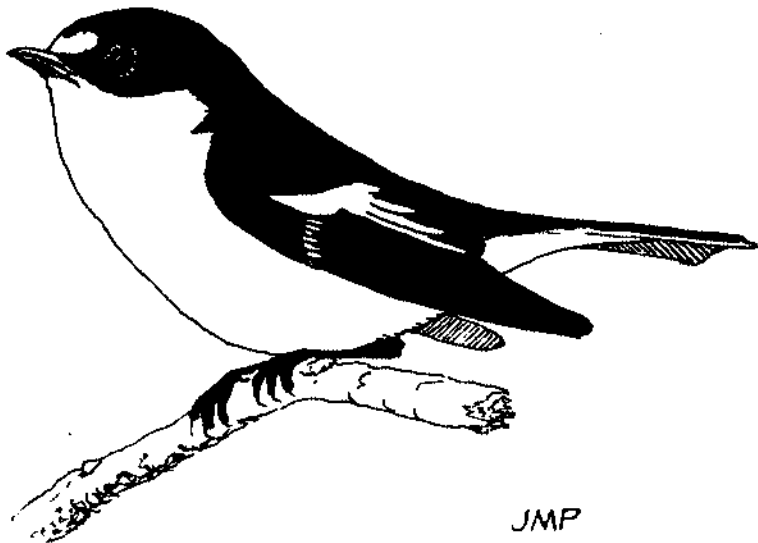


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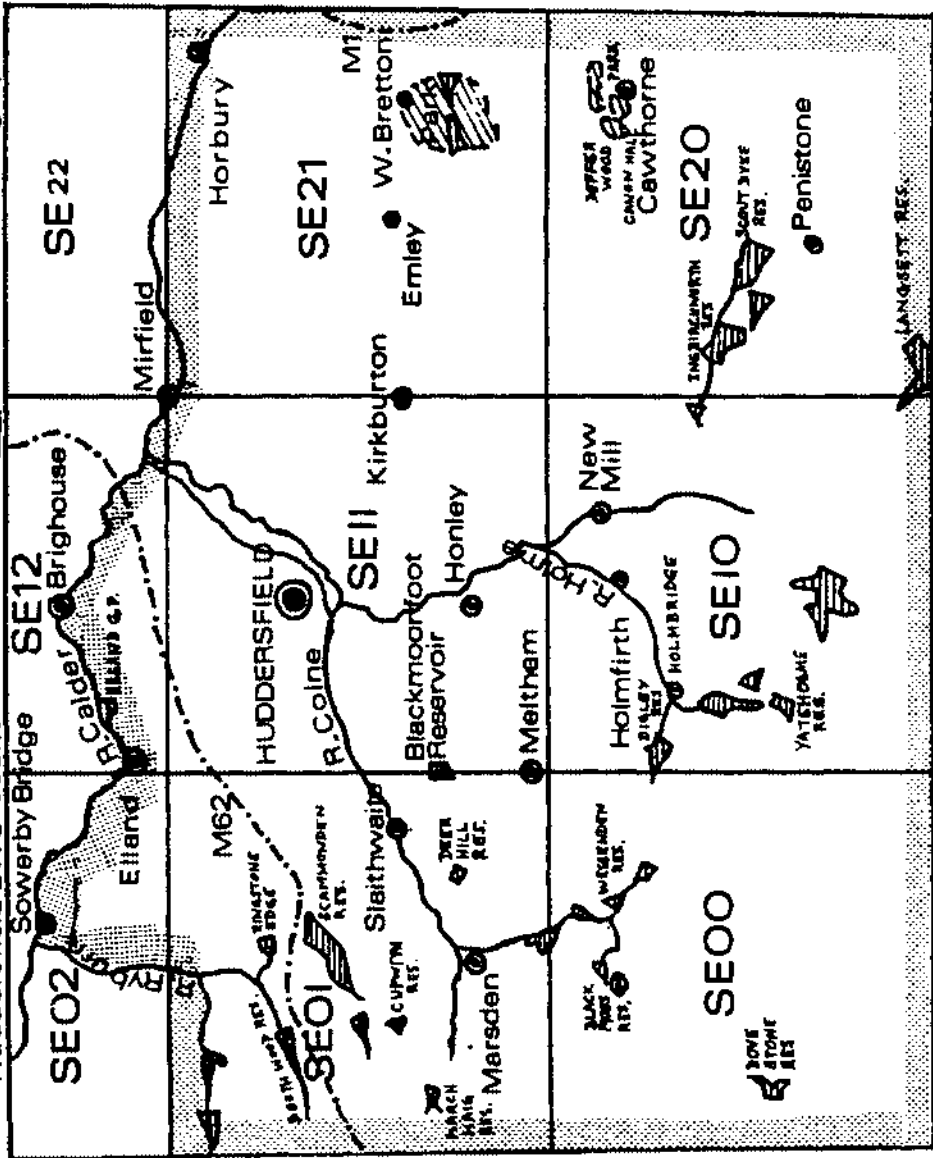
Birds in Huddersfield 1984



ANNUAL REPORT

Huddersfield BWC: boundaries of Ciub area:

gmy '82



BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1984

Report of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the end of the year John Dale announced his intention of retiring as Recorder for the Club, a position he has held for fifteen years, among the most formative in the Club's history. It would be difficult to do justice to the importance of his contribution to the Club's activities, whether as President, Recorder or as compiler of the Club's annual reports. The Recorder's job is a demanding and perhaps unglamorous one, requiring patience, long hours, an eye for detail, meticulous accuracy and a thorough local and ornithological knowledge. The prompt appearance and consistency of the reports during this period are a tribute to John's ample possession of these qualities. We thank him and trust he will continue to share his knowledge and experience with us in his other capacities. John has set high standards for his successor, Brian Armitage, but I am sure Brian will prove a worthy one.

This year has also seen the publication of an updated report on Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (1974-84), compiled by Mike Denton. The eleven years since Paul Bray's pioneering work have seen significant and interesting changes in the status of a number of species, notably Great Crested and Little's Grebes, Sparrowhawk and the rarer gulls, as well as a slow but steady expansion in the total number of species. The consistently high coverage provided by members, and the support of the Yorkshire Water Authority, have been invaluable. I thank them for this. Mike's excellent summary, reflecting the efforts of many members, provides much food for thought and, perhaps, later analysis. The report's financial success is pleasing, though there are still many regular members who have yet to purchase this important guide and reference work. I hope they will seize the opportunity whilst copies are still available.

John Beaumont has again organised an excellent series of field outings and I hope members will continue to support these to make them successful.

Our evening meetings have been somewhat dogged by gremlins this year, but our Secretary has coped admirably with the vagaries of both speakers and weather. We thank Stephanie for her efforts and the Committee for their continued support.

Finally, I should like to welcome my successor, John Reynolds, as President. We are indeed very lucky to have an ornithologist and photographer of such experience and skill in the chair. I wish him well in his term of office.

Martin Yates, June 1985

Introduction and Notes on the Classified List

The area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21 along with those parts of SE02 and SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder.

As in our last seven annual reports, the status of each species occurring within the area has been indicated by one or more of the following classifications:-

Resident Breeder	Migrant Breeder
Partial Migrant	Winter Visitor
Passage Visitor	

For the breeding species, the number appearing in brackets following the statement of breeding status is an estimated level of breeding abundance, based on the table below:-

1. 1-20 pairs per year
2. 21-100 pairs per year
3. 101-500 pairs per year
4. 501-2500 pairs per year
5. 2501 or more pairs per year

The passage and winter visitors have each been allocated a category stating their degree of frequency of occurrence. For passage visitors, the category indicates the number seen during the year, while for winter visitors, an estimate has been made of the number present in the area on one day during the year as follows:-

Rare	1 or fewer birds
Scarce	2-10 birds
Uncommon	11-100 birds
Common	101-1000 birds
Numerous	1001 or more birds

In attempting to establish breeding numbers and the number of passage and winter visitors, particularly in the case of the more common species, it must be realised that the figures essentially are estimates.

Precise localities for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1954-67) have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication might lead to harmful disturbance.

Many of the more common breeding species have been listed without further comment than an indication of their status. For further details of these and their habitat preferences, readers are referred to the 1980 Report, in which appeared a complete list of all species recorded in the area up to the end of 1980 together with notes on their status.

Notes on the Classified List

169 Species were reliably recorded in the Club Area in 1984, together with one not specifically identified and a further one (Ring-billed Gull at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir) accepted by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, but failing to satisfy the demands of the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Compared with the exceptional occurrences of the previous year, 1984 will appear to have been unexceptional, but it was not without its highlights. A Raven in the southwest of the area in May was a new species for the Club area; others have been claimed in recent years but none was considered to be fully authenticated. More Mediterranean Gulls and Kittiwakes were recorded than in any previous year, but Iceland and Glaucous Gulls continued to give poor showings.

Over 30 Dotterels appeared in spring in the now traditional area near Ingbirchworth, continuing that species' unbroken run, with the exception of 1983, since 1979. A Great Grey Shrike in an Outlane garden in mid-February was the first since 1979.

Although many summer visitors, notably Sand Martin, Swallow, Yellow Wagtail (no proved breeding), Whinchat, Grasshopper Warbler and Whitethroat appeared in reduced numbers, some occurred with greater frequency than usual. At least two pairs of Pied Flycatcher bred successfully and there was strong evidence to suggest that a third pair may have done so. Wood Warblers were recorded from more localities than usual and Blackcap numbers were high. Red-legged Partridge continued to maintain its recent increase and the weather conditions which produced exceptionally low water levels at our reservoirs enabled two pairs of Little Ringed Plover to raise young at Blackmoorfoot.

These same low water levels raised expectations in the autumn of a good wader passage, but this failed to materialise, with only a scattering of Ringed Plover, Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Whimbrel and Ruff with single Little Stint, Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit. A Ruff at Ingbirchworth on 8/9 December was surprising in its lateness, but was overshadowed by the occurrence of a Garden Warbler at Silkstone on 24 November, the latest ever recorded at an inland locality in Yorkshire.

The weekend of the 3/4 November proved a memorable one for wildfowl enthusiasts and reservoir watchers. Northerly gales and torrential rain combined to produce Shelduck at five waters including 25 at Blackmoorfoot, along with Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser and Goosander and significant increases in the numbers of common wildfowl such as Wigeon, Teal and Pochard. In addition, 53 Kittiwakes on 3rd and 4 Little Gulls on 4th passed west at Blackmoorfoot. At the year end Hawfinch appeared again at Cannon Hall in the same tree as in 1983.

Thanks are due to Mike Denton for summarising the mass of information from the Blackmoorfoot log and for contributing the Ringing Report; to Mike Pinder and Martin Yates for the excellent illustrations which augment this report. I should also like to thank all those who have contributed records, however few, without whom this report would not have been possible.

I should like to single out for thanks, on behalf of all Club members, John Dale, who this year relinquished the position of Recorder, which he held for fifteen years; during that time he has each year produced a full and informative report of unfailing high quality with the minimum of delay. He has been an enormous help to me in this my first effort, even to the extent of producing a first draft version. I only hope that I can maintain the high standard which he has set.

Brian Armitage - Recorder

CLASSIFIED LIST

This list follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of Professor Dr. K.H. Voous (1977 List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species).

Great Northern Diver Gavia immer

Rare visitor

The immature that first appeared at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 26th December 1983 remained there until 8th January (M.L.D., J.M.P. et al)

Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis

Resident breeder (1) Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Single pairs bred at Castle Dam, Penistone (three young), Scout Dike Reservoir, Square Wood Reservoir, Denby Dale, Cannon Hall (three young), Boshaw Whams (two young); at Royd Moor Reservoir one or two pairs as three adults were present with young of differing ages on 1st September.

Present in the area throughout the year with additional regular records from Horbury Wyke (a pair throughout the year, with five on the R. Calder on 11th February), Bretton Park (Feb to April and Oct-Dec.), Ingbirchworth Reservoir (March-Sept). Occurred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on only three dates in the second half of the year. Maximum was 15 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 16th Sept.

Great Crested Grebe Podiceps cristatus

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor.

5 pairs bred successfully, raising 12 young.

At Bretton Park, of five pairs which attempted, three were successful and raised 9 young. The spring maximum there was 17 on 14th April, and in autumn 19 including the young during August.

One pair attempted to breed at Ingbirchworth Reservoir, but no young were seen. Birds were present from early February to the end of September, with a maximum of six in late July. At nearby Scout Dike Reservoir, birds were first noted on 10th March and a young bird was seen in August; a dead bird was found on 4th October. Maximum of five on 24th May.

A pair at Boshaw Whams hatched three young, of which two were reared, one remaining until 2nd September.

One to two on a few dates on Longwood, Digley and Deer Hill Reservoirs, with a pair at Winscar Reservoir on 31st May.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had an unprecedented series of occurrences. After the first single bird on 7th March, one to three occurred on 28 days to 25th July; from 1st August to 7th November present on all but two days, with 11 on 25th and 13 on 29th September and seven to nine on 25 dates; then one to three on 14 dates from 11th November to 20th December.

Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Most records from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with one on 14th and two on 17th April; seven on 18th April departed westwards at 09.50 hours; singles on 23rd and 28th June, two on 29th and one on 30th which remained to 9th July. In autumn, two on 14th and one on 28th October.

Elsewhere, one was on the R. Colne at Aspley on 9th January, one flew east at

Dewsbury S.F. on 4th April, two flew west at Marsden on 15th April, two were at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 18th April, with one on 19th, one at Digley Reservoir on 4th November, and one at Bretton on 26th December.

Addition to 1983 Report: An immature at Royd Moor Reservoir on 30th October.

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea

Resident breeder (1)

The heronry at Bretton Park again increased in size; nine nests were built of which six were occupied and four pairs successfully reared 14 young.

Recorded again at some 25 other localities with greatest frequency at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (56 days - max 3 birds), Ingbirchworth Reservoir (30+ days - max 5 birds), Gunthwaite Dam (35 days - max 4 birds) and Whitley Common with a maximum of 4 birds on 6 dates.

Mute Swan Cygnus olor

Resident breeder (1)

No report of successful breeding although pairs were at Cannon Hall and Birds Edge Dam (where a nest was built) during the year. One to two at Bretton Park, Washpit Dam (Holmfirth) and up to three at Longley (Holmfirth) for much of the year. One to four regularly at the reservoirs in the Ingbirchworth area from early June to mid-September, with one remaining to the year end. Two at Gunthwaite Dam from 9th to 19th May, one at Elland G.P. in November and one at Boshaw Whams in late December.

Bewick's Swan Cygnus columbianus

Uncommon winter visitor.

Very few records this year. An immature at Boshaw Whams up to 28th January and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 9th November.

A party of 15 swans flying west up the Hall Dike Valley on 2nd January could have been this species.

Additions to the 1983 Report: Three at Langsett Reservoir on 3rd January and 3rd December; nine at Roughbirchworth on 5th January.

Whooper Swan Cygnus cygnus

Uncommon winter visitor.

At Boshaw Whams two adults from early January to 5th February, when they were joined by an immature. One adult and the immature remained there until 17th March, with excursions to Broadstones Reservoir on at least four dates in March.

18 flew west along the Calder Valley at Brighouse on 22nd March and six west at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th December.

Pink-footed Goose Anser brachyrhynchus

Uncommon to common passage visitor.

Small skeins were observed passing west over the area during January on a total of nine dates, including 14 over Thurgoland on 28th, 52 over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 29th, with 280 south-east over the Ingbirchworth area on the same date. On 12th February there was westerly movement of 206 over Blackmoorfoot and 250 over Ingbirchworth. 65 flew north at Blackmoorfoot on 1st March and 30 north-west at Bretton on 3rd April.

The only skeins of any size at the year end were one of about 50 flying north-east

at Golcar on 20th November, at Blackmoorfoot 121 east on 10th and 56 west on 26th November, and 120 south at Clayton West on 29th December.

Greylag Goose Anser anser

Uncommon passage visitor.

One at Scout Dike Reservoir on 25th February, two on Langsett Reservoir on 31st March, and one at Horbury Wyke from 3rd to 17th May.

Snow Goose Anser caerulescens

Scarce visitor.

One blue phase individual at Boshaw Whams on 5th October.

Published with the escape proviso.

Canada Goose Branta canadensis

Resident breeder (1)

Bretton Park. Record numbers were again present in the autumn; after 200 in January, there were 339 on 25th September and 380 on 17th November. Population control continues and only 20 goslings were reared.

The species continues to be recorded at many more locations than formerly, and a pair reared six young at Winscar Reservoir. 51 were observed flying east at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th September, where there were 16 on 11th and 12th November; a flock of 16 was also at Scammonden Dam on 22nd December.

Parties of five to 15 birds at or flying over six places on various dates from March to November.

A separate population, some being clipped birds, at Cannon Hall numbered up to 20.

Barnacle Goose Branta leucopsis

Rare visitor.

Two at Bretton Park from 10th October into December.

Origin uncertain.

Shelduck Tadorna tadorna

Uncommon passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. Fewer records than in 1983. Two on 7th January, seven on 10th February and one on 14th, three on 20th March, one on 9th May and three on 30th, one on 21st June, nine immatures on 6th August and one on 26th, five on 1st September, two on 5th October, 25 on 4th November and nine on 19th, and eight on 3rd December.

At Bretton Park, one on 23rd May and on 24th to 28th December.

Seven were at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 2nd September. On 4th November, a day of strong northerly winds, in addition to the birds at Blackmoorfoot were one at Ringstone Edge, one over Scammonden, two at Scout Dike Reservoir and 5 at Digley Reservoir.

Additions to the 1983 Report: At Langsett Reservoir, one on 9th March and two on 30th March.

Wigeon Anas penelope

Common passage and winter visitor.

In the early months, apart from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, which had seven on 4th January and 42 on 9th April with one to two on seven other days, only one to four on single dates at four other sites. A male remained at Horbury Wyke from 14th April to 4th May being joined on 21st April by two females; a male was on Winscar Reservoir on 31st May.

Present at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on at least 46 days between 28th August and 28th December, with peaks of 20 on 6th September, 12 on 4th November and 31 on 2nd December, otherwise single figures only.

At Ingbirchworth Reservoir, one on 6th September and four on 16th, then regularly up to nine from 31st October to 20th November with 14 on 7th.

Nine at Broadstones Reservoir on 16th Sept, 3 at Ringstone Edge on 19th, seven at Bretton Park on 25th September, and at Scout Dike Reservoir eight on 9th November and 15 on 28th.

Addition to 1983 Report: 12 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 22nd October.

Gadwall Anas strepera

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A single male (perhaps the same individual) at Bretton Park from 25th to 28th September and on 26th November, and at Ingbirchworth Reservoir from 9th to 12th November, with two at Bretton Park on 10th October.

Addition to 1983 Report: A male at Royd Moor Reservoir on 16th November.

Teal Anas crecca

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor.

Horbury Wyke had good numbers at both ends of the year with 40 on 2nd and 73 on 28th January, 76 on 22nd February, 63 on 10th March reducing to 30 by the month end. After the breeding season, numbers built up to 30 by late August and increased to 56 on 11th November, falling to 15 at the year end.

Several pairs bred at Black Moss where twelve ducklings were accompanied by two females on 21st June. At Winscar Reservoir on 31st May a brood of three ducklings and five males were present. Also present on Rishworth Moor and at Snailsden Reservoir in the spring and summer.

Far more frequent during the autumn with records from fifteen waters for which maxima included:- Scammonden Dam, 60 on 4th November; Deathead Reservoir, 23 on 30th August; Ingbirchworth Reservoir, 22 on 4th November; Royd Moor Reservoir, 42 on 5th November (but these could have included the birds from the previous day at Ingbirchworth). Numbers at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir never fell below 26 during October with a record count of 73 on 27th, then 62 on 1st November with fewer thereafter.

Addition to 1983 Report: 39 at Scammonden on 9th October.

Mallard Anas platyrhynchos

Resident breeder (2-3). Common winter visitor.

Breeding was proved at Bretton Park (several pairs), Horbury Wyke (5 pairs), Ingbirchworth Reservoir (at least two pairs), Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Victoria and Meltham Mills, with doubtless many other pairs escaping detection or going unreported.

In the early part of the year maximum counts were 65 at Cannon Hall on 8th January, 50 at Horbury Wyke on 11th February, 290 at Bretton Park in January, 50

at Royd Moor Reservoir on 12th February, and 20 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th February. Numbers in the second half of the year were considerably higher with maxima for the major waters of 60 at Gunthwaite on 18th August, 103 at Horbury Wyke on 30th August, 67 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 31st August, 71 at Royd Moor on 29th September, c.100 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 9th November, 131 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th November, 75 at Elland Gravel Pit on 25th November, 354 at Bretton Park on 16th December and 57 at Scammonden Dam on 22nd December.

Pintail Anas acuta

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

All records were in autumn and with the exception of two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 13th October and one on 13th November, all were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir which had singles on 11 dates during September, with two on 18th, and eight on 27th and 29th. Singles on 5th and 10th October, and 3rd November.

Shoveler Anas clypeata

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had most records with singles on 13th March, 9th April, 16th June, 11th August, 8th September and 1st November, with four on 14th, three on 15th and eight on 18th August, three on 17th September and eight on 16th October.

Horbury Wyke had two males and two females on 4th May, with one pair remaining from 17th to 30th May. One was at Scout Dike Reservoir on 15th June, with two there on 11th August and a further single on 9th November. Two were at Royd Moor Reservoir on 8th September and Ingbirchworth Reservoir had birds on 22nd August (five), 17th October (four) and 13th November (one). Two were at Bretton Park on 11th November.

Pochard Aythya ferina

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: moderately frequent up to 9th April (seven) and regular from 5th October onwards, with maxima of 16 on 16th October and 21 on 4th November, otherwise usually seven or less; isolated records in May, July and August.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: occasional from January to April, regular from September to the year end; usually less than ten, but double figures on several October dates with 18 on 28th.

Bretton Park: regular up to mid-April and from late August, with maxima of 22 on 13th February and 5th December.

Small numbers (up to five) on a few dates at both ends of the year at Scout Dike Reservoir, Royd Moor Reservoir, Gunthwaite Dam, Cannon Hall, Horbury Wyke, Scammonden Dam and Ringstone Edge Reservoir.

Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor.

Not an exceptional year. Moderate numbers at the beginning and end of the year, most of the maxima being due to the presence of moulting birds in late summer.

Two pairs bred at Bretton Park, rearing eleven young. Two pairs at Digby and Bilberry Reservoirs reared a total of ten young, but the outcome for a pair breeding at Black Moss is not known. Single pairs present for much of the breeding

season at Cupwith and Deanhead Reservoirs and pairs were noted at four other potential breeding localities.

Ten on Lockwood Dam on 22nd January. Early maxima of 22 at Bretton Park in March, and at Ingbirchworth Reservoir in April.

Later maxima were of 29 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 31st July, 58 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 7th September, 58 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 14th October and 31 at Bretton Park on 5th December.

Scaup Aythya marila

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had one on 21st January, three on 11th October and one on 4th November (M.L.D., J.M.P. et al).

An immature at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 23rd September (J.M.P.) and another at Elland G.P. from 12th November to 31st December (G.C., J.E.D.).

A probable Tufted Duck/Scaup hybrid female type was at Boshaw Whams from 18th November to 14th December (J.M.P.).

Common Scoter Melanitta nigra

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Possibly the poorest year on record with a single male at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th April (G.M.Y. et al).

Goldeneye Bucephala clangula

Uncommon passage and winter visitor,

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: regular up to 23rd May with maxima of eleven on 26th March, 3rd and 8th April, and from 21st October (two) with only low numbers (max six on 4th November) to the year end.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: one to four regularly to 12th May with a maximum of seven, and one to five from 7th November.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir: three to five from 24th March to 30th April, with singles there from 21st October, and six on 27th December.

Small numbers, usually one or two but occasionally three both early and late in the year, at the following waters:- Cupwith Reservoir, Boshaw Whams, Bilberry Reservoir, Digley Reservoir (eight on 12th February), Harden Reservoir, Cannon Hall, Broadstones Reservoir, Royd Moor Reservoir, Scout Dike Reservoir, Gunthwaite Dam, Seamonden Dam (seven on 21st January) and Cotton Dam, Linthwaite (one on 31st December - first record).

Smew Mergus albellus

Rare visitor.

The adult male remained at the Ingbirchworth area reservoirs until 20th April returning once again (for a fifth winter) on 24th November. What was presumably the same bird was at Gunthwaite Dam on 11th January and 2nd February (C.B.).

A redhead at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 28th February (T.C., M.L.D.).

Red-breasted Merganser Mergus serrator

Scarce visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had a male on 17th April (G.M.Y.), a single redhead on

3rd November joined by a second the following day.

A redhead at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 1st July (F.J.R. et al).

Goosander Mergus merganser

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

With the exception of single males at Bretton Park on 17th and 18th March, and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th December, all records were of redheads. One at Scout Dike Reservoir on 5th February, two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 5th September, with one there on 24th November and one at Brownhill Reservoir on 21st October.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir additionally had singles on 12th February and 28th October; during November six on 5th, one on 21st and two on 25th, then three on 6th December and five on 31st.

Ruddy Duck Oxyura jamaicensis

Scarce visitor.

Two at Bretton Park on 16th August (BBSG).

A male at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 7th November (C.B.). Ninth and tenth records.

Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus

Scarce visitor.

Addition to the 1980 Report: One on Whitley Common at dusk on 1st November (P.D.B.) flew off south-westwards at 07.10 hours on 2nd November (J.E.D.).

Hen Harrier Circus cyaneus

Rare visitor.

Single ring-tails near Winscar on 19th February (WH) and Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 11th March (D.S.).

Goshawk Accipiter gentilis

Scarce visitor.

A male at Whitley Common on 22nd April (JL), and recorded from another locality in the south of the area on three dates in the early part of the year (J.M.D., F.J.W.).

Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus

Resident breeder (1).

Reported from upwards of 40 localities with the increased level of numbers of sightings being maintained as in recent years; included was one hunting Starlings in Huddersfield Town Centre on 31st December.

Breeding evidence from five sites only, including the Bretton area where three pairs nested successfully, but was certainly present in the breeding season at four others at least.

Buzzard Buteo buteo

Rare visitor.

One at Scout Dike Reservoir on 18th August (M.W.).

Osprey Pandion haliaetus

Scarce visitor.

One flying north over the Wessenden Valley on 7th May (D.P., T.D.,R.W.); one fishing at Ingbirchworth Reservoir during the afternoon of 19th May (R.J.P.).

Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

Resident breeder.

Breeding evidence received for four pairs only, but pairs present, or immatures seen in the autumn, at eight other sites; from the total number of records received there is no reason to suspect any decline in status.

Merlin Falco columbarius

Former breeder, now scarce to uncommon visitor.

All records were of single birds, from four localities in the early months, including birds on five dates at Blackmoorfoot. The same locality had records on five autumn dates, and birds were also reported from four other areas during the autumn/winter.

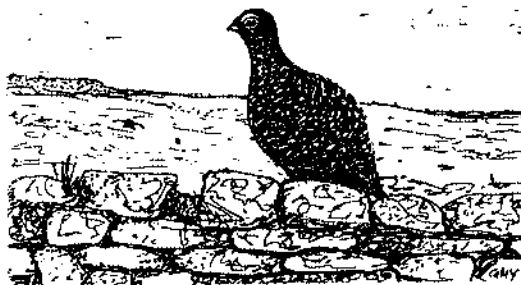
A bird was seen in mid-May at a former breeding area, where probable 'splash' was noted in June.

Addition to 1983 Report:- A female/immature at Scapegoat Hill on 3rd October.

Feregrine Falco peregrinus

Rare visitor.

Singles over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 6th February (C.H.) and on 10th October (J.M.P.), over the M62 near Cleckheaton on 20th March (F.J.W.) at Broadstones on 12th August (R.W.) and at Ingbirchworth on 28th October (J.M.D.) Two were seen near Winscar Reservoir on 1st October (J.L.).



Red Grouse Lagopus lagopus

Resident breeder.

Probably declining in the Southern Pennines, but from the very small number of records received from the area it is not possible to assess the situation accurately.

On 29th January, over fifty near Winscar Reservoir and more than 80 in the Langsett area (J.L.).

Red-legged Partridge Alectoris rufa

Resident breeder.

Continues to increase in the area.

Two each near Silkstone and at two localities near Cawthorne on dates between 3rd and 10th March. Nine at Kexborough on 4th March. One to two in the Digley area on four dates between 19th March and 5th August. Eleven were at Broadstones Lodge on 3rd March (FJW), and thereafter in the general area of Ingbirchworth and Broadstones, two were noted on four occasions between 5th April and 15th June, with singles on 26th August and 28th October.

A pair near Gunthwaite during May and adults seen with young in that area on 6th August (eight young) and 2nd September (three flying young) (C.B.).

Singles at Wessenden on 26th April and at Almondbury on 26th May.

Six at Springwood, near Bretton on 1st October (G.B.S.).

Grey Partridge Perdix perdix

Resident breeder (2).

No large coveys reported. 13 by Spicer House Lane on 16th January, 12 near Gunthwaite in January and 19 there on 12th October and 14 near Ingbirchworth on 28th October. About 20 in the Dalton Bank area during January and February.

Pairs with young at Norcroft (Cawthorne), Gunthwaite area (three), Hoylandswaine (two) and Thurgoland (C.B., J.E.D.). Other pairs noted at Emley Woodhouse Armitage Bridge and in the March Haigh area.

Reported much less frequently than in former years and from fewer localities.

Quail Coturnix coturnix

Scarce summer visitor.

One calling at dusk on 9th July near Carr Lane, Gunthwaite (C.B.).

Pheasant Phasianus colchicus

Resident breeder (3).

Few records received from only six localities.

Water Rail Rallus aquaticus

Scarce winter visitor.

One at Gunthwaite Dam on 12th February and singles there on 6th November and on eleven dates from 19th November to 18th December, with two on 10th December (C.B.). An immature at Broadstones Lodge on 8th September (J.E.D.).

Additions to 1983 Report: Singles at Elland G.P. on 22nd and at Bretton Park on 30th October (J.B.)

Moorhen Gallinula chloropus

Resident breeder (3).

Few records received but obviously widely distributed and breeding successfully at several sites.

Nine were roosting in trees at Outlane Reservoir on 21st January (J.P.). Maxima at Horbury Wyke of 48 on 2nd January and 45 on 24th December, 32 at Dewsbury S.F. on 29th May.

Coot Fulica atra

Resident breeder (2).

Generally a good breeding season with the recent tendency to appear at new breeding sites continuing. The exception was at Scout Dike Reservoir where on August 1st only 8 young (probably four broods) could be found, compared with 38 young in 16 broods on 19th July 1983.

Bred at Bretton Park (six pairs - 21 young), Gunthwaite Hall (one pair), Ingbirchworth Reservoir (eleven pairs attempted but only five young from two broods), Royd Moor Reservoir (one pair), Boshaw Whams (one pair - two young), Elland G.P. (one pair), Horbury Wyke (two pairs) and Navigation Flash, Horbury (two pairs).

Maxima at various localities included 58 on 2nd January, 107 on 25th September and 103 on 16th December at Bretton Park, 44 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 18th March, with 20 to 30 at Cannon Hall, Elland G.P. and Horbury Wyke.

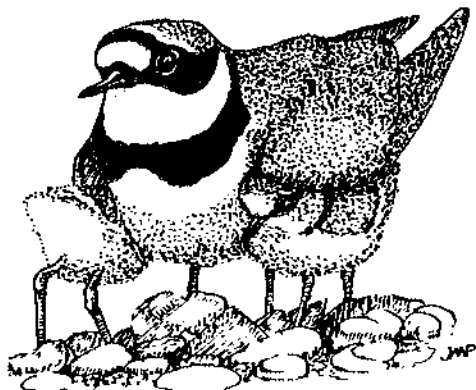
Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus

Uncommon passage visitor.

The first two records for the year both came from Dewsbury S.F. with singles on 31st March and 21st April. Singles during May at Horbury Wyke on 13th and 14th, at Dewsbury S.F. on 23rd (flying west) and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th and 24th with two on 18th. One at Blackmoorfoot on 18th June and two at Seammouden Dam on 23rd.

Return passage began with 2 at Dewsbury S.F. on 15th July with all other records coming from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir as follows:- 29 on 27th July, four on 28th July, three on 31st July, ten on 31st August, four on 1st to 2nd and finally two on 4th September, except for a late bird at Bretton Park on 11th November.

Addition to 1983 Report: One on Lindley Moor on 18th October.



Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius

Occasional breeder and scarce summer visitor.

First, two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th April and last, three at Deer Hill Reservoir on 9th September.

Of six pairs at five sites during the breeding season, four pairs reared at least eight young, another pair failed to hatch and the sixth pair, although involved in courtship display, may not actually have nested. An exceptional season, due in part to more suitable sites for breeding being created by low water levels at many reservoirs, leaving exposed stony shores.

Other records included one at Horbury Wyke on 5th and 6th June, a well-grown immature at Scammonden Dam on 10th July, one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 23rd and 24th July and at Deerhill Reservoir two adults from 20th to 24th July, a juvenile on 29th July, one on 2nd, two on 3rd and three on 9th September.

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula

Uncommon passage visitor.

An exceptional number of spring occurrences at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir were regular from 12th May to 19th June, on 25th and 26th June, with maxima of eight on 16th, 18th and 19th May and six on 20th May.

Present in July on 4th, 12th and 13th, then fairly regular from 29th to 27th August with peaks of seven on 7th August and four on 20th and 24th August, otherwise usually one or two, occasionally three.

At Deer Hill Reservoir, two on 20th July, two on 31st August, three on 3rd and one on 4th September.

Dotterel Charadrius marinellus

Rare passage visitor becoming increasingly regular.

At Whitley Common one from 15th to 18th April (J.C. et al). The Spicer House Lane and Piper Hill areas had six on 30th April (C.B.), four to five from 9th to 13th May (C.B. et al), with one up to 18th, and 19 during the evening of 19th May (D.J.S.).

Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria

Migrant breeder (2). Common passage and winter visitor.

Good numbers in early January, with 165 at Low Common near Ingbirchworth on 7th and 150 at Grange Moor and 250 at Blackmoorfoot on 8th. Some movement out of the area during severe conditions with 37 west and 328 south over Hail Dike and 50 west at Skelmanthorpe on 22nd January; whilst 63 were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on the banks and ice, 12 flew east and 186 west or southwest there on 29th January. Up to 200 at Blackmoorfoot during February, but few elsewhere until a steady increase at favourite sites commenced in early March.

520 in the Flouch/Fulshaw area on 25th March, 320 at Langsett on 2nd April, 210 "Northern" birds at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 21st April, and 180 near the Flouch on 22nd April were the only large counts in spring away from the Ingbirchworth area. Here, numbers at Whitley Common had reached 400 by 25th March, with over 300 on 31st March, increasing to 600 on 1st and 587 on 14th April, with about 60% of the birds attributable to the Northern race, *P.a.albifrons*. The difficulty of estimating the actual number of birds passing through the area was well demonstrated on 15th April, when 500 birds were present but of that total about 95% were Northern birds - i.e. a different flock from the previous day's. In addition to the grounded birds on 15th April, 300 flew over the area towards the

southwest. Numbers in the area fell to 370 on 20th and 152 on 25th April, by which time many Southern birds were present. Less than 100 throughout May, with 40 still there on 27th. Nearby at Broadstones were 290 on 25th March, 350 on 8th April and 197 on 28th April.

Bred at March Haigh, Rishworth Moor, Wessenden Head and Snaihsden and probably near Yateholme; birds on Slaithwaite Moor and Black Moss were driven out by severe moorland fires.

The only high autumn counts were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with monthly peaks of 257 on 30th July, 562 on 5th August, 400 on 2nd September, 526 on 14th October and 220 on 3th November with none after 18th. Four Northern birds were there on 29th July.

Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola

Scarce passage visitor.

One spring record of a bird on 24th March at Dewsbury S.F. (J.R.S.), and one autumn record at Ingbirchworth on 1st October for ten minutes (J.L.).

Additions to the 1983 Report:- At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, singles on 1st and 13th October (M.L.D., D.S.I.), and singles calling overhead on 7th and 10th October (M.L.D., J.M.P.).

Lapwing Vanellus vanellus

Resident breeder (3-4). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Modestly sized flocks in the area in early January with 100 at Spicer House Lane on 7th, 180 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and 300 at Broadstones on 8th with 140 at Silkstone Common on 10th. Movement over the Hall Dike Valley during severe weather of 1,243 south and 208 west on 22nd January, 334 south-east on 23rd and 153 west on 24th. Up to 200 at Blackmoorfoot during February, during which month 200 flew west on the 9th, but less than 100 elsewhere before the breeding season, apart from 150 on Whitley Common on March 3rd.

122 at Ringstone Edge on 17th June, 232 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th June, 588 at Broadstones on 1st July, 500 at Ingbirchworth on 21st July, 260 at Scout Dike on 1st August and peaks at Ingbirchworth Reservoir of 300 on 28th September, 1,200 on 15th October and 436 on 8th December.

Consistently high numbers at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir in the autumn with 600 in mid to late July, 1,068 on 5th August, 740 on 13th September, 416 on 5th October down to 232 on 10th November, but 280 on 11th and 15th December. Westerly movement there totalled 694 on six days between 26th November and 7th December. 150 at Dewsbury S.F. on 5th November, 300 at Crosland Hill on 11th December.

Very few records received referring to the breeding situation.

Knot Calidris canutus

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th October (T.C.).

Sanderling Calidris alba

Scarce passage visitor.

All records from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with two on 19th May plus additional different individuals on 23rd and 24th (i.e. four birds); in autumn one on 18th and two on 27th July (P.D.B., M.L.D., J.M.P.).

Little Stint Calidris minuta

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Deer Hill Reservoir on 4th September (D.M., J.M.P., M.L.D.).

Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Deer Hill Reservoir on 20th July (D.M.).

Dunlin Calidris alpina

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

One west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 9th January and one on Whitley Common with Golden Plovers on 3rd March were the only ones before the spring influx, which commenced with one at Whitley Common on 18th April followed by one at Cupwith Reservoir and two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 21st.

Pairs in the breeding season at Rishworth Moor (one), Slaithwaite Moor (two), March Haigh (one), Black Hill (one), Black Moss (eight) and Wessenden Head (probably four).

Exceptional numbers on reservoir shores in the dry spring conditions; at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, after three on 30th April, recorded regularly in May and June, with 12 on 8th and eleven on 12th and 18th May and up to eight in June. Birds seen regularly at Ringstone Edge Reservoir, Deer Hill Reservoir and Scamonden Dam, with respective maxima of eight on 18th June and five each on 13th May.

Continued to occur regularly at Blackmoorfoot until 30th September and on six days in October. Peaks included eight on 13th July, 16 west on 31st August and nine north-west on 25th September. These numbers paled into insignificance however when in exceptional conditions of westerly winds of near gale force with heavy rain, 179 flew west on 3rd November, with 17 on 4th.

Occurred at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on six dates in September and October, including three on 24th September.

Ruff Philomachus pugnax

Scarce passage visitor.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during August two on 9th, three on 12th, five on 25th, four on 26th and 27th, with one on 28th and 29th. Two there on 27th September.

Two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 9th August, with a single on 11th August.

Singles at Horbury Wyke on 28th August, at Deer Hill on 3rd September and Dewsbury S.F. on 7th September.

One was in fields with Lapwings near Ingbirchworth on the unusual dates of 8th and 9th December (J.M.D., J.M.P.).

Jack Snipe Lymnocyptes minimus

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

One at Dewsbury S.F. on 11th April (J.R.S.) and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 7th October (M.L.D.), the earliest on record for the locality, with one at Scout Dike on 18th December (B.B.S.G.). A below average showing.

Snipe Gallinago gallinago

Resident breeder (2). Common passage and winter visitor.

Reported from some twenty localities of which at least fifteen would be breeding areas.

23 at Cat Hill, Hoylandswaine on 22nd January about which time, in conditions of severe frost, two were at Blacker Wood, Skelmanthorpe and one at Oakes, and 42 flew south over Netherton in forty minutes also on 22nd (D.M.).

Record counts in the Grimscar Valley of 28 on 22nd February and 45 on 1st April (W.S.MeM.). About a hundred at Dewsbury S.F. on 11th February.

20 each at Horbury Wyke and Dewsbury S.F. on 27th August, with 40 at the latter on 6th September, 41 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 22nd October and 51 on 28th and 42 at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd November, all lower than usual.

Woodcock Scolopax rusticola

Resident breeder (2). Uncommon winter visitor.

Fewer reports than usual, with roding birds noted only from Yateholme, Coxley Valley and Deffer Wood (three) and one at Anchor Wood, Farnley Line on 7th May. One passed north over Longwood Edge on 9th November.

Addition to the 1983 Report:- At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, two on 24th and one on 30th July.

Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa

Rare passage visitor.

Singles in summer plumage at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th June (T.C.) and 30th July (M.L.D.).

Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Whitley Common on 15th, 20th and 24th April (F.J.W., J.M.D.) presumably remaining throughout that period.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th September (M.L.D.) and five on 3rd November (J.M.P.).

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

During May one at Whitley Common on 2nd, two north-west over Netherton (Horbury) on 3rd, one at Blackmoorfoot on 18th and one over the Ingbirchworth area on 20th.

A good series of early autumn records at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with, in July, two on 18th and 31st and singles on 16th, 19th, 25th, 26th and 27th; in August, three on 3rd, singles on 4th, 5th, 16th and 19th and 31 west in three parties on 17th and seven west on 18th.

Elsewhere, two west at Winscar on 15th July and at Deer Hill Reservoir on 18th August where nine came in from the east, departing west 25 minutes later.

Additions to the 1983 Report:- At Ringstone Edge Reservoir six west on 15th, one west on 17th August; 2 at Cupwith on 18th August (J.B.).

Curlew Numenius arquata

Migrant breeder (2). Common passage visitor.

Singles over Crosland Moor on 28th January, Ingbirchworth on 12th February, and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th February where the genuine arrival commenced with one on 3rd March, after which small numbers were at nine localities during the month, including 16 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 15th, (with 23 on 18th), 24 at Fulshaw on 25th and ten at Linshaw Scars above Holmbridge on 31st, then 23 at Digley on 1st April.

One to two pairs at seven lowland localities in May and June, at several of which breeding occurred. Also bred at Rishworth Moor, Scammonden, Deer Hill, Wessenden, Digley, Yateholme, Snailsden, Winscar (three pairs), Whitley Common and probably at other moorland localities, but would be much disturbed by the exceptional moorland fires.

Twelve at Broadstones on 25th June included eight juveniles; 32 at Whitley Common on 1st July. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, 16 on 22nd June, 20 on 11th August and 21 on 6th September were the post-breeding maxima, with the last one there on 11th November. Fifteen were at Deer Hill Reservoir on 18th August.

Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus

Scarce passage visitor.

One flew east calling over Cowcliffe on 21st March (G.B.S.).

Redshank Tringa totanus

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Two were present at Dewsbury S.F. from January to March, with three at Horbury Wyke on 1st February. The first breeding birds to return were two at Whitley Common on 31st March, followed by one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd April.

Breeding pairs at Black Moss (eight), Winscar (two), Horbury Wyke (one - two young) and Horbury Strands (one - three young).

Occasional records in the breeding season from Ringstone Edge, Slaithwaite Moor, Buckstones Moss and Whitley Common.

More regular than usual with the low water conditions at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with birds on 65 days from early April to mid July and the last two on 6th September.

17 at Deer Hill Reservoir on 20th July and 10 flying north over Cowcliffe on 3rd November.

Greenshank Tringa nebularia

Uncommon passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had most records, including all those in spring. Singles on 9th, 10th, 14th, and 16th April, 25th June and 8th July. In August one to five on 15 days, plus seven west and six down on 8th and ten on 15th.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir had one to two from 7th August to 14th September, with seven on 8th and 4 on 19th August.

One at Harden Reservoir on 29th June.

Singles on 12th August at Scout Dike Reservoir, and on 3 dates during the same month at Horbury Wyke with one on 4th Sept. Deer Hill Reservoir had two to three between 13th and 31st August, when two were at Ringstone Edge.

Dewsbury S.F. had birds on five September days, including five on 17th.

One at Horbury Wyke on 2nd October was the last.

Additions to 1983 Report: 4 at Elland on 6th, and 1 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 14th August (J.B).

Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

One in spring, at Elland G.P. on 2nd May.

In autumn much more frequently recorded. Horbury Wyke had one on 24th July, 2 on 21st and 3 on 28th August, and 4 on 4th September. Singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 9th, 14th, and 20th August, at Deer Hill Reservoir from 11th to 29th August with a second on 19th, at Royd Moor on 12th August and 8th September. Dewsbury S.F. had singles on 15th, 17th and 26th September.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

Rare passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 9th July (PDB et al).

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos

Migrant breeder (2).

One at Bretton Park on 15th then seven at Dewsbury S.F. and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th April, with singles at five other reservoirs by the month end.

Bred at Rishworth Moor, Scammonden, Ringstone Edge. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (first breeding record), Baitings Reservoir, Winscar (five pairs), Langsett (three pairs) and probably at Yateholme, Digley, Deer Hill and at other localities that were not checked.

Five at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 1st July and at Horbury Wyke on 27th August, with four at many localities.

Last was one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 4th October.

Turnstone Arenaria interpres

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st June (D.M), and five west there on 27th July (J.M.P, M.L.D) on which date 12 were also at Deer Hill Reservoir at dusk (D.M).

One at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 14th September (P.D.B).

Mediterranean Gull Larus melanocephalus

Rare visitor.

An exceptional year for records of this species.

All records were from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir as follows. A first-year bird on 6th and 7th March (M.L.D); a first-summer bird on 22nd and 24th April (C.C.T, M.L.D et al); a second-winter individual which appeared for 15 minutes on 27th November (T.C, M.L.D), reappearing on 7th and 9th December (M.L.D, J.M.P), with two different second-winter birds on 8th December (M.L.D, J.M.P). Ninth to 13th records.

Little Gull Larus minutus

Scarce passage visitor.

Single immatures stayed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir for periods up to an hour on three dates in August - 11th (D.M., C.H), 19th (M.L.D., D.M) and 22nd (D.M), with four (one adult, three 1st-winter) moving west there on 4th November (M.L.D., J.M.P).

Blackheaded Gull Larus ridibundus

Resident breeder (2-3). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Roost counts at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir included c. 2500 on 1st January, 2166 on 4th April falling to 156 on 25th May. From July onwards numbers again increased rapidly with 2550 by the end of the month, 3100 on 16th August, 3200 on 3rd September, 2960 on 19th October and 4960 on 5th November. Few other specific counts were made, but the combined total of this species and Common Gull (*L. caus*) reached peaks of 4500 on 18th January and 4300 on 1st March.

Other waters where significant numbers occurred were Ringstone Edge Reservoir with 867 (including five juveniles) on 9th July and 2000 + on 4th September, and Elland G.P. with 400 on 18th November. 250 roosted at Royd Moor Reservoir on 7th September.

M.L. Denton reports that the colony at Black Moss had a disastrous year. On the very late date of 21st June there were 73 nests with most birds still on eggs and only seven young were ringed. (Compare with 1983 when at least 113 young present, of which 100 ringed, on 22nd June). On 5th July only three young were present, giving a maximum of only ten young reared. Apart from the possibility of human disturbance, it is difficult to provide a reason for this failure. Despite the very dry season, the water level at the breeding site did not fall.

Ring-billed Gull Larus delawarensis

Rare visitor.

A first-winter bird at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir was watched for 15 minutes on 3rd January (J.M.P).

Accepted by YNU, but rejected by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Common Gull Larus caus

Numerous winter and passage visitor.

Few counts were made at the Blackmoorfoot roost. Generally relatively low numbers occurred with 350 on 1st January decreasing to 84 on 4th April. Single figures only throughout May (except for ten on 8th) and June, then increasing to 26 by the end of July, 51 on 16th August, 200 on 19th October and 317 on 5th November.

Highest counts received from other localities were 14 at Winscar Reservoir on 10th June, 40 at Ringstone Edge on 20th September and 50 at Elland on 18th November.

Numbers were either much reduced this year or few observers counted or sent in records of this species.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus

Common passage and winter visitor.

Numbers at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir were low in the early months, with 26 on 29th February, 41 on 29th March and 34 on 2nd April as maxima. Numbers built up steadily during the autumn with 136 on 11th July, 185 on 7th August, 145 on 20th September, 202 on 31st October to a maximum of 227 on 1st November, falling to mainly single figures in December.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *L.f. fuscus* on 17th March, 2nd April, 7th June and 13th August (2), and of *L.f. intermedius* on 26th March, 30th July, 4th August, 27th September, 7th and 19th October (M.L.D., J.M.P.).

110 at Elland G.P. on 13th May was an unusually high total for that month, while at Ringstone Edge Reservoir 67 were noted on 2nd, 90 on 9th and 60 moving west on 10th July.

Herring Gull Larus argentatus

Common passage and winter visitor.

At the Blackmoorfoot roost this is the only one of the commoner gulls to show an increase on the 1983 figures. Early maxima were 182 on 1st January, 267 on 10th February falling to 31 on 26th March. Thereafter, 14 on 2nd April was the only double figure count until late October, then maxima of 83 on 11th November and 127 on 31st December.

In 1984, the race *L.a. michahellis* was noted on thirteen dates in August, seven dates in September (with two on 27th), 18 dates in October (with two on several dates) and one on 1st November (M.L.D., J.M.P.).

Up to 70 were in the Ingberhworth area on 25th November (F.J.W.)

Two first-winter birds at Bretton Park on 2nd December showed the typical biscuit coloration of Glaucous Gull, but had dark tips to the primaries and a dark, indistinct terminal band to the tail (J.E.D.).

Amendment to the 1983 Report:- Following correspondence with P.J. Grant, it has been learnt by the observers concerned that the separation of birds of the race *L.a. omissus* is far more complex than was realised (see 1983 Report, page 3) and references to this race in the 1983 Report under this species (page 20) are in fact more likely to refer to *L.a. michahellis*; consequently all records of *L.a. omissus* should be deleted.

Iceland Gull Larus glaucoides

Scarce winter visitor, less frequent than formerly.

Two records of first-year birds at Blackmoorfoot, the first on 4th February (M.L.D., D.M.), the second on 26th March (J.M.P.).

Glaucous Gull Larus hyperboreus

Scarce winter visitor decreasing in frequency.

The only record was of a first-year bird at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on the typical date of 10th February (M.L.D., P.G.).

Great Black-backed Gull Larus marinus

Common winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir maxima were 60 on 1st and 114 on 6th January, 46 on 4th and 29 on 10th February. One or two only in March and April, then no records until one on 7th August. Double figures were not reached again until 3rd November when 16 were present (monthly max) followed by a December maximum of 33 on 25th.

In the Hall Dike Valley southerly movements were noted on 9th (37) and 22nd January (38).

Up to 25 were present in the Ingberhworth area in November and December with 15 adults feeding at a dead sheep on Whitley Common on 9th December.

Kittiwake Rissa tridactyla

Scarce passage visitor.

Continued to occur with some regularity at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, although the dates of the occurrences in 1984 do not fit comfortably into the pattern described by J.M. Pinder (see 1983 Report, pp 43-46).

Single immatures were noted on 14th and 30th January, an adult on 4th March, with two adults and an immature on 15th April. At the year end there was an adult on 26th October, followed on 3rd November by the largest number ever recorded in the club area, a flock of 53, comprising 49 adults and 4 immatures (J.M.P. et al).

Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis

Rare passage visitor.

Addition to 1983 Report:- Seven flew west over the Longwood Valley on 24th September (J.B.) - a record number for the area.

Common Tern Sterna hirundo

Uncommon passage visitor.

Most records of this species came from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with two on 9th, two on 25th and one on 30th May, two on 21st June, one on 6th and one on 22nd July, and adults on 13th August (one), 2nd (two) and 17th September (one). Six at Bretton Park on 9th May.

Birds not specifically identified were two on 1st and four on 4th June, one at Ingbirchworth on 27th May and two over Golcar on 12th August.

Addition to 1983 Report:- One "Commic" south-east at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 17th August.

Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea

Uncommon passage visitor.

Recorded at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir as follows:-

Three on 9th May and one on 7th June. In July, single birds on 17th and 18th, 26th, 28th and 30th-31st, with six on 20th and two on 29th. Occurred on four dates in August, an immature on 1st, two adults on 5th, an adult on 29th, with an adult and an immature on 31st. An adult on 1st and an immature on 2nd September, with a very late immature on 1st November.

One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 18th May.

An interesting bird at Blackmoorfoot on 12th June was assigned to the 'Portlandica' phase, probably of this species (M.L.D., J.M.P.). In this type of plumage the wings and tail appear to be typical of the adult, while typical immature head pattern and wing coverts are retained. This plumage is not unusual or rare. It is in fact the normal dress of terns in their period of immaturity, during which birds usually remain for at least their first summer in their wintering areas in Africa throughout the year and do not return with the adults to their northern breeding grounds (i.e. they are broadly comparable with the immature plumages of gulls). Hence the rarity of this plumage phase in Britain.

Black Tern Chlidonias niger

Scarce passage visitor.

Two records only. One at Ingbirchworth on 1st May (R.J.P.) and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir for twenty minutes on 19th August (M.L.D.).

Stock Dove Columba oenas

Resident breeder (2-3). Common winter visitor.

Few large parties noted apart from 16 sitting in snow near 'The Flouch' on 4th January and 38 at Whitley Common on 11th March.

At least eight pairs breeding on the rock face above Winscar Reservoir. Widely distributed in the breeding season with one or two pairs at at least ten other localities.

Woodpigeon Columba palumbus

Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor.

Although well distributed and breeding in woodlands of all types throughout the area, winter flocks were all comparatively small. 350 at Storthes Hall on 25th October. Significant westerly movements during the last two months included 200 over Scammonden on 4th November; a total of 2,747 over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on eight days between 9th and 31st December and 2,495 over Hall Dike on three days from 25th to 31st December; 1,500 east over Clayton West on 29th December.

Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto

Resident breeder (3).

No large flocks reported although there is no reason to suppose any decline. Breeding pairs occurred at several localities.

Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur

Migrant breeder (1-2).

Three at Bank Wood, Emley Woodhouse on 6th and one in the Coxley Valley on 8th May. One to two (including singing males) at six other localities during June, all in the east of the area.

One east at Ingbirchworth on 8th July and one south at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd. Two at Horbury Wyke on 27th August.

Cuckoo Cuculus canorus

Migrant breeder (2).

Singles at Digley on 20th April, at Silkstone and Blacker Wood, Skelmanthorpe on 22nd, at High Hoyland on 23rd, at Scammonden on 24th, at Brockholes, Gunthwaite and Dewsbury S.F. on 25th and at many other localities by the end of the month.

As in 1983 was reported from nearly thirty localities, several of which held more than one male, during May and June from high moorland valleys in the west to the eastern lowlands. Six were in one field in the Little Don Valley area on 10th June (J.L.).

The last was a juvenile at Thorpes, Skelmanthorpe on 17th August.

Barn Owl Tyto alba

Resident breeder (1).

One in the Hopton Woods area on 5th February (D.W.).

One seen in another area on 3rd December (J.W.B.) where a pair was reported to have been seen regularly and breeding to have taken place.

Continues to decline in the area.

Little Owl Athene noctua

Resident breeder (2).

At least twelve pairs bred, of which ten were successful.

Singles at 22 other localities and one to two at four more, giving a total in the area of upwards of thirty pairs. A very similar situation to last year.

Tawny Owl Strix aluco

Resident breeder (2).

Breeding proved at only six localities, including Bretton Park, where three pairs were successful, and Deffer Wood (two pairs) but most probably occurred in at least eighteen other places.

All breeding season records of this species would be welcomed in order to obtain a more realistic assessment of its distribution and status.

Long-eared Owl Asio otus

Resident breeder (1).

Two records only from a breeding area, one on 27th June and 3 heard on 3rd July. No records received from a second site where breeding normally occurs.

Short-eared Owl Asio flammeus

Resident/migrant breeder (1). Scarce winter visitor.

Occurred regularly at Linshaw Scar, Snailsden with two on 8th January, then one to two from 7th April to 30th June, with a third on 10th June. One at Whitley Common on 18th May.

Singles at Ramsden Clough on 19th and 27th June and in the Dunford Bridge - Crowden area on 29th June and 8th July. One over Deer Hill Reservoir on 18th August.

nightjar sp Caprimulgus/Chordeiles sp.

Rare visitor.

A bird watched for an hour on 15th September as it slept on the third storey windowsill of a house in Shepley. It had a flat head, barred markings, shape and stance of a nightjar, "whiskers" around the base of the bill and awoke and flew away when darkness fell. In view of the late date, the choice of roosting site and the incompleteness of the description, it is not possible to assign the bird specifically. However the American species, Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor) does show a distinct propensity for roosting on man-made structures!

Swift Apus apus

Migrant breeder (3).

On 30th April two at Whitley Common and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. Two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 1st May, where there were 15 on 6th, 60 on 7th and 150 by 20th hawking over the reservoir. Over 20 at three other places during May. Fewer seen in Milnsbridge and Lindley Moor in June and July than in earlier years, possibly due to the demolition of textile mills in the former district (J.E.D.). Possibly fewer also in Almondbury than usual, and 40 over the Firth Street area on 19th July was only a moderate number for this locality. Over 40 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd June, with the last one there on 31st August.

General departure took place in mid-August, but 4 west over Skelmanthorpe on 15th September were the last.

Kingfisher Alcedo atthis

Resident breeder (1).

Bred successfully at Bretton Park (B.B.S.G.).

Recorded from ten localities along the rivers Calder, Dearne and Don as well as at Cannon Hall (probably bred), Gunthwaite Dam, Scout Dike Reservoir, Fenay Beck and Lees Head Beck.

Green Woodpecker Picus viridis

Resident breeder (1-2).

A pair at Digley successfully reared young from a nest hole that was less than five feet from the ground (D.M., D.S.I., et al).

No other positive proof of breeding was obtained although recorded in spring and summer in 19 other suitable woodlands, at least half of which probably held breeding pairs. In one locality a pair were at a nest hole in April which was later taken over by Starlings. A juvenile was at Hazlehead on 29th July.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos major

Resident breeder (2).

Pairs bred at Windy Bank Wood, Hey Wood, Park Wood, Honley Wood, Deffer Wood (two), Gunthwaite, Haigh Greave Wood and Scrat Haigh Wood, and birds were present at and heard drumming in eleven other woodlands. Maximum of nine at Bretton Park (B.B.S.G.).

One drumming on a metal pole at Digley on 31st March.

Continues to feed at garden bird tables, particularly in Almondbury.

Additions to 1983 Report:- Singles at Blackmoorfoot on 4th and 7th December.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos minor

Resident breeder (1).

Fewer records from Bretton Park with singles on only six dates, three at each end of the year and three on one date. Drumming birds at Cannon Hall on 17th March and at Gunthwaite Hall between 29th March and 26th April (C.B.). At Farnley Line on three April dates and in Hey Wood on three May dates, and again at Farnley Line on 7th July, single birds were drumming (D.S. & V.A.I.). A pair nested in Longley Wood, but the tree branch containing the nest hole was sawn through by a person unknown about 15th May and the birds deserted. (D. Man.).

Outside the breeding season one at Cannon Hall on 8th January (B.B.S.G.) and one flew across the road in the Grimsicar Valley on 25th November (B.A., G.B.S.).

Skylark Alauda arvensis

Resident breeder (3-4).

Small numbers at several places in the early months, but 200 were feeding in a brassica field near Ingbirchworth on 21st February, over 150 were at Broadstones Lodge on 3rd and over 220 at nearby Low Common on 7th March. 70 were at Digley on 19th March.

Small flocks at a few localities in the autumn and 47 west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th December was the largest recorded movement.

Sand Martin Riparia riparia

Migrant, former breeder.

Extremely scarce in the area, with no breeding colonies located.

One at Bretton Park on 3rd, with four on 12th and two on 15th April. Singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on six dates (May onwards) and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on three dates.

Three each at Deer Hill Reservoir on 7th September and at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 14th, with the last one at Bretton Park on 23rd.

These were the only records.

Swallow Hirundo rustica

Migrant breeder (4). Numerous passage visitor.

An isolated early individual was above New Mill on 27th March (D.I). The next was one at Horbury Wyke on 10th April, followed by two at Grimescar on 13th and three at Bretton Park on 14th, with eleven there the following day. Four were at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 17th and two passed north over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 20th April; by 22nd one to three at eight places and quite widely distributed by the month end.

Few high counts recorded. 200 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 7th May and 120 on 28th. A general impression of lower numbers than usual in the breeding season in the area.

The only large movements were of 374 south-east over Deer Hill Reservoir on 7th September in a period of 80 minutes and a flock of 250 east over Bretton Park on 25th September.

Few October records, the last being singles at Blackmoorfoot on 13th and Scout Dike Reservoir on 14th.

Additions to 1983 Report: 1 at Holywell Green on 1st and 3rd November.

House Martin Delichon urbica

Migrant breeder (3).

At Bretton Park one on 14th April and two on 15th, when one was also at Helme. Scarce until early May with only one to three at four more places during April, plus ten at Ingbirchworth on 30th. Good numbers over Ingbirchworth Reservoir during May, with a maximum of 200 on 28th, when there were 80 at Hoshaws Whams.

Breeding populations would appear to have been maintained.

During August, 150 at Dewsbury S.F. on 7th, 100 at Winscar on 19th and 100 at Horbury on 30th. In September, 80 south-east at Deer Hill, 50 over the canal at Golear on 11th, 180 feeding in one flock in the Longwood Valley on 13th, with 100 there on 16th, and over 150 passing east at Bretton Park on 25th.

Only one October record, three at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st.

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis

Migrant breeder (3).

One at Silkstone S.F. on 15th April and one in Bretton Park on 18th. More widely distributed by 22nd April with one or two at five localities and by 25th individuals had appeared at four more places. About forty singing males recorded during May and a further thirty at other sites that were not checked until June. These included an exceptional total of 14 singing in Deffer Wood on 9th June (J.E.D).

The situation appeared quite healthy throughout the breeding season.

The last one was at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 19th August.

Meadow Pipit Anthus pratensis

Resident breeder (4-5). Partial migrant.

Single figures at two localities in January, with 30 at Dewsbury S.F. on 29th. In the Hall Dike Valley during severe weather conditions a flock of 12 on 13th built up to 114 on 15th, falling to 27 on 21st, but increased again to 168 on 23rd during heavy snowfall, and 132 on 24th.

Evidence of a return to moorland breeding areas was provided by parties totalling 150 on Rishworth Moor on 24th March, 120 in three flocks at Digley on 7th April, (when there were also over 20 males singing in territories), 250 in the same area on 8th, 100 on 9th and in excess of 300 moving through on the evening of 16th April. 60 at Victoria on 15th April, with a large number at Grimes Lane on 9th.

Over 50 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th September, where 68 moved south on 21st October. 129 south over Deer Hill Reservoir on 4th October.

A few in the area to the year end, including 12 at Silkstone S.F. on 2nd December and 37 at Horbury S.F. on 31st.

Rock Pipit Anthus spinoletta

Rare visitor.

One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 26th August (B.B.S.G.)

Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava

Migrant breeder (1-2).

One at Silkstone S.F. on 15th April and two there on 22nd. One south at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th April and one north on 26th.

Very few records, with no breeding evidence. Singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on four dates from May to August, one at Elland G.P. on 5th May, two at Bretton Park on 6th May, two east at Denby Dale on 17th July and one at Skeimanthorpe on 10th August.

One to three on 17 days at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 14th August to 3rd September, and one south on 16th September.

Additions to 1983 Report: Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 26th and 28th July and on 27th and 29th August.

Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea

Resident breeder (2).

A further increase in the number of records received. Sightings at more than thirty localities, with evidence of breeding at Langsett, Yateholme, Digley, Gunthwaite, Bretton Park, Thongsbridge, Booth Dean, Denby Dale and probably also bred at Longwood Brook, Brockholes, Fenay Beck, Thunderbridge, Meltham and in the Colne Valley between Golcar and Marsden.

Pied Wagtail Motacilla alba

Resident breeder (3).

The Civic Centre roost had record numbers on 24th March with over 200 present (H.C.L., J.M.D) and 43 were there on 19th March.

Smaller flocks included 20 at Horbury S.F. on 2nd January, 24 at Brockholes on 11th March, up to 18 at Primrose Hill Reservoir in January and February, 48 at Dewsbury S.F. on 26th March.

After the breeding season flocks of 30 at Yateholme Reservoir on 11th July, 32 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th August and 15 at Bretton Park on 25th September.

Birds of the nominate race White Wagtail (*M.a.alba*) at Dewsbury S.F. on 29th March (J.R.S) and at Broadstones on 22nd April (B.B.S.G).

Widespread reports of successful breeding.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2).

Pairs bred successfully at Booth Dam, Black Brook, Willykay Clough, Marsden (canal), Woodsome Lees (Penay Beck), Thunderbridge, Meltham Bar and Denby Dale, and probably bred at Shaw Wood (Outlane), Scont Dike, Holmfirth (R.Holme), Digley Bottom, near Bilberry Reservoir, beside Windy Bank Wood and on other stretches of the canal above Golcar.

Sightings, mainly of singles, at about fifteen other localities.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (3).

Twelve roosted in a conifer in an Almondbury garden six yards from a house window during the cold spell in late January (V.A.+ D.S.I.).

Insufficient records received to indicate any considerable increase in numbers and must still be well below the 1978 population.

No confirmed breeding records, except for a family party at Crowden on 1st July.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (3).

Following the end of Winter Atlas counts, no significant records received. Nothing to indicate any change in status.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5).

Few records received of any significance apart from eight in SE 20 (Cawthorne) on 8th January, and at least five pairs in Bretton Park on 17th March.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder (2).

One at Grimescar on 12th April, three in Bretton Park on 15th, one at Dewsbury S.F. on 20th and one in the Little Don Valley on 22nd, then no more until May when the species was found in seven localities. Still remains comparatively scarce and breeding records appear to be confined to woodlands near to, and on, the Pennine spurs.

These included singing males at the following places:- Digley (three), Booth Wood (one), Meltham Mills (two), Windy Bank Wood (two, one pair at least bred), Yateholme (two bred, with a third pair present), Langsett area (at least seven) and also males at Royd House Wood on 10th May and Blackmoorfoot on 28th May. A female at Arrunden Laithe on 2nd July and a family party at Hazlehead on 29th July.

Only two later records of singles, at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st August and at Blacker Wood, Skelmanthorpe on 2nd September.

Whinchat Saxicola rubetra

Migrant breeder (2).

Rather fewer records than usual. One at Scammonden on 26th April, where there were seven singing males on 12th May and nine on 24th; at least three pairs bred, probably rearing at least eight young, the first (four) being seen on 28th June and twelve birds still present on 29th August.

Pairs bred at Crowden, March Haigh (probably two), Dunford Bridge, Broadstones Lodge, Winscar and in the Little Don Valley, where there were eleven males on 20th May, and probably at Wessenden.

At least four at Horbury Wyke on 24th July. At Dewsbury S.F., three on 16th and one on 17th Sept, one at Ingbirchworth on 18th September and one at Spicer House Lane on 3rd October were the last.

Stonechat Saxicola torquata

Scarce passage visitor.

A male by Spicer House Lane, Ingbirchworth on 23rd September (J.M.D) was the only record.

Correction to 1983 Report: The bird in the Scammonden Valley was seen on 22nd, 25th and 29th August, not in early October (J.B.)

Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe

Migrant breeder (2).

The first were two at Ingbirchworth on 20th March, followed by two at Spicer House Lane on 25th March, one at Whitley Common on 1st April and two at Scammonden and one at Buckstones on 7th April. A large influx to the Whitley Common area of 68 during the evening of 14th April (B.W, F.J.W) but only nine there on 15th and eight on 16th, when at least 53 were in fields near Ingbirchworth Reservoir and more than 20 moved through the Digley area in the evening (J.P). 28 in Spicer House Lane on 17th April (C.B).

Pairs bred at Rishworth Moor (one), Scammonden (at least two), Buckstones (two), Moselden (one), Booth Dean (one), March Haigh, Digley (one), Dean Head (one) and Crowden (more than one). These are minimum numbers of breeding pairs and breeding probably occurred also at Wessenden and near Ingbirchworth.

On 8th August 13 immatures in one field near Ingbirchworth and six immatures on Rishworth Moor.

The last were two at Thurlstone on 15th and one at Digley on 16th September.

Ring Ouzel Turdus torquatus

Migrant breeder (2).

A male at Digley on 23rd March, where numbers increased slowly to a maximum of five birds on 1st April.

Bred on Rishworth Moor (up to three pairs), Wessenden and Digley areas (at least two pairs each), Crowden Valley (three pairs) and the Little Don Valley (one pair). A male sang regularly at March Haigh, but no female was seen and one was in the Scammonden area on 23rd June.

An unusual record was of a male flying high to the north-west over the Netherton/Meltham Road on 19th May (B.A, G.B.S).

Blackbird Turdus merula

Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

40 in the Cawthorne area on 8th January. Concentrations of ten to twenty frequently located during January on Winter Atlas counts. A partial albino male at Shaw Wood, Longwood in the spring. The species still breeds in the March Haigh area over 1200 feet above sea level.

Fieldfare Turdus pilaris

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

Considerable numbers in the area during the first week of January, many of which departed in severe conditions from mid-month onwards. 200 at Upper Hopton, 400 at Cockley Wood, 220 at Scout Dike and 250 at High Flatts on 2nd January; 250 at Hoylandswaine, 170 at Ingbirchworth and 290 at Royd Moor on 3rd; 171 at Upper Denby on 6th; 260 at Almondbury and 100 at Spicer House Lane on 7th; 230 near Dunford Bridge and over 200 in Bretton Park on 8th and 128 near Shelley on 9th.

748 west at Hill Dike on 4th January, but the most substantial movements were on 15th when 892 west and 740 south at Hall Dike, 600 south at Blackmoorfoot, 580 south to south-west at Silkstone, 500 south at Bretton in thirty minutes and smaller numbers south-west at Golcar and Lindley Moor. Also on 15th, 200 were in an Ossett garden. At Hall Dike 260 moved west on 16th with 486 north-east on 20th, when also 40 north-east at Blackmoorfoot and 185 north-west at Dewsbury S.F. which had 150 grounded birds on 29th. For much of 22nd January, south-westerly movement took place over Almondbury.

On 10th February 216 near Grange Moor and 400 at March Haigh on 12th, 250 in the Flockton area at the end of February. Ingbirchworth had 100 on 13th February, 250 on 10th March, while in the Midhope/Ingbirchworth areas four flocks totalling at least 2000 birds were found on 9th April. On 18th April 200 were still in the Ingbirchworth area and 600 at Gunthwaite, with 300 west over Whitley Common the following day.

Last birds of the early months were two at Bretton Park on 29th April and six at Spicer House Lane on 2nd May.

One flying west at Blackmoorfoot on 15th September was well in advance of most autumn arrivals which, after 25 west at Longwood on 6th October and a few at three localities in the next ten days, began in earnest on 21st October. On that date 475 were at Scammonden and 100 at Langsett with smaller numbers at two other places; by 28th October, 1100 in fields to the west of Scout Dike Reservoir with a further 200 flying west, 500 at Ingbirchworth, 300 at Whitley Common, 120 west up the Longwood Valley and 100 overhead at New Mill and Victoria. 400 at Spicer House Lane on 29th and 150 west at Langsett on 31st October.

During November flocks of 100 to 500 in at least seven places, with on 24th 400 each at Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth. Westerly and southerly movement of parties of less than 100 noted at three places during the month with at Mount, Outlane 100 west on 27th and 200 west in one flock on 28th.

Generally fewer during December although up to 1000 were in the Gunthwaite area in the last week, 600 were at Hoylandswaine on 22nd and up to 80 in the area of the canal at Golcar.

Song Thrush Turdus philomelos

Resident breeder (4).

Again only very small numbers located on Winter Atlas counts with four near Cawthorne on 8th January being a high number. One at Blackmoorfoot on 15th January where the species is scarce in winter.

Widespread and apparently successful in the breeding season.

Redwing Turdus iliacus

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

As with Fieldfare more were in the area than is usual up to mid-January. Numbers in the Rushfield Dyke area built up and peaked at 900 on 12th and flocks of 50 to 100 were at three other places. 150 in an Ossett garden on 15th January on which date 200 went south at Bretton Park and 50 south-west at Silkstone.

After January the largest flock was one of 80 at Lower Cumberworth on 11th March, and the last were 50 at Hoylandswaine on 3rd April, 20 at Digley on 9th and one at Gunthwaite on 15th.

More than usual returned in late September with 28 at Blackmoorfoot on 24th, 19 at Bretton Park on 25th and five at Ossett on 29th. 1500 passed west up the Longwood Valley between 08.45 hours and 11.15 hours on 6th October (C.T), when birds were also passing over Dalton. Smaller numbers elsewhere during October, with 186 west and 38 grounded at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 7th and 120 roosting in conifers at Storthes Hall on 30th being the only numbers above 25.

Flocks of 100 to 120 at four places during November and December and 200 at Bretton Park on 2nd December.

Mistle Thrush Turdus viscivorus

Resident breeder (2).

Three flying south over Silkstone at considerable height on 24th January may have been moving out following snowfall on 23rd.

Post-breeding season parties of 22 in the Little Don Valley on 8th July, 16 at Scammonden on 10th July, over 20 at Digley in July and August, 15 at Heath House Wood, Golcar on 11th September and 26 at Blackmoorfoot on 6th October (a day of heavy Fieldfare passage).

Grasshopper Warbler Locustella naevia

Migrant breeder (1).

At Horbury single birds sang briefly during the evening of 24th April (D.P.) and on 17th July (P.S.).

Sedge Warbler Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Migrant breeder (1).

Singing males near Horbury S.F. on 4th and 23rd May, with three on 11th June (J.R.S.) and at Elland G.P. on 19th May.

Singles caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th and 26th August.

Additions to 1983 Report: Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 31st July, 1st, 25th and 28th August.

Lesser Whitethroat Sylvia curruca

Migrant breeder (1).

One at Horbury on 22nd April and a singing male there from 24th well into May. Males in song, noted on one day only, at Cawthorne on 6th May, Bank Wood on 16th

May, Gunthwaite Dam on 17th May, Clayton West on 8th June, New Hall, Mirfield on 13th June and Lower Denby on 17th June.

An adult feeding an immature at Blacker Wood, Skelmanthorpe on 24th July. Singles seen at Scout Dike on 12th August (where 14 were caught and ringed during the month - BBSG), Skelmanthorpe on 14th August and Royd Moor Reservoir on 8th September.

At Blackmoorfoot, one from 21st to 23rd August, with a second from 28th to 30th; both caught and ringed.

Whitethroat Sylvia communis

Migrant breeder (2).

At Lepton Wood one on 27th April, followed by two at Deffer Wood and one at Meltham Mills on 28th with one at Silkstone S.F. on 29th.

Breeding confirmed at only two localities, but singing males totalled seven in the north-east around Horbury. Otherwise only two near Bretton Park, at least three in the Cawthorne/Deffer Wood area and four at Elland G.P., a pair at Dewsbury S.F., a pair nest building at Clayton West on 13th May, whilst males were also singing at Oxspring on 17th June and near Skelmanthorpe as late as 24th July. Present near Stortnes Hall from May to July.

Last were singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 28th August and Horbury Wyke on 26th September.

Garden Warbler Sylvia borin

Migrant breeder (2).

One at Bretton Park on 26th April and at Silkstone S.F. on 29th. 24 singing males located in the eastern parts of squares SE 20 and SE 21 between mid-May and early June, including five in Deffer Wood.

Four caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot with the last on 19th August. Two near Royd Moor on 26th August.

An exceptionally late bird at Silkstone S.F. on 24th November (J.M.D.) was the latest ever inland record for Yorkshire.

Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla

Migrant breeder (3). Rare winter visitor.

None until 22nd April when two males were in Bretton Park, one of which was nest-building and 11 males and two females there on 29th April. One at Deffer Wood also on 22nd April, but the majority of birds arrived during the first two weeks of May.

Few more singing males reported than usual with over 50 in SE 20 and SE 21, 23 in SE 10 and SE 11, and 12 in SE 00 and SE 01.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd September.

During the winter a male at Cawthorne on 11th November, and single females at Silkstone S.F. on 24th November and Bretton Park on 2nd December.

Addition to 1983 Report: One in Bretton Park on 14th October.

Wood Warbler Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Migrant breeder (1).

Singing males arrived at Longley Wood on 3rd May, Hagg Wood on 5th, Hey Wood

on 6th and Thongsbridge on 7th.

As an outcome of the B.T.O. Survey more singing males were located than usual, but several of these did not apparently remain to breed. Of those mentioned above, only those at Hagg Wood (to 18th June), and Hey Wood (with a second male on 17th June) remained in their territories.

Singing males in other localities as follows:- Turnerwood (three, 29th May), Drop Clough (one, 29th May), Meltham Mills (two, 13th May, probably bred), Silkstone (one 13th and 20th May), Windy Bank Wood (two regularly, three on 27th May, at least one pair bred), Healey House (one, 9th June), Honley Wood (one, 14th June, breeding), Beaumont Park (three, 31st May, one pair bred), Butternab Wood (one, 2nd June), Mollicarr Wood (one, 28th May), Langsett (one, May), Stocksmoor Common (one, 30th May), Bank Wood (one, 16th May), Whitley Wood (one, 13th June), New Hall Flockton (one, 30th May) and Deffer Wood (one, 17th June).

Woodsome, High Hoyland, Stocks Wood and Cawthorne Park were checked with negative results.

Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita

Migrant breeder (2).

Two alongside the canal at Golcar on 25th and one at Bretton Park on 31st March, with no more until mid-April, when singing males were at six localities. Twelve singing males in the two eastern 10km. squares, including four in Bretton Park and three in Deffer Wood. At least five singing males in woodlands due south of Huddersfield and others at Golcar, Holmfirth, Meltham, Yateholme, Langsett and Elland G.P., some of which were known to have bred.

One sang briefly at Almondbury on 12th September, with later records of singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd September and in the Longwood Valley on 12th October.

Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus

Migrant breeder (4).

The first at Bretton Park on 12th April with an influx from 14th resulting in birds at ten localities by 19th. At least 35 in the Denby Dale/Skelmanthorpe area on 21st April, 20 males at Horbury on 24th and 28 in the Coxley Valley on 25th April.

Good numbers at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 7th July to 21st September with a peak of 27 on 30th July. At least 20 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 1st August.

The last was one at Skelmanthorpe on 2nd October.

Addition to 1983 Report: 21 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 28th July.

Goldcrest Regulus regulus

Resident breeder (3). Common passage visitor.

Bred at Bretton Park (four males during May), Deffer Wood, Yateholme and in the Langsett area, being quite numerous at the last three localities.

A slight influx in October apparent from the increase in occurrences at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during that month.

Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata

Migrant breeder (3).

One at Black Brook on 13th May was late for a first arrival. At least 30 pairs or singing males at 20 localities, with evidence of successful breeding at twelve of these.

The last were two at Oakes on 19th September.

Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca

Rare passage visitor and occasional breeder.

An exceptional year with pairs breeding at Meltham Mills and Hepworth, and, although the final outcome is not known, both pairs were feeding young in the nest on 17th June. Also on 17th June a male was seen carrying food in Deffer Wood.

A male at Shaw Wood, Longwood on 23rd April was not seen subsequently; a male at Silkstone seen from 13th to 27th May, a pair at Bretton Park in May and one in Hey Wood on 14th June.

One ringed as a pullus at Welshpool, Powys on 13th June 1983 was found dead at Elland on 26th April.

Long-tailed Tit Aegithalos caudatus

Resident breeder (2).

Contrary to the normal situation, no large parties were reported in either winter, ten at Thorpe Lane, Almondbury on 8th January being the largest.

Pairs bred at Horbury (two), Netherton, Ossett, Thornhill, Coxley Valley, Stockmoor Common, Haigh, Bretton Park (three), Cannon Hall and Cawthorne and probably at other localities.

Addition to 1983 Report: A flock of 46 at Bretton Park on 26th June (P.H.D.P).

Marsh Tit Parus palustris

Rare visitor.

Single birds at Dean Wood on 31st January (D.M.) and at Bretton Park on 7th March (WSMcC) could have been this species, but in neither case is identity a hundred per cent certain.

Willow Tit Parus montanus

Resident breeder (2).

As noted in 1983 seems less common than formerly and once again breeding was not proven at Bretton Park.

Pairs at Coxley, Horbury and Gunthwaite during the breeding season and single birds at Bretton Park, Silkstone S.F., Denby Dale and Grimescar in April and at Almondbury in May.

The only record in the first two months was of one at a garden bird table in Almondbury, reappearing in December.

Noted elsewhere at the year end only at Silkstone S.F. (four), Bretton Park (one) and Scout Dike (one).

Coal Tit Parus ater

Resident breeder (3).

Singing males at Bretton Park (at least two) and at five other mixed woodlands in that area. Good breeding populations at Deffer Wood and the Yateholme and Langsett areas in particular.

Blue Tit Parus caeruleus

Resident breeder (5).

Several flocks of up to 20 in January at widely separated localities. 50 in Bretton Park in December, but little indication of anything but low to average numbers in the area.

Great Tit Parus major

Resident breeder (4).

17 at Cannon Hall on 29th January and 30 at Bretton Park on 30th December were the only flocks reported.

Nuthatch Sitta europaea

Rare visitor. Has bred.

One in Windy Bank Wood on six dates between 6th May and 17th June (D. Man, C.T.). One at Hartcliffe Mills, Denby Dale on 1st May (D.B.). No confirmed breeding records.

Treecreeper Certhia familiaris

Resident breeder (2-3).

One in an Ossett garden on 23rd April was unusual (J.R.S.).

Bred at Bretton Park, Silkstone, Hey Wood, Thunderbridge, Storthes Hall Woods and Mollicar Woods and probably at Cawthorne, Denby Dale and Little Don Valley.

Not widely reported.

Great Grey Shrike Lanius excubitor

Rare winter visitor.

A single bird seen on two dates in mid-February in a garden at Mount, Outlane (Mr and Mrs Dyson). The first record since 1979.

Jay Garrulus glandarius

Resident breeder (2).

No noteworthy records. Despite the influx in autumn 1983, reported in the early months from only six localities, with a maximum of only two from any of these.

Maggie Pica pica

Resident breeder (4).

The roost at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir held 77 on 22nd February and 63 on 22nd December as the respective year end maxima. 26 in the Holywell Green area on 28th January where formerly there was a large roost; 35 in the Ingbirchworth area on 10th March; a roost at Outlane held 80 on 20th December.

No records received for the breeding season.

Jackdaw Corvus monedula

Resident breeder (4).

56 at Holywell Green in the built-up area on 28th January during a Winter Atlas count. 40 near Ingbirchworth on 5th April. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir in February 45 on 17th, 35 on 23rd and a southerly movement of over 100 on 5th.

Rook Corvus frugilegus

Resident breeder (5).

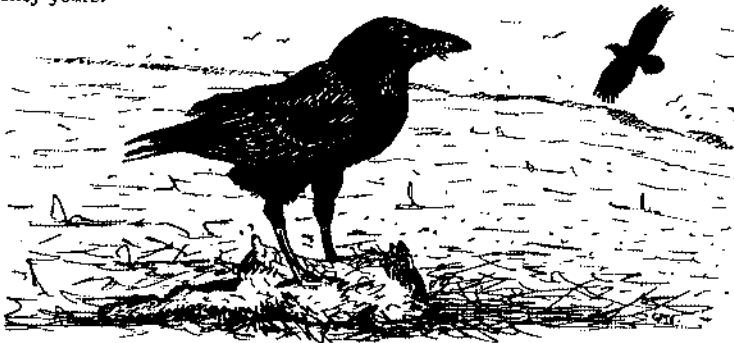
The situation would appear to be very similar to that in 1983, although no census was made this year, and few records received. About 4000 breeding pairs.

Carrion Crow Corvus corone

Resident breeder (2-3).

A roost hitherto-unknown was located near Outlane and held 75 on 18th July, 150 on 29th October, 200 in early November and 260 from 19th to 21st December (C.T).

From sightings generally in the area and the frequency with which parties of ten to twenty can be located would seem to be still increasing, as it has done for more than twenty years.



Raven Corvus corax

Rare visitor.

A single bird was seen in the Little Don Valley on 13th and near Winscar on 31st May (J.L). This is the first fully authenticated record of the species in the area, although birds have been reported in 1960 and 1975 (two). This ties in with other May-June records in West and South Yorkshire, for example at Pugneys on 5th May 1983, as another probable example of post-juvenile dispersal after this species' very early breeding, often as early as February.

Sterling Sturnus vulgaris

Resident breeder (5).

No counts were made this year of birds roosting in Huddersfield Town Centre. Largest flock reported was of 600+ at Whitley Common on 28th October. About 1000 were distributed in the Ingbirchworth area on 9th April.

House Sparrow Passer domesticus

Resident breeder (5).

A three hour Winter Atlas count at Holywell Green on 28th January gave a total of 186.

The plumage of a partial albino in Almondbury Bank in the autumn closely resembled that of a male Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) in winter plumage.

Tree Sparrow Passer montanus

Resident breeder (3).

A moderate flock at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from mid-July to mid-August with 40 on 31st July and 50 on 12th August, fewer during September but 40 again on 7th October.

Scarce in the area during the winter months, but quite well distributed in mature deciduous woodland in the spring and summer. 50 in SE 20 on 11th February.

Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs

Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor.

In the Langsett area flocks of 120 on 4th January, 180 on 19th February and over 100 on 11th March. 250 at Wither Wood, Denby Dale on 25th March and 40 at Digley on 26th and 31st.

Some movements noted in the autumn, with 56 south at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 21st October and 40 west at Thick Hollins, Meltham on 29th.

50 at Cannon Hall on 26th December.

Brambling Fringilla montifringilla

Uncommon to common winter visitor.

Single figures during the early months, including some feeding in gardens, at Oakes, Lockwood, Blackmoorfoot, Almondbury, Denby Dale, Spicer House Lane, Silkstone, Gunthwaite, Grimsear and Ravensthorpe (one dead). In the Hall Dike Valley 59 moved east on 15th January after a stay of only 20 minutes; 12 on 19th and five on 20th also flew east. Eleven east over Mag Wood on 21st January. 40 near Langsett on 19th February and 11th March with 30 still present on 1st April, the last of the winter.

Even scarcer at the year end. After two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 19th October, one to two there on five dates, at Bretton Park on three dates, and at Thick Hollins, Digley and Silkstone on one date each.

Greenfinch Carduelis chloris

Resident breeder (4).

Very few records received and no substantial flocks reported. 50 at Dewsbury S.F. on 7th August was the largest number notified.

98 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir in January and February (five days) and 48 in November (two days).

Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis

Resident breeder (2-3).

110 came into the Hall Dike Valley from the north on 16th January during a hard spell and continued south after 20 minutes. Otherwise, apart from eleven by the canal at Linthwaite on 2nd May, no locality had more than ten until after the breeding season.

Probably bred near the Civic Centre where a male was singing regularly from early June and individuals were present from 20th April to 8th August. A male singing near the the Polytechnic on 8th July, where several birds were calling on 28th. Pairs present in the breeding season at Booth Dean, Lindley Moor, Crosland Hill, Milnsbridge, Primrose Hill, Lepton, Dalton, Bretton Park, Cannon Hall, Cawthorne, Shepley and probably at Seamondens, Black Brook, Linthwaite and Jackson Bridge.

Autumn flocks of 16 at Fartown on 24th August, and in September of 60 at Cat Hill, Hoylandswaine on 15th, 40 at Bretton Park on 16th and 33 at Lindley Moor on

29th. 12 in the Little Don Valley on 21st October, when 14 passed south over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and eight west at Seammonden. On 28th October, 20 at Ingbirchworth, 12 at Whitley Common and 22 in the Longwood Valley.

Siskin Carduelis spinus

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon winter visitor.

Fewer recorded than in 1983. Parties of five or less in the early months at Gunthwaite, Grimescar and Silkstone. 19 in Bretton Park on 8th January and 12 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th February, with seven in the north-east quarter of S.E. 10 on 29th January.

One at Deffer Wood on 14th April and two pairs in territory near Langsett in May.

In the Little Don Valley five on 1st October and 27 on 21st, when seven passed south at Langsett. Small parties of six or less from late October at Lane House, Elland G.P., Gunthwaite and Blackmoorfoot each on one date only, with 12 at Royd Moor on 14th. At Bretton Park six on 25th September, 27 on 16th December, with 30 on 22nd, 25 on 23rd and 33 on 30th. At Silkstone 25 on 4th November, 35 on 11th and 20 on 2nd December. 13 in alders at Ossett on 28th December with four on 31st.

Addition to 1983 Report: 25 at Elland G.P. on 27th November.

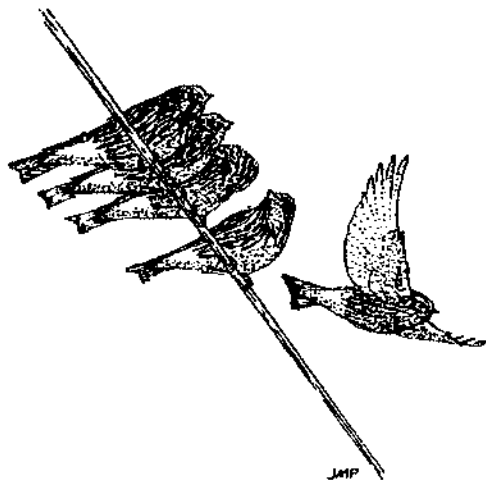
Linnet Carduelis cannabix

Resident breeder (4). Partial migrant.

First reported in the area on 9th April (one) and generally distributed in breeding sites by mid-May. The species continues to breed at a few upland localities also occupied by Twite.

The only spring flock was one of 55 at Ingbirchworth on 30th April. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had 20 on 17th July and at least that number regularly to 14th October (50), with peaks of 150 on 5th September and 90 on 23rd and 24th. 60 west there on 22nd September and seven south on 21st October.

Post-breeding gatherings included 126 near Meltham Cop on 14th July, 100 at Dewsbury S.F. on 7th August, 106 at Broadstones on 27th August, 80 at Deer Hill on 7th September, where 91 moved south on 4th October, 200 at Ingbirchworth on 15th September and 150 at Broadstones on 5th October.



Twite Carduelis flavirostris

Resident and partial migrant breeder (3).

Two at Whitley Common on 12th February and 13 at Spicer House Lane on 27th. 87 at Broadstones on 11th March, up to 40 on 18th and 90 on 25th, with 29 still there on 22nd April. 50 near Ingbirchworth on 19th March. After a male on 31st March, 20 were at Digley on 7th April as were 16 at Rishworth Moor.

Bred at Rishworth Moor, March Haigh, Slaithwaite Moor, Snailsden, Holme Moss and probably at Winscar, Hazlehead, Deer Hill, Digley, Wessenden Head, Crowden and the Little Don Valley.

Fed regularly along the exposed western shore of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from late July (24) to 16th October (two), with maxima there of over 100 in early August, 200 on 16th and 22nd August, 160 on 31st August, 120 on 1st September, up to 95 to 13th September, then decreasing to ten in early October.

Good numbers at Deer Hill Reservoir, with 45 on 25th July, 54 on 15th August, 110 on 6th/7th September down to 14 on 29th. 40 near Meltham Cop on 14th August, 60 at Ingbirchworth on 7th September, 60 in the Grimescar Valley on 19th September, and at Scammonden 150 on 16th September and 40 on 21st October.

Redpoll Carduelis flammea

Resident breeder (3). Uncommon winter visitor.

No flocks in the early part of the year and, apart from nine at Golcar near the canal in January and nine at Horbury Wyke on 29th January, none until late April when the species appeared at four localities from 22nd, including 120 at Stonycliff Wood on 25th with 20 there also on 3rd May.

Small numbers present in the breeding season at Bank Wood (Emley), Crossley's Plantation, Yateholme, Swinden Plantation, Blackmoorfoot, Scammonden and Booth Wood.

Twelve south over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 21st October, 50 north-east at Meltham on 31st October and 30 west at Scammonden on 4th November, when 20 were near Deanhead Church. 16 at Moll Springs, Meltham on 28th October, 20 at Cannon Hall on 22nd December, 15 at Bretton Park on 23rd and over 20 beside the canal at Golcar on 31st.

Crossbill Loxia curvirostra

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor.

Few records this year. A singing male near the Flouch on 29th April and two immatures in the Langsett area on 8th July (J.L.) were the only reports.

Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Resident breeder (3).

Pairs and small parties reported from sixteen localities including Blackmoorfoot Reservoir where, after an absence of six years, a pair bred and four birds were noted later on two dates with the last two on 10th November.

At least three pairs bred in Bretton Park.

Six west at Scammonden on 21st October.

The largest party reported was of eight in the Longwood Valley on 20th December.

Hawfinch Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Rare visitor.

Seven at Cannon Hall Park on 2nd December were in the same sweet chestnut as three on 19th November 1983 (C.B.).

Lapland Bunting Calcarius lapponicus

Rare winter visitor.

Addition to 1983 Report: Three flew calling over Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 6th November (J.B.).

Fifth record for the area and the first since 1973.

Snow Bunting Plectrophenax nivalis

Rare winter visitor.

Three were watched for 25 minutes on 21st January in a field near Mag Wood before they departed east (D. Maude).

Yellowhammer Emberiza citrinella

Resident breeder (3).

Few flocks reported in the early months, with 23 at Gunthwaite Hall on 21st January and 30 at Hoylandswaine on 4th March being the largest.

Breeding reports from only six localities. Surely this does not reflect the species' real position in the area.

25 at Silkstone Common on 2nd December and 15 at Ingbirchworth on 9th were the only flocks reported at the year end.

Reed Bunting Emberiza schoeniclus

Resident breeder (3).

One at Shelley and two at Scammonden in January, with singles on three dates at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during February were the only ones for Winter Atlas counts.

Singing males and/or breeding pairs at Rishworth Moor, Deanhead, Scammonden (two), Black Brook, March Haigh, Cupwith Reservoir (two), Marsden, Elland G.P., Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Boshaw Whams, Scout Dike Reservoir (two at least), Broadstones Reservoir (two), Ingbirchworth Reservoir (two), Whitley Common, Clayton West S.F., Bretton Park, Gunthwaite Dam, Oxspring and Crowden.

No flocks reported during the autumn, the largest number being six at Scout Dike Reservoir on 1st August and 18th November.

Corn Bunting Miliaria calandra

Resident breeder (1).

Very few reports received as the species appears to continue to decline.

Two singing males near Bank Wood Farm on 15th May (P.S.) and one near Broadstones Lodge on 8th July where an adult was observed feeding a juvenile on 9th August (F.J.W.).

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The recorder is grateful to all the above for their help and co-operation.

B. Armitage.

EARLY AND LATE DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS

SPECIES	First 1984	Earliest ever	Locality	Last 1984	Latest ever	Locality
Little Ringed Plover	15th Apr.	29th Mar. 83	Dewsbury S.F.	9th Sept.	14th Sept. 83	Blackmoorfoot
Common Sandpiper	15th Apr.	7th Mar. 64	Horbury Bridge	4th Oct.	31st Dec. 75	Elland G.P.
Turtle Dove	6th May.	27th Apr. 80	Bretton Park	27th Aug.	12th Oct. 71	Ossett S.F.
Cuckoo	20th Apr.	8th Apr. 76	Denby Dale	17th Aug.	27th Oct. 77	Royd Moor
Swift	30th Apr.	22nd Apr. 62	Thunderbridge	15th Sept.	28th Oct. 61	Brockholes
Sand Martin	3rd Apr.	22nd Mar. 83	Bretton Park	23rd Sept.	23rd Oct. 71	Blackmoorfoot
Swallow	27th Mar.	10th Mar. 59	Elland	14th Oct.	13th Nov. 77	Hall Dike
House Martin	14th Apr.	8th Apr. 82	Kirkburton	1st Oct.	27th Nov. 59	Gawthorpe
Tree Pipit	15th Apr.	8th Apr. 80	Cawthorne	19th Aug.	17th Sept. 78	Blackmoorfoot
Yellow Wagtail	15th Apr.	7th Apr. 80	Bretton Park	16th Sept.	6th Oct. 80	Ossett Spa S.F.
Black Redstart	-	14th Apr. 76	Elland G.P.	-	20th Nov. 78	Ossett
Redstart	12th Apr.	5th Apr. 65	Bretton Park	2nd Sept.	24th Oct. 76	Deer Hill
Whinchat	26th Apr.	15th Apr. 72	Wessenden Head	3rd Oct.	26th Oct 68	Lindley Moor
Wheatear	20th Mar.	11th Mar. 78	Digley	16th Sept.	10th Nov. 79	Royd Moor
Ring Ousei	23rd Mar.	16th Mar. 77+78	Digley	-	15th Nov. 65	Ossett
Grasshopper Warbler	24th Apr.	22nd Apr. 67 22nd Apr. 81	Bretton Park Horbury	17th July.	14th Aug. 70	Gawthorpe

SPECIES	First 1984	Earliest ever	Locality	Last 1984	Latest ever	Locality
Sedge Warbler	4th May.	13th Apr. 81	Healey S.F.	26th Aug.	13th Sept. 72 13th Sept. 83	Lees Mill Elland C.P.
Lesser Whitethroat	22nd Apr.	22nd Apr. 84	Horbury	8th Sept.	27th Sept. 73	Deighton
Whitethroat	27th Apr.	19th Apr. 68	Grimescar Lindley Moor	26th Sept.	26th Sept. 84	Horbury wyke
Garden Warbler	26th Apr.	25th Apr. 68	Magbridge	24th Nov.	24th Nov. 84	Silkstone S.F.
Blackcap	22nd Apr.	16th Mar. 77	Denby Dale	2nd Dec.	31st Dec. 82	Blackmoorfoot
Wood Warbler	3rd May.	22nd Apr. 81	Coxley Wood	-	27th Aug. 65	Fixby
Chiffchaff	26th Mar.	12th Mar. 77	Bretton Park	12th Oct.	31st Dec. 82	Blackmoorfoot
Willow Warbler	12th Apr.	29th Mar. 81	Brockholes	2nd Oct.	13th Oct. 82	Almondbury
Spotted Flycatcher	13th May.	29th Apr. 73	Bretton Park	19th Sept.	1st Oct. 67	Bretton Park
Pied Flycatcher	23rd Apr.	26th Apr. 78	Bretton Park	17th June.	12th Sept. 78	Bretton Park

RINGING REPORT - 1984

The total of 1370 birds ringed, although not as high as in 1983, was still encouraging. The Edgerton "thrush" roost again went unvisited because of the weather conditions during the two winter periods.

The ringing of pulli was very satisfactory with 145 birds being ringed, nevertheless this was a reduction on previous years' totals. This reduction was due to a single factor - the Black-headed Gull colony at Black Moss. The birds suffered a large drop in breeding population coupled with a disastrous production of young and consequently only 7 were ringed. The following pulli were ringed during the year: Kestrel (3 Wessenden), Little Ringed Plover (6 Blackmoorfoot), Lapwing (3 Blackmoorfoot), Common Sandpiper (2 Blackmoorfoot), Black-headed Gull (7 Black Moss), Woodpigeon (4 Blackmoorfoot), Dunnock (16 Blackmoorfoot), Ring Ouzel (4 Wessenden), Blackbird (20 Blackmoorfoot), Song Thrush (9 Blackmoorfoot), Mistle Thrush (17 Blackmoorfoot), Blue Tit (13 Blackmoorfoot and 7 Crostland Moor), Magpie (10 Blackmoorfoot), Chaffinch (16 Blackmoorfoot), Greenfinch (4 Blackmoorfoot), and Bullfinch (4 Blackmoorfoot).

Willow Warbler continued to break all records with 333 being ringed, all at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.

The number of species handled during the year was 36, and for the sixth consecutive year no new ringing species were encountered.

RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used.

- Age:
1. Pullus (nestling or chick).
 2. Full-grown, year of hatching quite unknown.
 3. Hatched during calendar year of ringing.
 - 3J. As 3, but still in juvenile plumage.
 4. Hatched before calendar year of ringing, exact year unknown.
 5. Hatched during previous calendar year.
 6. Hatched before previous calendar year, exact year unknown.
 7. Definitely hatched two years before year of ringing.
 8. Hatched three or more calendar years before year of ringing.
 10. Hatched more than 4 calendar years before year of ringing.

Sex: M Male
F Female

Manner of recovery:

- V Caught or trapped and released with ring.
- VV Ring number read in field or sight record of identifiable colour marks.
- X Found dead or dying.
- + Shot or killed by man.

Date of recovery:

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

All recoveries of five kilometres or more are published. The recoveries of Black-headed Gull (ST077646) and Redwing (RX45082) were received too late for inclusion in earlier reports.

RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDS

BLACK-HEADED GULL

- EH10491 1 03.07.76 BLACK MOSS, Nr. MARSDEN 53°34'N 1°56'W
X 26.07.84 BLACKMOORFOOT, Nr. HUDDERSFIELD 53°37'N
1°52'W 7 Kms. NE
- EH 41009 1 13.06.78 BLACK MOSS
X 12.06.84 TARLETON, LANCASHIRE 53°41'N 2°50'W
61 Kms. WNW

SWIFT

- SA11507 4 02.07.72 DEER HILL, Nr. HUDDERSFIELD 53°36'N
1°54'W
V 20.05.84 INGBIRCHWORTH, Nr. PENISTONE 53°32'N 1°40'W
17 Kms. ESE

Note the age of the above bird. The oldest known British ringed Swift had attained an age of 15 yrs. 9 mths. when it was last handled.

WILLOW WARBLER

- 2H3369 3 25.08.83 BLACKMOORFOOT
V 26.08.84 NASEBY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 52°24'N 1°1'W
147 Kms. SSE
- 1K2001 3 08.07.84 BLACKMOORFOOT
V 30.07.84 WINTERSETT, Nr WAKEFIELD 53°38'N 1°26'W
29 Kms. E
- IK2145 3 30.07.84 BLACKMOORFOOT
V 18.08.84 HALL WOOD, FAIRSEAT, KENT 51°20'N 0°20'E
294 Kms. SSE

GREENFINCH

- NE89973 2M 04.10.81 BLACKMOORFOOT
V 06.11.81 BLACKMOORFOOT
V 07.11.81 BLACKMOORFOOT
V 13.02.82 MEADOWFIELD, SHEFFIELD 53°21'N 1°30'W
38 Kms. SE
V 13.02.84 ABBEY PARK, LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE 52°39'N
1°8'W 118 Kms. SSE
- NJ 40906 5M 13.02.83 BLACKMOORFOOT
V 24.12.84 HANDFORTH, WILMSLOW, CHESHIRE 53°21'N 2°13'W
33 Kms. SW
- NJ 40948 5F 27.02.83 BLACKMOORFOOT
X 06.09.84 RIPPONDEN, HALIFAX 53°41'N 1°57'N 9 Kms. NW

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD

BLACK-HEADED GULL

STAVANGER 691710	1	07.07.83	LAGMANNSKJAER, SKEIN, TELEMARK NORWAY 59°7'n 9°35'E
	X	16.02.84	DEWSBURY S.F. 53°10'N 1°38'W 916 Kms. SW
BRUXELLES 2T70773	5	30.04.77	KALMTHOUT, ANTWERPEN, BELGIUM,
	X	09.01.84	ELLAND 53°23'N 4°28'E
BRUXELLES	5	30.04.77	KALMTHOUT, ANTWERPEN, BELGIUM, 51°23'N 4°28'E 483 Kms NW
<u>HELSINKI</u>			
ST077646	1	08.07.83	LIEKSA, KUOPIO, FINLAND 63°9'N 29°52'E
	X	18.12.83	BLACKMOORFOOT 2119 Kms. WSW

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

COLOUR RINGS	8	03.10.79	BISHOPBRIGGS, GLASGOW, STRATHCLYDE, SCOTLAND 55°54'N 4°14'W
	vv	06.07.84	BLACKMOORFOOT 309 Kms. SSE
COLOUR RINGS	8	11.06.80	HELENSBURGH, Nr. GLASGOW, STATHCLYDE, SCOTLAND 56°1'N 4°44'W
	VV	14.07.84	BLACKMOORFOOT 332 Kms. SSE
GG20018	10F	10.06.84	PLANK LANE TIP, LEIGH, GT. MANCHESTER 53°30'N 2°34'W
	VV	25.06.84	BLACKMOORFOOT 48 Kms. ENE
GG30001	10M	24.06.84	PLANK LANE TIP, LEIGH
	VV	12.08.84	BLACKMOORFOOT. 48 Kms. ENE

REDWING

RX45082	5	19.02.83	THORPE ARCH S.F. Nr WETHERBY 53°54'N 1°19'W
	X	21.11.83	SHELLEY, HUDDERSFIELD 53°36'N 1°41'W 41 Kms. SSW

PIED FLYCATCHER

B613736	1	13.06.83	GUILSFIELD, WELSHPOOL, POWYS, WALES 53°42'N 3°9'W
	X	26.04.84	ELLAND 140 Kms. NE

GREENFINCH

NA42942	3M	18.12.83	SPROTBOROUGH FLASH, DONCASTER 53°30'N 1°11'W
	V	14.02.84	BLACKMOORFOOT 47 Kms. WNW
NN60343	4M	22.09.84	BARROW HILL, DERBYSHIRE 53°17'N 1°22'W
	V	25.11.84	BLACKMOORFOOT 50 Kms. NW

M. L. Denton.

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

In Huddersfield, the majority of birds are ringed in places that are accessible to the public, so it is not surprising that a number of "local" birds are found: eg. dead on road, killed by cat etc.

Large numbers of retraps are also handled, some, many years after ringing; these are tabulated below. The top line shows the approximate period between ringing and retrap (Table 1). The figures show the number of individuals retrapped near their place of ringing.

Table 1 - Retraps

	1 YR	2 YRS	3 YRS	4 YRS	TOTAL
DUNNOCK	2				2
ROBIN	1			1	3
WILLOW WARBLER	4				4
BLUE TIT	4	6	1		11
GREENFINCH	2				2
				-----	22

Recoveries

Four species provided local recoveries. These were five Blackbirds (one at two years after ringing, two at four years after ringing, one at six years and one at eight years), a Greenfinch two years after ringing, a Starling nine years after ringing and a House Sparrow ten years after ringing.

Although the recoveries of the Starling (nine years) and House Sparrow (ten years) show interesting longevity it must be borne in mind that they had both been dead for an unknown period when found (probably years). Interestingly the birds were found together at the bottom of a domestic chimney. What have you got lurking at the back of your gas fire?

M.L. Denton.

BIRDS RINGED IN HUDDERSFIELD 1986

Kestrel	3	Sedge Warbler	2
Little Ringed Plover	6	Lesser Whitethroat	2
Lapwing	3	Whitethroat	1
Common Sandpiper	2	Garden Warbler	4
Black-headed Gull	7	Blackcap	3
Woodpigeon	4	Willow Warbler	333
Swallow	34	Goldcrest	2
House Martin	1	Spotted Flycatcher	3
Meadow Pipit	13	Blue Tit	206
Pied Wagtail	7	Great Tit	40
Wren	16	Magpie	16
Duncock	43	Tree Sparrow	119
Robin	86	Chaffinch	37
Redstart	1	Brambling	13
Ring Ouzel	4	Greenfinch	270
Blackbird	29	Linnet	12
Song Thrush	13	Bullfinch	15
Mistle Thrush	19	Reed Bunting	1
		TOTAL	<u>1370</u>

M.L. Denton.

British Birds

"BRITISH BIRDS" is a readable, informative monthly magazine catering for serious ornithologists in the British Isles and abroad. It covers every aspect of ornithology, particularly behaviour and breeding biology, identification and conservation problems. Letters, book reviews, mystery photographs, reports of recent movements and arrivals are regular features. Subscribers also have the opportunity to purchase newly published bird books at much reduced prices through the British Birdshop. The journal is extremely well illustrated by photographs and drawings and has a most experienced editorial board.

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Brian Armitage.

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