeding season flocks of over 1,000 at Blackmoorfoot in late July and early August.

### RINGED PLOVER

Deer Hill - 1 on 5th May and 10th and 12th September.

Horbury, The Wyke - 1 on 28th September.

Scout Dyke - 2 on 14th September.

### LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Blackmoorfoot - 1 W on 11th June.

Deer Hill - 1 on 2nd and 3rd May

Windleden - 2 on 1st July.

### GREY PLOVER

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 31st August flew W (J.E.D., A.D.H., F.J.R.)

Ingbirchworth - 1 from 18th - 20th October (J.H.)

Ringstone Edge - 1 on 12th May (N.L.)

The 7th to 9th records for the area.

### GOLDEN PLOVER

Blackmoorfoot - Scattered records from 20th January - 24th April then regular from 24th July - 4th December. Maximum of over 300 on 16th March. Over 250 were on Whitley Common, Ingbirchworth on 24th March., 54 at Ringstone Edge on 13th April in summer plumage were of the 'Northern' variety. Breeding in moorland habitats.

### SNIFE

Blackmoorfoot had records for every month with a maximum of at least 80 on 1st November. 40 at Ingbirchworth on 4th November, and 49 at The Wyke, Horbury on 14th September. Breeding in moorland localities.

### JACK SNIFE

Horbury, the Wyke - 1 on 28th September (R.L.B., S.N.S.)

### WOODCOCK

Breeding season reports from Bullecliffe Wood, Cawthorne, Kirkburton, Langsett, Stocks Moor and Whitley Beaumont, and winter records from Bretton, Dean Wood, Deighton, Digley, Edgerton, Honley Wood, Lepton and Mag Wood.

### CURLEW

First were 4 over Lindley Moor on 4th March and last 1 at Digley on 3rd. Oct., with an unusual record of 1 as late as 24th December at Yateholme. Breeding in moorland localities.

### WHIMBREL

Blackmoorfoot - 2 on 14th June, 1 on 25th July, 5 on 11th August (M.L.D.) and 1 on 5th September (P.B.) all flying west.

Lindley Moor - 2 → S.W. on 5th September (J.M.D.)

### GREEN SANDPIPER

Horbury, The Wyke - 1 on 29th July (D.P.)

Royd Moor - 1 on 4th September (P.B.W.)

### COMMON SANDPIPER

First at Digley on 21st April and last at Blackmoorfoot on 21st September. Over 20 pairs breeding in localities regularly visited.

### REDSHANK

First 2 at Blackmoorfoot on 16th March and a late record of one flying W. on 25th November. 1 - 2 at The Wyke, Horbury in December. Evidence of breeding from two localities with at least 7 pairs present.

### SPOTTED REDSHANK

Blackmoorfoot - 2 → N on 24th June (D.S.I., A.S.G., D.M.) and 1 on 8th September (T.C.)

Horbury, The Wyke - 1 on 15th August (D.P.), 4 on 16th and 3 on 18th September (R.L.B.)

Ingbirchworth - 1 on 25th August (G.A.)

↳

### GREENSHANK

Blackmoorfoot - 3 on 5th July, 1 on 3rd, 2 on 11th and 1 on 22nd. August.

Horbury, The Wyke - 5 on 15th August.

Ingbirchworth - 1 on 25th May, 1 on 8th and 14th, 2 on 15th and 16th and 1 on 22nd. July.

Scammonden - 2 on 10th September.

### KNOT

Blackmoorfoot - 10 flew W. on 2nd. September (M.L.D., D.B.) and 1 was present on 5th November (M.L.D.)

### LITTLE STINT

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 30th September (M.L.D., J.M.D.) and 4th October (P.B.)

## DUNLIN

Blackmoorfoot - Scattered records in January, March and May and from 2nd. July - 5th December. The records on three December days including 5 on 2nd. were unusual as was the record of 3 near Horbury on 5th December. Maximum of 19 on 6th September. At least 14 pairs breeding in regularly visited localities.

## SANDERLING

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 26th September.

## RUFF

Blackmoorfoot - 2 flew W. on 2nd. September.

Horbury, The Wyke - 1 on 14th and 24th September.

Deer Hill - 1 on 23rd. June showing signs of ruff.

## GULL SPP.

Blackmoorfoot - Attempts were made on fifty three dates to count the roosting gulls and the following are the approximate monthly maxima:-

January 1st	8,500	February 21st	6,000
March 2nd	4,950	April 12th	1,450
August 26th	1,150	September 20th	1,1850
October 22nd.	4,000	December 22nd	7,000

## GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Present in the Blackmoorfoot roost up to 9th May and from 1st October with a maximum of 520 on 15th December

## LESSERS BLACK-BACKED GULL

Present throughout the year in the Blackmoorfoot roost with less than 100 in January, February and December, and maxima of about 700 in mid-April and 800 in late September.

## HERRING GULL

Observed throughout the year at Blackmoorfoot with approximate maxima of 2,000 on 1st January, 1,300 on 14th February and 1,200 on 15th December.

## COMMON GULL

Blackmoorfoot maxima of about 900 on 15th February and 500 on 30th December, and observed regularly again except from late May to early July.

## GLAUCOUS GULL

Blackmoorfoot - A second winter bird on 18th and 21st February and a third winter bird on 15th and 19th March (D.W.S., J.E.D., M.L.D., P.B. et al).

Ringstone Edge - A first winter bird flew S on 14th January.

## ICELAND GULL

Blackmoorfoot - First winter birds seen on 5th and 7th March and 29th December. (M.L.D., J.E.D., P.B., J.C.G. et al)

### LITTLE GULL

Blackmoorfoot - An immature on 2nd. August (J.E.D. , J.M.D.) and an adult in winter plumage on 22nd. august (T.C. , D.M.)

Royd Moor - An immature on 6th September (P.B.W.)

### BLACK-HEADED GULL

Blackmoorfoot - Roost maxima of 6,000 on 1st January, 3,500 on 2nd. March and 3,000 on 15th December.

Black Moss - About 16 pairs with eggs and young in late June.

Broadstones - About 1,000 on 10th August.

Ringstone Edge - Over 1,550 roosting on 14th January.

### KITTIWAKE

Blackmoorfoot - 3 adults on 23rd. February.

### BLACK TERN

Blackmoorfoot - 1 on 6th September (J.C.G. , M.L.D. et al) and 2 on 19th September (P.B., J.E.D. et al)

### COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

With only one instance of positive identification it has been necessary to group these two species together.

Blackmoorfoot - 3 on 5th May, 1 on 3rd. June (Common), 1 on 1st and 12th, 8 on 22nd, and 1 on 23rd. August. 1 on 5th and 11th September.

Bretton - 4 on 28th July.

Ingbirchworth - 1 on 27th July and 28th August.

Waterloo - 6 →N on 28th July.

### STOCK DOVE

Seen regularly at, and probably breeding near, Blackmoorfoot, Bretton and Dean head.

### WOOD PIGEON

Breeding throughout the area in suitable habitats. Large flocks at Bretton, Cawthorne, Flockton and Langsett in late November and December with a maximum of over 2,000 near Bretton in early December.

### TURTLE DOVE

A single in Deffer Wood on 26th May and pairs or singles in June and July at Bulleliffe Wood, Cawthorne Park, Coxley Valley, Hoyland Bank Wood and Langsett.

### COLLARED DOVE

Continues to increase with the largest numbers in the north-east of our area with 40 regularly at Ossett, and at least 103 near Horbury on 5th December. Nearer Huddersfield the Gawthorpe flock numbered 20 in March and 16 were at Edgerton on 4th February.

### CUCKOO

Numbers of this species in the area are still declining. First from Honley Wood on 24th April, and last at Royd Moor on 14th September. The only regular sightings were at Digley and Scammonden with single dates only at twelve other localities.

### BARN OWL

Reports from five localities with successful breeding at one site where 2 young were reared.

### LITTLE OWL

New breeding evidence from Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth considered with other known sites suggests that at least 35 pairs breed in the area.

### TAWNY OWL

Present at ten localities during the breeding season.

### SHORT-EARED OWL

An exceptional year with sightings, which are too numerous to list, in every month except December. They were seen on the moorlands to the west of our area including Rishworth, Scammonden, Wessenden and south to Thurlstone. One was caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 11th November.

### SWIFT

First at Lepton and Fenay Bridge on 4th May, and last at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd September.

### KINGFISHER

Bretton - Singles observed on twenty-one dates covering every month except July  
Cawthorne/Cannon Hall - 1 on 21st March.

Cooper Bridge - 1 on 16th May.

Coxley Valley - 1 on 10th January and 11th April.

Ingbirchworth - 1 on 9th September.

Linthwaite - 1 on 31st March.

### GREENWOODPECKER

For the second successive year there has been a considerable increase on the previous year's records. Breeding near Bretton, Dean Wood, Digley and Netherton. Other reports from Almondbury and Beaumont Park and from Hagg, Hey, Honley and Hoyland Bank woods and New Mill.

### GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Breeding pairs at Bretton, Cawthorne, Coxley Valley (2) and near Netherton (2).

Reported from other suitable breeding habitats at Beaumont Park, Briery Bank, Deffer Wood, Edgerton, Gregory Spring Wood, Hagg Wood, Hey Wood, Hoyland Bank, Langsett and New Mill.

### LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Bretton - 1 on 18th and 2 on 25th February, 1 on 4th, 3 on 10th and 1 on 18th March, and 1 on 18th November.

### SKYLARK

Breeding on moorland and meadowland throughout the area. Flock of about 200 near Emley Woodhouse on 2nd. December.

### SWALLOW

First at Ingbirchworth and Fartown on 15th April and last at Blackmoorfoot and Bretton on 20th October. About 3,000 roosting at Lees Mill, Linthwaite in late August.

### HOUSE MARTIN

First at Bretton on 23rd. April and last at Thongsbridge on 8th October. The number of breeding pairs in residential areas is still increasing.

### SAND MARTIN

First at Bretton on 21st April and last at Blackmoorfoot on 5th September. Breeding at Bretton and Elland Gravel Pit.

### CARRION CROW

Widely distributed breeding species and particularly common at Bretton and Cawthorne Parks.

### ROOK

Over 4,000 roosting near Scissett in February, and about 2,500 at Bretton Park in September and November.

Ten club members gave considerable assistance to a rookery survey based on an area within 20 miles of Leeds City Centre. The rookeries counted within the club's area held a total of 3,252 nests.

<u>10 KM. SQUARE</u>	<u>ROOKERIES</u>	<u>TOTAL NESTS</u>
SE 00	-	-
SE 10	9	250
SE 20	13	516
SE 01	16	688
SE 11	16	1137
SE 21	<u>16</u>	<u>661</u>
TOTAL	<u>70</u>	<u>3252</u>

### JACKDAW

Roost gatherings with Rooks near Denby Dale in February and Bretton in November both included about 1,500 of this species. Common breeding resident.

### MAGPIE

About 120 roosted at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd. March and about 100 near Old Lindley in January.



## JAY

Reported from the following localities:- Beaumont Park, Bretton Park, Dean Wood, Digley, Edgerton, High Hoyland, Honley Wood, Kirkheaton, Langsett, Meltham, New Mill and Yateholme.

GREAT TIT) Common both as a breeding and wintering species in the area.

BLUE TIT )

COAL TIT

Well distributed in the area throughout the year. Localities include Bagden Hall, Beaumont Park, Bretton Park, Cawthorne, Dean Wood, Deffer Wood, Denby Wood, Digley, Edgerton, Grimescar, Gregory Spring Wood, Hoyland Bank, Langsett, Stocks Moor, Thunderbridge, Woodsome and Yateholme.

## WILLOW TIT

Breeding proved at Bretton and Lockwood with other reports from Bagden Hall and Wood, Beaumont Park, Blackmoorfoot, Deighton, Emroyd Common, Kirkburton, Langsett and Stocks Moor Common.

## LONG-TAILED TIT

Breeding at Bretton (4 pairs) where 24 were seen on 18th November, Dean Wood, Deffer Wood where 20 were seen on 2nd. July and Lockwood. Other records from Beaumont Park, Blackmoorfoot, Bullcliffe Wood, Cawthorne Park, Edgerton, Gregory Spring Wood, Hoyland Bank, Liley Wood, Stocks Moor and Thunderbridge.

## NUTHATCH

A pair seen regularly at Bretton from 7th January - 13th May.

## TREE CREEPER

Breeding in localities of mature timber throughout the area.

## WREN

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

## DIPPER

Breeding season records from Dean Wood, Digley, Hey Green (Marsden), Netherton and Wesenden.

## MISTLE THRUSH

Generally distributed, and breeding throughout the area. A nest at Blackmoorfoot had 4 eggs on 31st March. A flock of 52 flying S.W. over Lindley Moor on 22nd. June was exceptionally early.

## FIELDFARE

About 200 at Bretton in mid January and over 200 at Austonley on 15th March were the largest early flocks until about 250 were seen flying N. at Bretton Park on 29th April. The last spring record was 2 at Grimescar on 8th May, and the first of autumn 1 at Digley on 18th September. No large autumn movements were observed, but flocks of about 300 were at Digley and near Pole Moor in November.

### SONG THRUSH

Well distributed breeding species. Less common during the winter.

### REDWING

Flocks included 400 at Bretton on 14th January, 150 at Digley on 6th October, and up to 250 at an Edgerton roost in December. There was a rather late spring record of 1 at Crimble on 6th May, and 7 over Lindley Moor on 2nd. October were the first of autumn.

### RING OUZEL

The first was 1 male at Digley on 24th March and the last at least 3 at Bilberry 6th October. Breeding at Deanhead, Digley, March Haigh, near Ripponden and Wessenden.

### BLACKBIRD

The Edgerton roost again had about 300 in the early months, but only about 200 late in the year. Very common and well distributed breeding species.

### WHEATEAR

First at Digley on 22nd. March and last on 19th September. Breeding reported from Deerhill, Digley, Ingbirchworth, Scammonden, Wessenden and other moorland localities.

### STONECHAT

More records than usual following a noticeable increase in sightings in 1972. 2 at Deerhill on 2nd. February; 1 at Ingbirchworth on 16th February; 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 18th March; a pair at Deanhead for 24th October - 26th December with a 3rd bird on the last date; a pair near Langsett on 17th November; 1 at Digley on 27th November, and a pair at Crosland Moor on 6th December.

### WHINCHAT

First and last at Digley on 26th April and 12th September respectively. Breeding there and at Deanhead, Ingbirchworth, Royd Moor and Yateholme.

### REDSTART

First at Bretton on 28th April and last at Blackmoorfoot on 30th September. Decrease in breeding population has been noted in recent years and the species seems mostly to be confined to the wooded valleys S. and W. of Holmbridge and to the Hall Dike area. Reported also at Gregory Spring and Hoyland Bank Woods.

### BLACK REDSTART

A second year male in the Deanhead valley on 18th April was a new species for the area. (P.B., J.E.D.)

### ROBIN

Common breeding species. 10 ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 30th September.

#### GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

1 possibly 2 at Wessenden on 29th April, 2 'reeling' at Whitley Beaumont on 22nd. May and 26th June, 3 at Emroyd Common on 19th June and 1 at Stocks Moor Common in June.

#### SEDGE WARBLER

Singles at Lees Mill, Linthwaite on 16th and 30th August, and 6th and 10th September, and at Blackmoorfoot on 4th September.

#### BLACKCAP

First at Bretton on 28th April (6 males) where probably 7 pairs bred, and the last 1 male at Edgerton on 4th November. Breeding in woodlands throughout the area.

#### GARDEN WARBLER

First and last at Bretton on 2nd. May and 16th September respectively. Breeding at Bretton and Cawthorne Parks, and probably at Bullcliffe Wood, Coxley Valley and Deffer Wood.

#### WHITETHROAT

First at Coxley Valley and Kirkburton on 2nd. May and last at Deighton on 21st September. Comparatively few records received. Other localities were Bretton (4 pairs), Bagden Wood, Bullcliffe Wood, Cawthorne Park, Emroyd Common, Gunthwaite, Honley Wood, Digley and Yateholme.

#### LESSER WHITETHROAT

2 by the canal at Deighton seen on twelve days between 8th May and 27th September (D.R.), 1 male at Emroyd Common on 19th June (R.L.B.)

#### WILLOW WARBLER

First at Deighton on 16th April and last at Bilberry on 21st September. Still common and well distributed during the breeding season. 17 males in song in the woods by Bretton Lakes May - June.

#### CHIFFCHAFF

First at Deffer Wood on 26th March and last at Edgerton on 4th November. Again breeding at Bretton Park, Cawthorne Park and Deffer Wood. 1 - 2 males at or near Beaumont Park on five dates 6th April - 15th September. Also at Blackmoorfoot March - April; Coxley Valley April - May; June records from Bagden Hall and Wood, Denby Wood and Hoyland Bank; and September records from Lindley Moor and Digley.

#### WOOD WARBLER

One record only of a male in Grimescar Wood on 8th May.

#### GOLDCREST

Records from woodlands in all parts of the district with the usual March - April and September - October peaks. Breeding at Bretton Park, Cawthorne Park, Langsett and Yateholme.

### SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

First at Bretton on 29th April and last at Deighton (3) on 17th September. Breeding at Bretton, Coxley Valley, Deffer Wood, Edgerton, Beaumont Park, Hagg Wood, Netherton, Digley Wood Bottom and Stocks Moor Common.

### PIED FLYCATCHER

One male at Coxley Valley on 26th April.

### DUNNOCK

Common and well distributed resident.

### MEADOW PIPIT

Over 50 at Blackmoorfoot in late March and 10 - 40 passing westwards daily 22nd. - 29th March. 70 near Ripponden on 8th April. Very common breeding species on the higher ground.

### TREE PIPIT

First at Bretton on 28th April and last at Crosland Hill on 28th August. Breeding at Bretton Park, Cawthorne Park, Langsett and Yateholme and also present at Bagden Wood, Denby Wood, Gregory Spring Wood, Hoyland Bank, Liley Wood and Stocks Moor Common.

### PIED WAGTAIL/WHITE WAGTAIL

The roost at Lees Mill, Linthwaite had peaks of about 120 on 28th February and 150 on 4th October. Records from this roost in February and March and October to December. Breeding throughout the area. Single White Wagtails at Cawthorne 31st March, Royd Moor 10th April, Bretton 23rd. April and Blackmoorfoot 24th April.

### GREY WAGTAIL

Breeding season records from Bretton, Colne Valley and Dean Wood only. More widely observed during autumn and winter. Small roost of at least 6 birds at the edge of the lower lake at Bretton in November.

### YELLOW WAGTAIL

First at Bretton on 23rd. April and last at Langsett (2) on 9th September. Other reports from Blackmoorfoot, Digley, Fenay Bridge and Netherton.

### STARLING

Breeds throughout the area away from the moorlands, and roosts in large numbers in the town centre.

### GREENFINCH

Blackmoorfoot roost had a maximum of about 250 on 14th February. Over 100 roosting at Bretton in late December. Breeding throughout the area.

### GOLDFINCH

Fewer flocks observed this year, but about 80 at Bretton Park and 18 at Deighton on 3rd. October. Breeding fairly widely in the area. A steady increase has been observed since 1966.

### SISKIN

Bretton - Present up to 24th March with a maximum of 70 on 14th January. Very few in autumn with the first on 25th November and maximum of 9 on 9th December. Elsewhere singles at Beaumont Park on 18th February, Fartown on 20th April and in the autumn 4 at Coxley Valley on 18th October, 3 at Dearne Wood on 29th October and 2 at Highburton on 2nd. December. A pair were ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 25th March.

### LINNET

Well distributed breeding species of the open country and moorland fringes. A flock of over 300 at Castle Hill on 20th July.

### TWITE

Breeding at Deerhill, Digley, Langsett, March Haigh, near Ripponden, Scammonden and Wessenden. Flocks of up to 200 at Whitley Common, Ingbirchworth in mid August, about 150 at Ringstone Edge and 100 at Deanhead in September. Recorded in every month except January and February.

### REDPOLL

There were at least 3 Meally Redpolls in a party of 4 at Bretton Park on 14th January. Breeding in small numbers throughout the area with greater concentrations at Cawthome Park, Digley and Yateholme. Present all the year at Deighton where a flock of 40 was seen on 30th January and 7th February.

### BULLFINCH

Small numbers breeding in woodlands throughout the area.

### CROSSBILL

From 7 - 12 at various plantations near Langsett during January, March, April, June and December (D.H.). 3 were at Deffer Wood on 26th March (P.B.) and 2 flew over Ingbirchworth on 12th November (D.H.)

### CHAFFINCH

A flock of over 100 was at Bretton on 14th January, and at least 60 were at Upper Midhope on 16th December. Edgerton roost of about 60 in March and over 50 during November and December. No evidence of recent change in breeding status.

### BRAMBLING

Bretton - Present up to 28th April (4) with a maximum of about 200 on 24th January over 100 being seen regularly from 14th January - 24th February. In the autumn 6 on 20th October but only 1 - 2 during November and December. Elsewhere 25 at Royd Moor on 12th January, singles at Beaumont Park and Dean Wood in February, and 30 at Coxley Valley on 8th April. First autumn record at Grimescar of 4 on 17th October, and then singles at Beaumont Park on 16th November. Upper Midhope on 16th December and High Flatts on 23rd. December.

### YELLOWHAMMER

A flock of over 50 at Bretton Park on 25th February. Small numbers breeding in open country away from the higher ground.

#### CORN BUNTING

Breeding evidence from Ingbirchworth (3 + males) and Crosland Hill only.

#### REED BUNTING

Roost of about 40 at Lees Mill, Linthwaite late February - early March.

Breeding throughout the area in habitats mainly associated with water including high moorland localities.

#### LAPLAND BUNTING

One on Slaithwaite Moor just south of Cupwith Reservoir on 6th January (J.E.D.)  
2nd record for the area.

#### HOUSE SPARROW

Partial albino still present at Blackmoorfoot up to 24th March. 2 very pale birds seen at Oakes and Lindley Moor in July and August respectively.

#### TREE SPARROW

As in 1971 a flock was present at Blackmoorfoot in July and August with a maximum of over 100 on 20th July. Over 150 at High Flatts on 23rd. Dec.  
Breeding in mature woodlands throughout the area.

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