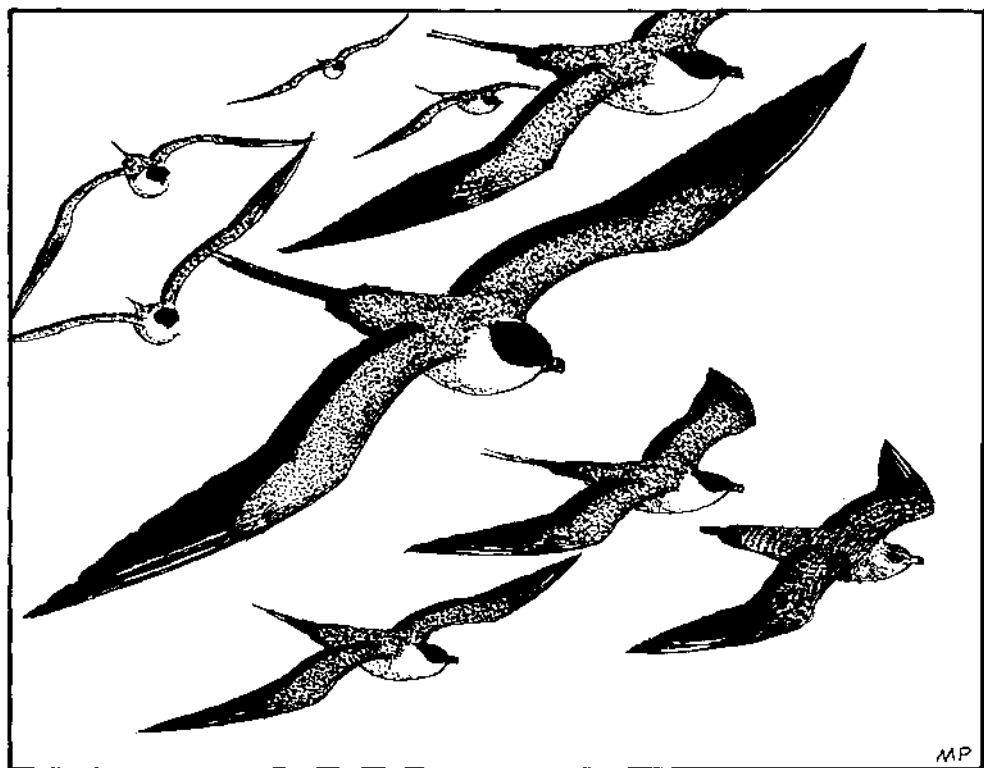


Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

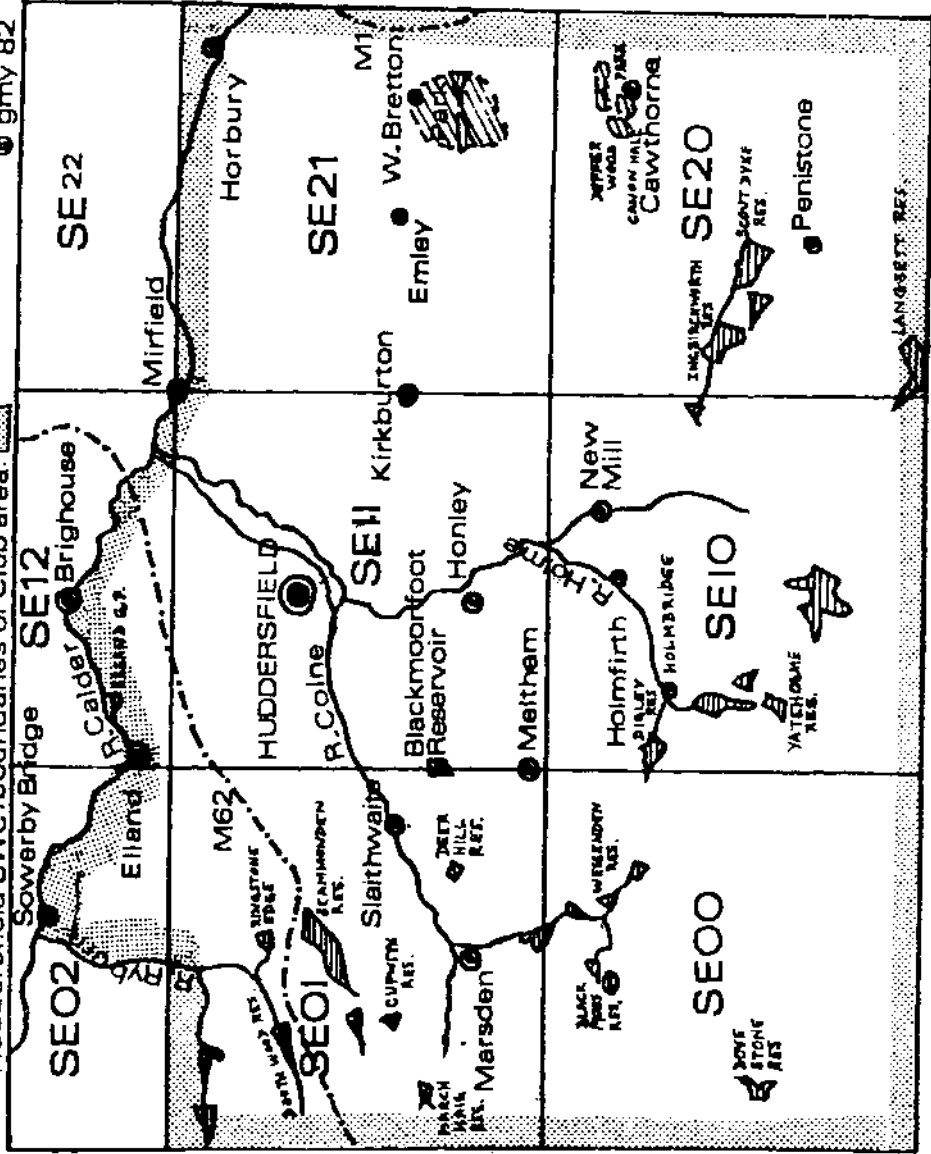
Birds in Huddersfield 1988



ANNUAL REPORT

Huddersfield BWC: boundaries of Club area:

gmy 82



BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1988

Report of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 1988 members of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club were able to enjoy four Club evenings, 12 programmed lectures and nine field meetings. Fuller details of the latter can be found in a separate report by David Butterfield. The first lecture was on 5th January when Michael Dale showed us some 'American Birds'. On 19th January we were entertained, and educated, by Dr. Jonathan Adams' talk on 'Fastfood, Fruitflies and Finches'. On 16th February we gained experience of birds from a different continent when Steven Hey introduced us to 'The Birds of Australia'. March 1st saw us 'Birdwatching in Turkey' with Jon Mycock and on 29th March, Mike Wilkes showed some splendid slides when he talked on 'A Wildlife Photographers Year'. The local R.S.P.B. group had challenged us to a quiz on 12th April and, although the Club won, it was neck and neck until the Club team pulled away during the last few rounds. Dr. John Bower started our autumn session on 27th September with an informative talk on 'Progress, Prospects and Problems of Wetland Conservation'. Roy Rhodes made a welcome return on 11th October when he delighted us with 'A Scottish Tour'. On 25th October, Derrick Watson gave us an insight into the artist's world with a talk entitled 'The Art of Birding'. In 'Wagtail Ecology' on 8th November, Dr. Stephanie Tyler gave a biologist's view of these fascinating birds. On 22nd November, Gordon Langsbury took us on a tour of the 'Bird Islands of Britain' and entertained us with an evocative array of slides. More outstanding slides were to follow on 6th December when Dr. Kevin Carlson presented his talk on the 'Birds of East Anglia'.

It was with deep regret that members heard of the death of Andrew Riley on 17th April. As a founder member, President for the years 1968 and 69 and Vice-President for the following two years he had served the Club exceedingly well. It was Andrew, who, because of his job in the Civil Service, was instrumental in 'smoothing the path' when the Club wished to erect a new hide on the site of the previous one belonging to the Huddersfield Naturalists, Photographic and Antiquarian Society at Blackmoorfoot. That members have benefited enormously from this move is well known. Although Andrew was able to attend very few meetings over the last years his happy smiling face and genial manner will be missed, not only by members who knew him as a friend, but also by those who had simply made his acquaintance.

We were to lose yet another founder member on 21st August; the death of Alwyn Gunby was another sad blow in the history of the Club. In the early days Alwyn was an active member and regularly sent in his field notes from his sojourns into the area. He was always to be relied upon to provide the Club with a film projector whenever one was required. Although Alwyn always declined any offers of the Presidency, and any other official positions for that matter, he was always forthcoming with his help and advice. His involvement with bird watching was simply for the relaxation he gained from it.

A plea to raise money for the Club funds, and therefore avoid any need to increase subscriptions was met with open arms, and over £50 was raised (although some of this did come out of member's pockets!). The people to be thanked are Lynn Cotton, Denise Sindall and Nigel Wright, the last two mentioned also acquired £25 sponsorship money from ICI. This money is to be an annual grant and will go some way to cover the expense of printing the programme. We thank Denise and Nigel for their efforts and also ICI for the money so kindly donated. Several small donations from private individuals were received during the course of the year.

It is always pleasurable although probably invidious, to single out individuals for praise. However, the affairs of our retiring President, John Reynolds, must not go unrecorded. As well as presiding for the obligatory two year period John also continued in office for a further year and did much to help draw up the Club's programme of lecturers. John's work for the Club is not over, for we have the pleasure of his company on the Committee. For all John's efforts in the past we offer our greatest thanks.

For keeping the Club running so smoothly we are indebted to many people, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all. It is you the member, however, who makes the whole venture possible, for without your continued support the Club would cease to exist.

Mike Denton

February 1989

INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST

With 177 species recorded in 1988 the year's total was probably the highest ever, and included two species of skua which were the first ever for the area. A fine party of nine Long-tailed Skuas at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd September, and a Great Skua was found exhausted at Hagg Wood on 2nd October. A Bittern at Blackmoorfoot also on 2nd October was the first since 1922, and a Gannet at Elland Gravel Pit on 5th September was the first since 1956. Other species, none of which have been recorded more than ten times, included two records each of Shag, Red Kite, firecrest and Lapland Bunting; a further record of Bean Geese in addition to the long staying party near Whitley House Farm, and records of Slavonian Grebe, Storm Petrel, Marsh Harrier and Raven.

Increased numbers of Goosander wintered in the area, and Ruddy Duck are recorded more frequently as they continue to increase their breeding range elsewhere in Yorkshire. Grey Heron continue to thrive and increase at Breiton Lakes and may be breeding at another site near Huddersfield. A pair of Peregrines reared four young near Rishworth bringing the total to nine at this site in three years. Increased numbers of pairs of both Kingfisher and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker were located, and Nuthatch and Pied Flycatcher bred in the area again.

During a Waxwing invasion at the year-end these birds delighted many observers at a dozen localities, the first invasion of significant numbers for fourteen years.

I again thank Mike Denton for his assistance in producing a summary of Blackmoorfoot records for use in this report, and thank all the many members who submitted their own records, and fellow recorders in neighbouring societies who supplied much useful information.

John E. Dale

Recorder,

June 1989

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

The area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21 along with those parts of SE 02 and SE 12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder.

As in the last nine annual reports, the status of each species occurring within the area has been indicated by one 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 and 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 1975 Report. A complete list of all species recorded in the area up to the end of 1980, and notes on their status, appeared in the Report for that year.

Many breeding records for 1988 were received by the Atlas Recorders that do not appear in the species summaries. It was considered unreasonable to give them the task of producing separate summaries for each breeding season, and therefore readers may find certain breeding records omitted from this report.

CLASSIFIED LIST

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

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Resident breeder (1), Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

One to two at both Ingbirchworth Reservoir and Bretton Lakes during January and February, and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir up to 15th February. One at Gunthwaite Dam on 1st January, and two at Cannon Hall on 3rd. Two at Scout Dike Reservoir on 21st February and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir in late March.

Numbers increased during March and April, and appeared at a few more waters in the latter month when there were up to six at Ingbirchworth Reservoir. One pair each bred at Boshaw Whams (one young), Bretton Lakes and Square Wood Reservoir (three young). Two pairs bred at Ingbirchworth Reservoir, one pair rearing three young. Breeding probable at Brookfoot Lake (two pairs) and Scout Dike Reservoir, and attempted by one pair at Scamonden Dam.

Returned to Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 31st July and then numbers recorded on all but eight days to the year-end, including six on 2nd October. Maxima included seven at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 18th, and ten at Scout Dike Reservoir on 11th September, five at Bretton Lakes in October and December, and 11 in the Brookfoot area on 27th November.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1), Uncommon passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Present from 1st February to 27th November, with a spring peak of eight on 21st March. One pair bred commencing in late April, and after failure in two nests reared two young from a third nest. The two young remained at the reservoir and left separately on 22nd and 23rd October. Numbers increased in mid-June peaking at 11 from 27th June to 17th July, later maxima being eight from 16th to 19th August and on 20th September.

Bretton Lakes Four in early January had increased to seven by the month-end, then up to ten by 4th February, 15 on 17th, 16 on 29th, and 27 by 13th March. Of 22 during mid-April seven pairs nested, six of which reared nine young. An autumn maximum of 12 on 16th October, and up to five in November and December.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Present from February to September with a maximum of six during April. Two pairs attempted to breed, and one juvenile was present on 19th June but not seen later.

Single pairs bred successfully at Boshaw Whams (one young) and at Ryburn Reservoir (two young). Occurred at Scout Dike Reservoir from February to October, with three pairs during May and June, but no other information on breeding. Present in the Brookfoot Lake area from March, with two pairs breeding, one of which hatched four young of which three soon perished. Five at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 11th September.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Rare visitor.

One in winter plumage at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 2nd to 17th March (MLO, JMP et al). Ninth record for the area.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare visitor,

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th November from 12.50 hrs to 13.40 hrs at least (KAN, GT).
Five previous records.

GANNET *Sula bassana*

Rare visitor,

A juvenile flying south-west over Elland Gravel Pit on 5th September (DRC).
Only four previous records the last being in 1956.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir one on 27th and two on 28th March (one of which showed characteristics of the Continental race, *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*); three north on 2nd April; during June one on 4th, two on 14th and one on 25th all moved west; one on 5th August, and finally two on 4th September from the north departed to the south.
Singles over Scapegoat Hill on 16th April (to south-east); over Scout Dike on 11th September (to north-east), and on Bretton Lakes on 14th September and 8th December.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Rare visitor.

Single immatures at Brookfoot Lake from 30th March to 18th April (CCT et al), and from 29th September to 15th October (SS).
Fifth and sixth records for the area.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare visitor.

One in the plantation near the hide at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd October (MLD, JMP).
Only two previous records, one in 1891, and the second in 1922 of a bird shot by a gamekeeper at Baitings.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Resident breeder (1).

Seven pairs nested on the islands of Bretton Lakes, and six of these reared 19 young.
Recorded at a further 32 localities, with these records fairly evenly distributed from January to November, usually only one or two birds. Four at Brownhill Reservoir on 18th June. Reported to be in the Storthes Hall and Kirkburton area throughout the year. Three roosting regularly at Hincliffe Mill.
Present at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 60 days in the first six months including five juveniles on 13th June, and on 89 days in the last six months.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Resident breeder (1).

A pair bred at Wildspur Mill, Hepworth but the outcome is not known. Apparently very scarce in the area with none recorded at Bretton Lakes. Singles during January at Kexborough, Ingbirchworth Reservoir and Square Wood Reservoir. Three immatures west over Hartcliffe Mills, Denby Dale on 15th April.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

Rare visitor.

The party of nine that were first located near Whitley House Farm in December 1997 remained in the area until at least 19th February. Another party of nine were near Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 5th January (MH). First and second records for the area.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Uncommon to common passage visitor.

One joined the party of Bean Geese *Anser fabalis* on 8th February and a second appeared on 10th, both birds remaining to 18th. More than usual passed over the area during January, mostly in the second week of the month, with on 9th 140 north-west over Lindley Moor; on 10th 150 over Middlestown, and 190 over Dalton and 300 over Bretton flying north-west; on 14th 120 west over Almondbury, 335 north-west over Ingbirchworth (four skeins) and 200 south-west over Gunthwaite, and on 15th 120 west over Ossett and 150 north-west over Deffer Wood. Seven smaller skeins during January. During February 150 north-west over Bretton on 11th; 200 north over Town Centre on 12th on which date 32 were down in a field at Cannon Hall, and 90 west over Lindley Moor on 22nd, 120 north-west over Bretton on 8th March.

Skins of unidentified 'Grey' geese flying south-east and east over Oxspring on 24th October (200); over Slaithwaite on 28th October (147 and 129), and over Gunthwaite on 15th November (200), also on 31st December 46 east over Drop Clough, and 54 west over Golcar.

Other parties specifically identified were 24 north-west over Lindley Moor on 30th September; 60 east over Winterset Reservoir on 27th November, and 39 west over Slaithwaite on 29th December. Singles at Scamonden in mid-April, and Bretton Lakes during November and December with a flock of Canada Geese *Branta canadensis*.

GREY-LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Uncommon passage visitor.

24 west over Golcar on 26th December.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (2).

Up to 280 on Bretton Lakes during January and February. Several pairs reared a total of 22 young despite population control being carried out in the Bretton Lakes Reserve.

Single pairs bred at Saitings, Wessenden and Upper Windladen Reservoirs each rearing six young, and a pair at Wincar Reservoir reared seven young. Breeding attempts at six other reservoirs included the rearing of four young by two pairs at Black Moss, but the outcome of the other sites is not known. Pairs seen at five other reservoirs during the spring.

Larger parties included 16 at Dove Stone Reservoir on 23rd April; 18 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th March and 23 at Scamonden Dam on 16th December.

The Bretton Lakes flock peaked at a record number of 400 on 1st November. Thirty east over Danby Dale on 4th November.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor.

At Bretton Lakes one to five during the early months, from which a pair bred and reared two young, and up to seven were present during November.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare visitor.

A female flew into the lower lake at Bretton from the east at 14.20 hours on 16th April (MF et al). Third record in the area.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, one on 7th and five on 30th January; two on 16th and 18th February; three on 8th, two on 15th and 16th, four on 29th, and one on 31st March; nine on 3rd and five on 27th October, and one on 5th November.

Elsewhere eight at Digley Reservoir and two at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 31st January, and also two at the latter site on 27th March. Singles at Booth Dam on 18th, and over Elland Gravel Pit on 22nd April.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

Sightings of a single male at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th, at Bilberry Reservoir on 7th, and Royd Edge Clough on 6th and 11th May and 1st June, may all have been the same individual. Published with the escape proviso.

MANDARIN *Aix galericulata*

Two at Digley Reservoir on 17th September. Published with the escape proviso.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir - One to two on four dates in January and February. Present on seven September dates with 11 on 7th and seven on 26th; on 11 October dates with nine on 4th and 22 on 17th, then 11 on 21st November, and one to five on three dates from 21st December.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir - Forty-seven came in at 19.30 hours on 7th September. Nine on 22nd and eight on 25th October, and three on 5th November.

Royd Moor Reservoir - Three on 17th August and 11th September. Nine on 18th September, and singles on 2nd October and 13th November.

Four on Bretton Lakes on 20th February and one on 2nd October. Ten at Digley Reservoir on 2nd October and three there on 5th and 6th November. Singles at Boshaw Whams on 9th, and at Meltham Mills on 22nd October, and at Scanmonden Dam on 7th December.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th March and at Royd Moor Reservoir on 16th September. At Ingbirchworth Reservoir four on 17th August, one on 2nd October and two on 21st.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

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

Low maxima in the early months with double figure peaks at only four localities, with 25-31 on Bretton Lakes in January; 17 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 31st January; 50 at Horbury Wyke on 17th March and 18 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 30th March. Smaller numbers at four other waters.

Bred successfully at Black Moss and Upper Windleden Reservoir with two young reared at each site. Pairs at six other sites in April and May.

Recorded during the autumn at ten waters, with maxima of 20 on 7th September and 38 on 3rd October at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir; 23 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir during September; 15 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 2nd October; 27 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 13th November, 18 at Black Brook on 25th, and 25 at Horbury Wyke on 27th, and in December 30 on Bretton Lakes on 11th.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Good numbers on Bretton Lakes during January with 130 on 1st and 210 on 17th then down to 80 in February. Five other waters had peaks of between 20 and 30 during January and February. Breeding proved at 13 sites and probable at six more sites.

Higher peaks during the autumn, with an exceptional build-up at the reservoirs in the Ingbirchworth area which reached 200 by late August, and probably nearer 300 during September when record counts of 237 at Ingbirchworth on 18th, and 265 at Royd Moor on 25th were reported. At Bretton Lakes 117 on 16th October and 126 on 18th December; 132 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 13th November, and 78 at Brookfoot Lake on 29th December. Peaks of 23-40 at three other waters.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

A male at Bretton Park during the first two months was joined by two females on 10th January, then a male again on 20th March and a pair on 3rd April.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had six on 5th September, two on 8th and 12th, and one on nine other dates during September, then eight on 1st October and one west on 12th.

One on 7th and three on 18th September, and one at Royd Moor Reservoir on 2nd October. A pair of pinioned birds at Cannon Hall during December.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Even fewer records than in 1987. Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd and Gunthwaite Dam on 23rd March; at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 31st August, and three on 7th September; further singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd September and 22nd October, and on Bretton Lakes on 16th November.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Present (one to two) on 12 days in January and February. Two south on 25th June. Occurred regularly from 31st July to 29th December, usually single figures, but peaks of 30 on 2nd and 27 on 27th October.

Bretton Lakes Regularly up to mid-March with 15 on 1st January and 12 during February. Regularly in the autumn from mid-September with a maximum of five.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir One to two to mid-March, but 18 on 16th January. Single figures regularly from July with peaks of 23 on 18th September, and up to 18 in December.

Scout Pike Reservoir 15 on 17th January; 18 on 21st February; 10 on 13th March; single figures from 2nd October, but 37 on 27th November and 10 on 18th December.

Royd Moor Reservoir 13 on 11th September; 30 on 2nd and 21 on 16th October.

One to three at Scamonden Dam and Cannon Hall during January, and a pair at Booth Dam on 30th March and 12th May. One to four at five other waters mainly during the autumn.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Recorded regularly throughout the year. Usually less than 10 before late June, but 12 on 15th April. Peaks of 20 in late July; 24 on 11th September and 21 on 27th October.

Crofton Lakes Present regularly with 26 on 10th January and 25 on 1st March. One pair hatched nine young, but only three survived. Autumn maxima of 50 on 16th November and 40 on 18th December.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 16 on 17th January but generally only single figures before the commencement of the build-up of moulting birds in late-June. One or possibly two pairs bred; five ducklings being present in July and two in September. Monthly peaks from June to September of 32, 74, 72 and 95 (on 18th) respectively.

Occurred at 21 waters in the early months, and 12 in the late months including those detailed above.

Pairs in the breeding season at ten other waters including Scout Dike Reservoir (two pairs, 13 young), Bilberry Reservoir (two pairs, 12 young), and Dove Stones Reservoir (one pair, six young). Fifteen at Scout Dike Reservoir on 21st February, and twelve there during September, and an isolated peak of 66 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 11th September, there being usually no more than six here.

An *Aythya* hybrid at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 31st October and 1st November had a superficial resemblance to a small female Scaup *Aythya marila*, however the bill was small and the black on its tip was too extensive, and the head was neat and rounded (MLD, JMP).

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Two males at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th July (DP et al), and a large party of 13 there (including five females) on 27th October (MLD, MT). The largest party ever recorded in the area.

Single birds of female type plumage at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 2nd and 31st October; at Boshaw Wharves on 30th October, and from 1st November to 31st December (JMP); at Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th November (NEP), and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd October and 20th and 21st December.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

Rare visitor.

One female at Ingbirchworth Reservoir from 23rd November to 7th December (many observers).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir one on 2nd July, three on 17th, one on 21st and 22nd, and four on 29th July, and three on 19th November. One on Brookfoot Lake from 2nd to at least 20th November.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Regular but uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir One to three on 55 dates up to 11th April and five on 4th and 5th March. Three on 28th and four on 29th April, one from 5th to 10th May and two from 15th to 17th May.

First two returned on 25th October, and then one to three recorded on 38 dates to 31st December plus 15 on 30th October and five on 9th November.

One to two at Bilberry and Digley Reservoirs on 10 dates from mid-January to 27th March, and a pair at Cupwith Reservoir regularly up to 13th March. One to two at four other waters in the early months, and four at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 25th January.

One to four at nine waters including Boshaw Whams, Langsett Reservoir, Redbrook Reservoir, Ingbirchworth Reservoir and Brookfoot Lake, and six at Scout Dike Reservoir on 27th November.

SNEJ *Mergus albellus*
Rare visitor.

A redhead on Bretton Lakes on 24th November (JBB, LG).

RED-BREASTED Merganser *Mergus serrator*
Rare visitor.

All the records were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during October, with one on 2nd, two on 3rd and one on 26th (MLD, DM0).

GOOSANGER *Mergus merganser*
Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A distinct increase in the number of birds wintering in the area particularly at Bretton Lakes. Bretton Lakes Numbers fluctuated considerably with birds presumably commuting to other sites regularly. One to eight on 22 dates in January with six on 1st and 26th and eight on 28th; one to ten (14th) on nine dates in February, and one to nine (21st) on eight dates in March. Two to nine from 18th to 27th November, with nine on 23rd, and one on 18th and 23rd December.

Singles at Winscar Reservoir on 22nd February and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th February and 17th March, and two at Digley Reservoir on 15th January.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 26th September, 12th, 25th and 26th October and 11th and 13th December, and three there on 9th October. At Brookfoot Lake one on 20th and eight on 27th November, one on 25th December, and five west on 29th. One at Digley Reservoir on 27th November, and one at Scamondan Dam on 7th December, and three there on 16th.

RUGGY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*
Scarce visitor.

One to two probable females at Scout Dike Reservoir from 26th August on several dates to 25th September (many observers). One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 13th October (ROH), and a male on Bretton Lakes on 13th November (BP).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*
Rare visitor.

On 3rd April one flew over Scout Dike and Ingbirchworth (BP), and on 8th June one was observed floating south-east over Leeds Road (GK, MS).
Fourth and fifth records for the area.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*
Rare visitor.

A crearcrown in Deanhead Clough on 18th June eventually flew northwards having been observed from 08.40 hours to 09.17 hours (MLD).
Third record for the area.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Scarce visitor,

Two near Langsett on 5th March, and a ring-tail in the same area on 25th November.

GOSSAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder and scarce visitor.

An adult male flew south-west over Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 27th January, and a male flew north over Whitley Common on 15th February (JED). Other sightings at Langsett and in the Hoima Valley at various times throughout the year.

An immature in a garden at Dalton on 2nd September for 15 minutes in wet misty conditions (DS).

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2).

Reported from about 55 localities with breeding evidence from 13 of these.

Hunting in gardens in built up areas at Lindley Moor, Oakes, Maltham, Crosland Moor, Lockwood, Almondsbury, Hinchliffe Mill, Cowcliffe, Edgerton and Lepton.

Recorded at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 58 dates.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Rare visitor.

One flew south-west over Denby Dale on a date in mid-May not actually recorded (DB).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor.

One flew through Bretton Park on 28th August (JDB).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2).

Reported from over 80 localities throughout the year, but somewhat scarcer in January and December.

Young reared at Black Brook, Lockwood, Royd Edge Clough, Hey Clough, Oakes and Bretton Park, and other breeding evidence from Longwood, Slaithwaite, Bradley Park, Ainley Top, Scammonden, Rishworth Moor, Lepton Edge, Hinchliffe Mill, Yateholme, Ingbirchworth and Sheephouse Plantation.

Recorded at Blackmoorfoot on 144 dates.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Former breeder, Scarce visitor.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot on 15th; at Penistone on 29th January and near Langsett also during January. One at Digley on 24th March. One near Skelmanthorpe on 24th April.

Singles near two former breeding sites on a total of five dates between 17th April and 9th June.

One over gardens at Lindley Moor on 29th June, and another sighting in the same area on 30th July.

One between Ingbirchworth and Gunthwaite on 16th October, and another at New Park, Denby Dale on 23rd November and 12th December.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Rare visitor.

One flew over Huggett Wood towards Silkstone on 20th July (DJS). An adult in the Little Don Valley on 30th August (JH).

Addition to the 1986 Report: A sub-adult at Yateholme on 19th June (WU et al).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Resident breeder (1).

For the third successive year a pair bred at Booth Dam Quarry rearing four young this year. The R.S.P.B. again carried out round the clock surveillance, and the site was opened to the public after the young hatched in late-May until its closure in early-July. A pair at another site had three young taken during June. A juvenile moving north-west over Grange Moor on 29th July.

Addition to the 1985 Report: One west over Booth Wood Reservoir on 6th May.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3).

Breeding in varying numbers on the Pennine moorlands within the area. Most records submitted were of small numbers which might suggest that the species is relatively scarce, but according to the gamekeeper on the moorlands west of Dunford Bridge a bag of 180 brace was obtained on 12th August being the highest first day of season for 50 years (per BA).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1).

A marked increase in the number of records. Six at Park Mill, Clayton West on 30th January. Singles at Bilberry on 8th and Digley on 27th March. Two at Chew Brook on 23rd April, and one at Tunstead on 3rd May, and present at Upperwood House in the breeding season. Two at Gunthwaite on 25th April, and during May one flew over Thornton Lodge on 4th; two were at Royd Edge Clough on 11th; one just to the south of Gregory Spring Wood on 16th, and one at Hartcliffe Hill on 30th.

Two at Booth Dam Quarry on 13th July and one at Springwood, Bretton on 16th September. Two at Hoyland Swaine on 17th November, and in December two at Digley on 3rd and three at Barnside in the Holme Valley on 20th.

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*, crossed with Red-legged Partridge produces a hybrid which although having the necklace typical of this genus lacks the wide spotted neck bib of Red-legged Partridge. Observers should be aware of the possibility of finding such hybrids in the area as many have been bred and released locally quite recently.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Pardix perdix*

Resident breeder (2).

Reports from four localities in the first three months, and three during the last three months including six at Bretton Park on 25th February and 2nd October, and 14 at West Bretton on 23rd December.

Bred at Gadding Moor, Hoyland Swaine, at Elland Gravel Pit and probably at Castle Hill, and pairs present in the breeding season at Booth Dean, Lindley Moor, Royd Edge Clough, Thurstonland, Deffer Wood, Silkstone and Calder Grove and one at Townhead on 22nd May.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*
Resident Breeder (2-3).

Bred at Bradshaw and Merrydale Cloughs, Deffer Wood and Bretton Park all in areas where the population is supported by introductions. Recorded in seven other areas.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*
Scarce winter visitor.

One west of the lakes in Bretton Park (DB, SG) on 10th January, and one by the canal at Linthwaite on 31st (JP). Singles at Gunthwaite Dam on 7th and 20th February; 9th March; 2nd, 15th and 19th November (CB), and 6th November (DP, SP). One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th September (MLD) was the first record for that site.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*
Resident breeder (2-3).

Forty-seven at Horbury Wyke on 21st February. Bred successfully at Meltham Mills, Hagg Wood Pond, on a garden pond at Lumb Lane, Almondbury, at Bretton Lakes, Cannon Hall, Gunthwaite Dam and near Dove Stone Reservoir. Some breeding evidence from eight more localities.

One at Booth Dam taken by a Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* on 16th May. Eleven at Cannon Hall Lakes on 11th December.

COOT *Fulica atra*
Resident breeder (2).

Fourteen at Brookfoot Lake on 3rd January; a peak of 19 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir during February, and 22 at Scout Dike Reservoir and 28 at Bretton lakes on 21st February, and 39 at Scout Dike on 13th March.

Two pairs bred at Ingbirchworth Reservoir and four pairs on Bretton Lakes (17 young), and one pair each at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Ryburn Reservoir, Longwood Valley and Cannon Hall each of which reared three young, and additional pairs were at the last two sites. Also bred at Bushaw Whams and Meltham Mills and probably at other sites near Ingbirchworth.

Twenty-two on Bretton Lakes on 16th October; 20-22 on Ingbirchworth Reservoir during the last three months, and 29 at Cannon Hall on 11th December.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*
Uncommon passage visitor.

One west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th January and one there on 10th March. Singles over Marsden on 6th and Bretton Park on 19th April. A series of singles moving west over Booth Dam Quarry on 25th April; 7th, 9th, 16th and 28th May, and 30th June. One west over Slaithwaite Road north of Meltham on 21st May.

During July singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 20th and 31st, and two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 30th. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir two on 4th, nine on 5th and one on 9th August, the last also being seen at Deer Hill Reservoir, and one at Elland Gravel Pit on 7th August. One west over Meltham on 6th September and singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 29th October and 16th November.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*
Occasional breeder and scarce summer visitor,

Even fewer records than in 1987, Singles at Elland Gravel pit on 22nd May (KF), Deer Hill Reservoir on 23rd June (DP, SP) and Booth Dam on 7th and 8th July.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Six on the road at Whitley Common on 30th April (CB). Singles west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th July and 19th August.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*
Migrant breeder (2), Common passage and winter visitor.

As in 1987 pre-breeding season flocks were comparatively small and the only significant peaks were in February, with 300 at Broadstones on 25th, 70 at Blackmoorfoot on 26th and 90 at Whitley Common on 28th. Ninety-eight of the northern phase were at Ringstone Edge on 14th April.

Bred throughout the Pennine moorlands in the west of the area. One observer commented on the reduction in the number of pairs attempting to nest in fields 'improved' for farming at Digley and Hazlehead areas.

Autumn and winter numbers were very low and there were few double figure counts, peaks of 43 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st August; 29 at Broadstones on 29th October and 5th November and 30 east over Skelnanthorpe after first local frost on 1st November.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*
Rare passage visitor.

One south over Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 2nd October (BSSG) and two north-east over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th (MLD, SMP).

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*
Resident breeder (3-4). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Present regularly in the early months at Ringstone Edge and Blackmoorfoot, with peaks in January of 210 on 6th and 240 on 4th respectively, and 220 at the latter site on 27th February. Flocks of 100 near Cawthorne in January, and Ingbirchworth in February and March.

Widespread breeding records were received through atlas survey work which were mainly in upland areas.

Post breeding season flocks were largest in the Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth areas, with at the former 215 on 23rd June; 370 on 18th and 560 on 21st July; 560 on 7th August then fewer and at the latter - mainly at Broadstones - 400 on 21st July; 150 on 1st August, and 220 on 25th September. Wintering birds regularly in the above two areas, with 112 to 180 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir peaking on 26th November, and 200 at Crosland Hill on 18th. At Broadstones Reservoir 390 on 29th October at Annat Royd Lane, 375 on 5th November; at Broadstones 214 on 19th November, 300 on 10th and 496 on 17th December.

Other flocks included 400 at Oxspring on 19th November; 80 at Ringstone Edge on 27th November; 150 at Scanmonden and 200 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 28th December, 200 moved south-west over Esley on 10th November.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Scarce passage visitor.

Two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 30th April (HEP).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1-2), Uncommon passage visitor.

None in the early months. The first arrivals came in April, with two at Broadstones Reservoir on 16th, one at Black Moss on 20th, and two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 22nd.

Information on breeding received from two areas.

Recorded on 11 dates at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir between 31st July (one) and 1th December (four west) including westerly movements of five on 15th August, eight on 2nd, and four on 27th October,

RVFF *Phileonachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Deer Hill Reservoir on 9th August (CCT).

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Only three singles located, all during November, with one at Scamonden on 13th (JEO), one at Elland Gravel Pit on 20th (XF) and one at Deer Hill on 21st (TD).

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

Resident breeder (1-2), Common passage and winter visitor.

The only records in the first two months were of eight at Cupwith Reservoir on 16th January, and up to five regularly at Ingbirchworth Reservoir. One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 6th March.

Returns to breeding localities and displaying commence in late-March, but were mainly noted in April, with one to three birds drumming at 14 localities. Six at Ringstone Edge on 13th April. Displaying birds were at five further localities in May, and young were seen later at Deer Hill and Keltham Cop.

Autumn and winter numbers were again very low compared with a few years ago partly due to lack of exposed shorelines at the full reservoirs. The only double figure counts were during December with 25 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 17th; 12 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 27th, and at Brookfoot Lake 31 on 5th; 52 on 18th; 55 on 24th and 10 on 28th. An interesting record of several moving west near Crossley's Plantation including a group of 20 on 2nd October (HQ).

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2), Uncommon winter visitor.

One near Bigley Reservoir on 13th March and one at Gunthwaite on 22nd.

Roding birds at Yateholme, West Bretton, Midgley and Farnley Tyas on dates between 4th April and 22nd June.

Newly hatched young seen in Holme Woods, and in November up to eight put up during a drive at Yateholme (gamekeeper verbally to SA).

One west over Cowcliffe on 3rd November.

BAR-TAILED GOOWIT *Limosa japonica*

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th March and four west there on 8th October (MLO, JMP).

WHIMBREL *Himantopus phaeopus*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Singles west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 13th July and 23rd August.

CURLEW *Himantopus arquata*

Migrant breeder (2), Common passage visitor.

First two were singles west at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd and 28th February, then a total of 27 bird days there in March with birds mainly moving west as did nine on 2nd April. Eleven at Whitley Common on 19th March after which two to six at five sites before the month-end plus 15 over Mont Sarah's on 27th March.

Breeding proof established at 25 localities mainly in moorland and damp upland meadows. Displaying birds near Bretton Park; at two different areas near Lepton, and also one in flight near Bristfield (all in May) could have been breeding birds. In general appeared to be a successful breeding season. Nine on Cophurst Moor included three juveniles on 21st May, nine at Broadstones on 25th June, and eight at Copwith Reservoir on 18th June.

Eight west at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th August and late singles there on 1st October and 26th November. Fourteen south at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 5th September, three there on 7th, and one at Broadstones on 2nd October.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Migrant breeder (1), Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

The first one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th March then one and two west there on 19th and 20th respectively. Four each at Broadstones Reservoir on 5th April, Black Moss on 20th and Dove Stone Reservoir on 23rd.

Bred in three localities in the high moorlands in the south-west; at Black Moss (two pairs with young); and pairs were in probable breeding localities during May at March Haigh and Wessenden Head, and in June near Winscar Reservoir.

Singles at Booth Daw on four dates from 14th April to 11th July; at Rishworth Moor and Langsett on 15th May and Pikeraze Moor on 29th.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on four dates from 13th July to 16th August, and also on 5th November.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage visitor.

During July one west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th, three on 20th, and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 20th. In August singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and Elland Gravel Pit on 2nd, at Scout Dike Reservoir on 14th and Boshaw Whans on 16th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*
Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 7th August.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*
Migrant breeder (2).

The first at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th April and recorded on six further dates there in April; singles at seven other waters from 17th April, and also four at Broadstones Reservoir, and three each at Scout Dike and Ingbirchworth Reservoirs on 16th, and at least eight at Booth Dam on 24th, and ten there on 5th May.

Apparently had a good breeding season, with about 18 pairs located at 12 sites, mainly reservoirs, but a few on upland streams. Birds present at eight more sites some of which may have been breeding.

Four at Elland Gravel Pit in August; two at Scout Dike on 14th August, and one to three regularly at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 10th July to 12th September.
Late singles at Scout Dike Reservoir on 25th September and Brookfoot Lake on 8th October.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*
Scarce passage visitor.

One at Winscar Reservoir on 1st May (BBSG).

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*
Rare visitor.

Two dark phase birds over Skelmanthorpe at 07.40 hours on 15th September (DB).

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*
Rare visitor.

At 18.50 hours on 23rd September eight adults and one immature arrived at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and after settling for 15 minutes departed to the south-west (MLD, JMP).
An incredible record for an inland site and certainly the highest number for one in Yorkshire. This record coincided with movement of exceptional numbers along the East Coast particularly for Yorkshire where several watch-points had numbers far in excess of previous records.
First record for the area.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*
Rare visitor.

One was found exhausted near Hagg Wood on 2nd October and was taken into care but died overnight (E.W. Aubrook per BA).
First record for the area.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*
Rare visitor.

An adult was feeding on old filter beds at Dalton Bank near the River Colne on 31st January (JER).
All the other records were from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with different adults on 4th and 5th January (JMP, DNO), and then first winter birds on 22nd January, 5th February, 23rd October (MLD, JMP), and 14th November (JMP).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor.

An adult at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 1st May (BBSG).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Resident breeder (1), Numerous passage and winter visitor.

No separate counts of this species were made at the Blackmoorfoot Reservoir roost in the early months, but on 24th February the combined total with Common Gull *Larus canus* was 5,350, and a similarly combined total on 3rd November was 5,550.

Numbers began to build up in July, with 155 on 14th up to 610 by 21st; in August 1,550 on 7th, down to 210 by 17th; but in September, 1,637 on 4th and 3,100 on 19th, and 4,050 on 1st October. At least 2,500 on 25th December otherwise no counts at the year end.

Numbers at other reservoirs were much lower. The highest count at Ingbirchworth was 400 in January of birds present not necessarily roosting, and at Ringstone Edge Reservoir at least 900 on 18th September. In the Elland Gravel Pits area 500 on 3rd January, and 900 on 8th August. Five hundred were at Winscar Reservoir on 15th February.

The Black Moss colony was again virtually deserted. On 20th April 38 adults were present but no nests built. On 18th May five adults and two nests, and on 15th June 12 adults and two nests with addled eggs (MLD).

A leucistic first-winter at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd and 23rd October (MLD, JMP).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Numerous winter and passage visitor.

Two first-winter leucistic birds at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, one on 27th February, and another on 17th October which showed white flashes at the base of the primaries on upper and lower wing surfaces (MLD, JMP). No counts done in the winter periods, but 27 on 15th September. Twenty-two at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 31st January. Small numbers move west over our area during the late spring, and were noted at Booth Dam and Harrop Dale.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Monthly maxima at the Blackmoorfoot Reservoir roost as follows: January 13 (31st); February 19 (15th, 26th); March 52 (19th); April 26 (23rd); May singles only; June 13 (25th); July 7 (19th); August 56 (8th); September 109 (30th); October 371 (15th); November 134 (11th); December 9 (9th). The autumn peak was the highest here since 1977.

Other sites had much lower numbers the highest count being 44 at Broadstones Reservoir on 1st October. Some birds move west over our area during the spring usually quite regularly and in larger numbers than the previous species, but were noted over Booth Dam moving mainly east in May and west in June and July.

Single birds showing characteristics of the race *Larus fuscus intermedius* at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th March, 8th August and 1st October.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

The Blackmoorfoot Reservoir roost had monthly peaks of 244 on 5th January; 276 on 12th February and 158 on 2nd March then less than 10 from 20th March to 12th October, with none at all from May to August, but up to 16 in October then 188 on 25th November, and 132 on 10th December. Birds showing characteristics of the race *Larus argentatus nichahellis* during October at the roost were two on 21st and one on 22nd and 23rd. An adult on 18th November with yellow legs and a darker mantle than

Common Gull *Larus canus*, white tips to primaries and dark marks around eyes, forehead crown and nape could not be ascribed to a particular sub-species (MLD). One hundred and twenty on Broadstones Reservoir on 17th December. Thirteen moved west over Booth Dam between 10th April and 30th June.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*
Scarce winter visitor.

A first-winter bird at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th January (MLD, MH, PLM, JMP).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*
Scarce winter visitor.

An adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th January (MLD, GM, JMP), and a first winter there on 5th March (JMP, MT).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*
Common winter visitor.

Monthly maxima at the Blackmoorfoot Reservoir roost of 137 on 7th January; 77 on 12th February; 67 on 2nd March then none from 18th March to 12th September, with two on 15th; nine on 31st October; 52 on 14th November and 111 on 31st December.

Few counts made elsewhere, but 65 at Broadstones Reservoir on 17th December. Gulls of various species particularly the larger ones often gather in the Broadstones area on winter afternoons and then move off to the west before dusk.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*
Scarce passage visitor.

Quite significant numbers through the area particularly during March, and all were adults apart from two immatures out of a total of 21 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, one on 27th February, five on 28th and one on 29th; one on 4th and one on 10th March, four on 11th and 21 on 12th, one over calling on 13th, and four on 16th (MLD, JMP).

At Brookfoot Lake seven adults present from 16.37 to 17.07 hours on 12th March, one west over Bretton Lakes (DP); two at Digley Reservoir, and eight at Broadstones Reservoir (JMP), and possibly six more in a separate party (DMN, DSI). One west over Booth Dam Quarry on 21st April (JJB).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Fewer records than usual for this and the next species. Singles at Bretton Lakes on 26th and 27th May, and an immature at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th September.

Birds not specifically identified which could have been either this or the next species occurred over Booth Dam on 13th April (one east); 1st June and 29th June (two west and one west) and 10th June (three east), and an immature at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 20th October.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Four at Scout Dike Reservoir on 16th April and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 28th. Two over Bretton Lakes on 13th May departed eastwards and three flew north over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage visitor.

Three at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 8th May and one on 14th, One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 13th May, and seven on 8th September.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Resident breeder.

Few reported this year but at least one Town Centre flock of 150, and another of over 100, and over 50 at Lepton on 1st May.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (2-3).

Reported from 18 localities generally singles or pairs. At least 12 near Deffer Wood on 11th January and 30 at Broadstones on 17th December. Movements over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir which may have been of a local nature were generally of birds flying west and totalled 14 in July, 10 in August and eight in September, with fewer in January to April, June and October. Bred at Bretton Lakes, and near Bilberry and Ryburn Reservoirs.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor.

For the third successive year no large flocks or movements were noted. Eighty near Ingbirchworth on 27th January; 50 in woodland on southern side of Holme Moss on 1st April; a late spring flock of 200 near Will's o' Nats, and 130 at High Flatts on 25th September. Southerly movements of 66 on 22nd October, and 69 north on 17th December over Blackmoorfoot.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3).

Twenty in a Meltham garden on 28th December was the largest flock reported. Breeding proof received from a small number of localities. The species is now widespread in lowland and built up areas, but is slower in colonising upland habitats. Four singles at Booth Dam Quarry in April and June.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Migrant breeder (1).

At least one present in Margery Wood from May to early July (perMLD). Singing birds at Horbury Bridge on 30th May (DP) and in Deffer Wood on 15th June (CB). Singles in Cawthorne Park and west of there near Daking Brook on 16th July (JED).

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (2).

One noted at Digley on 25th and 29th April, but none elsewhere until the period 2nd to 8th May when birds arrived at Holme, Farnley Tyas, Almondbury, near Dove Stone Reservoir and at Swinden Plantation (three on 8th). Four at Tunnel End, Marsden on 14th May and three at Digley on 15th. Others during May at Royd Edge Clough, Blackmoorfoot, Silkstone and Windy Bank Wood. Singing birds during June at Scamonden, Butterley, Yateholme, Ramsden Clough and Hartcliffe Hill.

At Booth Dam Quarry one was brought in as prey by Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, and an adult flew east on 2nd July. A juvenile at Deer Hill in July.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*
Resident breeder (1).

One by farm buildings near a woodland in the Bradley area from 9th June to 6th July (JER).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*
Resident breeder (2).

Bred successfully at Will's o' Mats, Digley, Dove Stone and Upper Hopton and probably bred at Lindley Moor, Scamondon, near Alwoodbury, Skelmanthorpe and Hinchcliffe Mill.
Located at nine other places in the breeding season and seven more during the winter months.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*
Resident breeder (2).

At least four pairs bred successfully in the Bretton area. At a nest in Scrat Haigh Wood a dead Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*, chick was found, and three healthy Tawny Owl chicks about three days old and an adult. Adults with young in Meath House Wood on 15th August.
Birds present at 13 other sites in the breeding season and at seven in the winter months.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*
Resident breeder (1).

Bred at one locality, and present throughout the year at another probable breeding site.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*
Resident / migrant breeder (1), Scarce winter / passage visitor.

Probably bred at two sites on the south-western moorlands.
Singles at Dunford Bridge on 3rd August; between Mount and Lindley Moor on 24th, and at Blackmoorfoot on 28th and 29th October; and at Flight Hill in late December.

SWIFT *Apus apus*
Migrant breeder (2).

The first over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 29th April, and a number over Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 30th. Appeared at three more places on 2nd May, and a further three on 3rd. Twenty-two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 9th May, up to 51 by 26th, and 162 on 29th, and later peaks of 167 on 11th June, and 310 on 16th July. Twenty at Fifth Street on 12th May and widely distributed after that date.

Breeding noted at Dalton Green Lane, Milnsbridge, Thurgoland, and Crosland Moor (St. Luke's Hospital).
The recorder would welcome any information on breeding. The easiest way to obtain proof is to observe birds entering and leaving nest holes.

Over 50 above Lindley Moor at dusk on 29th June. Few seen after 15th August apart from two records 22nd, then in early September one at Crosland Moor on 1st; three west over Deighton on 2nd and one at Blackmoorfoot on 13th.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*
Resident breeder (1).

More records received than in any previous year.
At least ten pairs bred at eight sites, and pairs at five other localities almost certainly bred. A few other sites also had birds on occasional dates but the breeding situation was not established at these.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*
Resident Breeder (1-2).

Pairs bred at Lower Fell Greave, Windy Bank Wood and Bretton Park, and pairs probably bred at two other woodlands near Bradley, at Deffer Wood and Uigley. Reported from nine other woodland areas during the breeding season.
Records of singles in the winter months at seven more localities.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*
Resident breeder (2).

Feeding at garden bird tables at Edgerton, Lockwood, Almondbury, Meltham, Hinchliffe Mill and in the Black Brook Valley.

Bred in Bradley Wood, Upper and Lower Fell Greave (up to six pairs), Grinescar Wood, Dungeon Wood, Beaumont Park, Windy Bank Wood, Bretton Lakes and Deffer Wood, and probably bred in 14 other woodlands.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*
Resident breeder (1).

Four pairs in woodlands in the north of the area at least two of which were breeding (JER). One to two on 19 dates throughout the year at Bretton Lakes where breeding probable. An adult carrying food at a former breeding site on 19th June. Three in woodland just north of Cawthorne village on 8th March. A female at Waterloo on 4th April and two at Coxley bank on 2nd May. Single males at Berry Brow on 5th and at Banks Hall on 7th August. One in Deffer Wood on 31st December.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*
Resident breeder (3-4).

Only one record during January, but by mid-February had returned to at least six breeding areas at all of which two to four were in song. Twenty-four at Crosland Hill on 5th February. About 80 near Broadstones Reservoir on 25th September.
Atlas survey work has shown the species to be very widely distributed, but also quite difficult to locate once regular song-flights have ceased.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*
Migrant, rare breeder.

Four at Bretton Lakes on 2nd April, and two to four on three other dates in that month. One at Scout Dike Reservoir on 1st April, and six there on 16th, and also in April two over Meltham Moor on 15th and at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 20th, and three at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th. One to two at five localities during May on a total of seven dates.

Before the collapse of the population of this species in the winter of 1983-84 there were four small colonies in the area which held birds in most years. Four nest holes were found at Healey Mills near Horbury and represent the first breeding proof for five years (DP). Twenty-seven east over Booth Dan Quarry on 13th July, and one or more over Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 20th.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4). Numerous passage visitor.

The first one at Bretton Lakes on 2nd April and the next there and at Elland Gravel Pit on 10th, with up to 20 at Bretton on 12th. A few over Honley on 11th April. One at Blackmoorfoot and two at Drop Clough on 13th and then one to eight at 12 sites between 15th and 20th April. Fifty at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 22nd April, and over 120 there on 30th. Numbers at Ingbirchworth remained high during May with over 300 on 11th and 350 on 15th, but such fewer elsewhere the next highest count being 50 over Clayton West sewage beds on 8th May.

A good breeding season reported from many localities and in some areas is probably back to pre 1994 numbers.

Autumn numbers were comparable with recent years, but much lower than ten years ago. During September 50 at Ingbirchworth on 24th and 130 over Bretton Lakes on 25th, and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 85 on 6th and then 55 south there on 25th and 51 south on 1st October. Three at Bretton on 18th October, singles at Marsden on 19th and Cowcliffe on 21st, and six at Honley on 20th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Migrant breeder (3).

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and four at Bretton Lakes on 12th April; six over Hill Top Reservoir on 15th and three at Scout Dike Reservoir on 16th April, and a further eight records at the first two of these sites and four others during April. One hundred over Clayton West sewage beds on 6th May and 27 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th, but remarkably few reported from Ingbirchworth where the species is usually very common.

Breeding fairly widespread but we could do with more information on the species distribution in built up areas.

Autumn numbers lower than in 1987 apart from the Bretton area where 100 moved south on 21st, and 200 south on 29th along the western fringes of the Park, and 130 were over the Lakes on 25th September. Maximum at Blackmoorfoot of 74 on 6th September. Good numbers at Holmbridge on 16th October then three at Bretton Park on 18th, and one at Honley on 20th.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (3).

Two in Daffer Wood on 3rd April was rather unusual in a year when the species was generally late in arriving. One at Clayton West on 11th April, then birds at four sites in the north-west of our area on 18th including four males in Turner Wood. Not well distributed until early May. Breeding evidence received from 26 localities, with a total of at least 55 singing males at these. Twenty-two birds found in Daffer Wood on 15th May during a two hour survey. A pair with young near Bilberry Reservoir and a male at Royd Edge Clough on 3rd July were the last reported.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Resident breeder (4-5). Partial migrant.

Thirty near Grines Lane, Broadstones on 7th January. Birds in song in a few lowland areas by 20th March when there were flocks of 30 at Blackmoorfoot and Digley and considerably more at the latter

area by the month-end, but only 40 on 4th April, and a similar number on the slopes of Rishworth Moor on that date. Over 100 in the Gunthwaite area on 9th April.

Breeding very widespread away from built up areas.

In the Scammonden Dam area 118 scattered about on 18th September. In a nine week period 17th August to 19th October 2,371 west over Drop Clough (DM). Visible migration observed at Pule Hill on 25th September, 1st, 3rd, and 22nd October with 604, 117, 50 and 13 respectively all flying south-west, and also two on 30th October, and three on 13th November (JMP). At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 200 on the south bank on 14th September, and migration counts there gave 41 on 17th September; 57 on 18th; 197 on 25th; 63 on 1st October and 17 on 22nd all flying south, with eight west on 18th and 25th September (MLD), 25 at Scammonden on 30th October, but generally scarce in the area in the last two months.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder (1).

First one at Crosland Hill airfield on 18th April. Two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 21st, and one there on 24th; singles at Booth Dam Quarry on 25th, and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 26th April. Singles at Boshaw Whans and Bretton Lakes on 2nd May, and at Booth Dam Quarry on 4th, 11th, 16th and 21st May and 7th June.

A pair reared at least two young at South Crosland.

In the autumn singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th August and 6th September.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2).

Bred at Longwood Valley, Booth Dean Clough, Lockwood Brewery, Armitage Bridge, Meltham Mills (two pairs), at least one other pair near Meltham, Dove Stone Reservoir, Chew Brook, Silkstone and King's Mill Lane and pairs probably bred at 11 other places.

Reports from six localities in the winter months.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Resident breeder (3).

On 11th February at least 120 gathered at the car park by the ring road prior to roosting on the Civic Centre roof, where over 180 roosted on 10th October.

Pairs bred throughout the area away from the highest moorlands, and details were received from 19 localities. Twenty-three at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th July; 28 (juveniles) at Cannon Hall and 22 at Eiland Gravel Pit on 7th August. A roost formed in the valley west of Booth Dam and held 30 on 1st July.

Visible migration observed at Pule Hill on 25th September, 1st, 3rd and 22nd October and totalled 51 south-west. Similar migration counts at Blackmoorfoot on five dates from 17th September to 22nd October gave totals of 75 south, 2 south-west and 10 west.

WAXWING *Bombus garrulus*

Winter visitor, rare-uncommon.

One at South Lane, Netherpton near Horbury on 15th November after which three at Coversley and one near the Town Centre, and at least nine at Felcote Avenue, Dalton all before the month-end the birds at the last site remaining into December. One at Deighton on 2nd December; about six near Leeds Road Playing Fields on 8th; 14 at Cowcliffe on 9th; two at Mount on 16th; one at Victoria Road, Lockwood on 24th December, then up to five during the next week; at least six at Fartown Bar on 27th and four by the canal at Linthwaite on 29th. Eleven west at Bretton Park on 3rd December.

A good showing for the area and the best since the 1974-75 winter, but a small fraction of a considerable invasion into the British Isles in November and December.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*
Resident breeder (2).

Breeding confirmed at two sites along Black Brook, at Oxygrains Bridge, Hill Top Reservoir, Chew Valley, Marsden, Wessenden, Meltham Mills, Hinchliffe Mill and Hartcliffe Mills (Denby Dale) and probable in eight other localities.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Resident breeder (3).

Continues to do well and is probably increasing during the continued sequence of relatively mild winters. Over 20 in Lower Fell Greave on 3rd April; 27 singing males in Bretton Park on 13th; 16 in the Brookfoot Lake area and a further 10 along the canal there on 24th April, and 17 in Deffer Wood on 15th May.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*
Resident breeder (3).

No indication of any change of status. Wide ranging habitats from Town Centre to high moorland cloughs give a wide distribution, although concentrations are not as high as the previous species.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*
Resident breeder (4-5).

No indication of any change of status. Thirty-one in the Brookfoot Lake and nearby canal area on 24th April, and 21 in Deffer Wood on 15th May.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Rare visitor.

One near Oxygrains Beck on 4th April (BA, SBS). One in song in the Town Centre on 11th May (AF). One at a farm by Deer Hill End Road on 17th and 18th May (TD, MLD, CH), and one in Booth Dam Quarry on 23rd May (JJB).

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Migrant breeder (2).

One near Baitings Reservoir on 18th April, and one each at Beaumont Park and Bretton Lakes on 24th were the only ones before 2nd May when birds appeared near Meltham and Digley, and then at Netheroyd Hill on the following day.
In general a very late arrival.

Pairs bred or probably bred in the following areas: Digley (2), Holabridge, Yatehoime (2), near Brownhill Reservoir, Cobb Dike, Morton Wood, Meltham, Langsett, Swinden Plantation and Boothroyd Wood, and singing males were at Piper Holes on 14th May and Cunning Corner on 17th.

Singles in August at Scout Dike on 1st, Blackmoorfoot on 16th and Hinchliffe Mill on 28th.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Migrant breeder (2).

Rather late in arriving with the first two at Booth Dam Quarry on 24th April, then one at Blackmoorfoot and two near Butterley Reservoir on 29th April, and one at Bilberry on 2nd May. Pairs present in the breeding season at Booth Dean (4), Scammonden (4), March Haigh, Deer Hill and Maltham Moor (6 males), Vessenden Valley (2), Royd Edge Clough (4), Digley, Langsett, Broadstones, Snailsden, Ellentree Brow, Winscar, Beddingedge, Upper Windleden, Bord Hill and Townhead. Three on Long Side, Bretton on 27th, and two in the Country Park on 30th August.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*
Occasional breeder (1). Scarce passage visitor.

One at Winscar on 2nd March and two there on 12th October (BBSG). One at Langsett on 6th November (NEP).

WHEATEAR *enanthe oenanthe*
Migrant breeder (2).

The usual scattering of March records commenced with one at Royd Edge Clough on 23rd then four west of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th; two at Scammonden and one each at Merrydale and Digley on 27th; two at Bilberry and at Ringstone Edge on 29th, and one at Booth Dam on 30th. Parties of six to nine in several places, and at least 12 near Chew Reservoir on 23rd April.

Breeding pairs located at many more sites than usual mainly as a result of atlas survey work with up to 50 pairs at 20 localities. At least 12 pairs in the Booth Dean area and good numbers at Scammonden, Digley and the Dove Stone areas in particular. Two probably of the Greenland race at Whitley Common on 2nd May.

Thirteen at Digley on 13th August, and still quite widespread in that month. One at Kirkheaton and three at Pole Moor on 4th September; one at Blackmoorfoot on 11th, and at least two at Digley on 15th September.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*
Migrant breeder (2).

One each at Royd Edge Clough on 23rd March and Digley on 30th. Quite widespread in the usual breeding areas from 2nd April including eight in the Little Don Valley, and up to six near Digley.

Pairs present at, and breeding at most sites as follows; Chew Valley, Greenfield Reservoir, Upperwood House, Marsden Clough, Hey Clough, Ramsden Clough, Little Don Valley, Vessenden Head, Royd Edge Clough, Piper Holes and Booth Dean. In Booth Dean and Rishworth Moor areas at least seven males were singing and at least four pairs bred.

Singles at Pule Hill on 25th September, Bretton Country Park on 8th and near Digley on 29th October.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*
Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

Apparently no change in status. No high counts reported.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Numbers not high during January, with up to 50 near Holme and 54 at Scamondon regularly, and in the Ingbirchworth area 150 at Whitley Common on 9th, 110 at Royd Moor on 27th and at least 160 at Broadstones on 29th. Rather more during February with 200 at Ealey on 12th; 300 at Broadstones on 25th and over 620 at Ingbirchworth on 28th. One hundred and thirty at Bretton Park on 6th March and less than 100 at six other localities, but on 19th about 1,000 at Ingbirchworth and 400 there on 1st April.

At Gunthwaite 300 on 22nd March, but on 9th April an unprecedented flock of over 4,000 in fields and woodland (JP). Two hundred and fifty at Ingbirchworth on 11th April and over 1,000 at Royd Moor on 16th, when there were 250 at Bretton Park. Fifty to 100 at three other places during April, but very few after 16th, with small parties at four places up to 25th and finally one at Bretton on 7th May.

Recorded at Scout Dike (10 west) and Drop Clough on 30th September, then from 2nd October small numbers, none in excess of 30, at five places, with in addition a maximum of 57 at Blackmoorfoot on 12th and 13th. On 22nd October 881 south and four west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, and 86 south-west and 367 south at Pule Hill, and also a flock of 200 at Ingbirchworth. Westerly movement over Drop Clough totalled 3,472 in two months up to 5th December, with a peak of 688 on 12th November. Two hundred and forty-one south over Pule Hill on 13th November.

Flocks in excess of 100 included 200 near Cooper Bridge on 20th November; 200 at Upper Midhope on 25th, over 150 at Gunthwaite on 13th November, and 100 at Boshaw Whams on 10th December. In the Ingbirchworth area 390 on 12th November; 150 on 10th December and a further 350 at Grimes Lane, and on 17th December 600 in two flocks in the Whitley Common area.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Resident breeder (4).

Atlas survey work is indicating that the species is much less common than Blackbird *Turdus merula*, and may not reach the numbers suggested by the status indicated.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Small numbers at four localities in January; up to 55 near Silkstone on 1st and at Ossett 150 from 11th to 20th and 200 on 28th. Very few during February apart from about 100 near Sharp Lane, Almondbury on 2nd and 60 at Ossett on 27th. Remained scarce during March the largest flocks being 48 in Almondbury on 2nd and 30 near Brackenhall on 3rd. Small numbers in Bretton Park during April and singles at Digley on 25th April and 2nd May.

Singles at Digley and Holmbridge on 2nd October, and the first at Drop Clough on 5th where 2,387 were counted flying west up to 20th November, with a maximum of 482 on 29th October. Twenty at Bretton Park on 10th October, and small numbers at two places on 12th, a night of heavy nocturnal passage. At Blackmoorfoot 117 south-west on 22nd October. Over 100 near the canal at Golcar on 11th November, but otherwise smaller flocks, including birds regularly in Lepton Great Wood (maximum 50), and 60 at Lumb Lane, Almondbury on 20th December.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3).

Apart from 20 at Scapegoat Hill on 4th September autumn gatherings were small, but a flock of 52 in fields south-east of Digley Reservoir was in a favourite locality but on the unusually late date of 18th December.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevis*
Occasional migrant breeder.

One in song near Booth Dam on 13th July (JT, JJB).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Migrant breeder (1).

Four males in the general area of Elland Gravel Pit and Brookfoot Lake on 1st May, and two there on 9th May and 25th July, and finally two birds on 23rd August. Probably bred at this site. Two males near Horbury on 1st May, and five in the Calder Valley in that area on 30th. Other singles at Clayton West on 13th and Blackmoorfoot on 21st May, and a male at Harrop Dale on 13th June had been there three weeks. One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd August and one on 13th September.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Rare passage visitor.

One at Royd Moor Reservoir on 11th September (NEP).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*
Migrant breeder (1).

Two males at Horbury on 1st May and again on 30th. Heard in song at Leeds Road Playing Fields for several weeks from early May. A pair at Hartcliffe Mills, Derby Dale on 4th May and a male singing on 11th. Two at Gunthwaite Dam on 7th and 8th May, and a male in song on 11th and 12th. A pair throughout the breeding season at Clayton West probably bred. Two adults with recently fledged young at Dogley on 19th June. One at Scout Dike Reservoir on 8th August.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*
Migrant breeder (2).

Two singing males at Horbury on 1st May, one near West Bretton at the Park gates on 6th, and two in the Elland Gravel Pit area on 9th May.

Bred at Margery Wood and Toothill Bank, and singing males during May at Silkstone, Daffer Wood (two), Springwood (Bretton), Calder Valley in the Horbury area (15) and Ecklands near Millhouse, and other singles at Kilner Bank and Royd Edge Clough in late May. Singing males at Castle Hill and Covcliffe during June. A male at Blacker Wood, Skeimanthorpe on 25th September.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*
Migrant breeder (2).

A male in Longley Wood on 25th April then singles in Bretton Park on 26th April and 1st May, and two singing males near Storthes Hall Hospital on 10th May.

Bred in Bretton Park, where there were seven singing males; at Daffer Wood (four or five pairs) and at least one pair each at Silkstone, Margery Wood, Windy Bank Wood and Royd Edge Clough. Other singing males at Bradley Wood, Grimescar Wood, Lockwood Cemetery, Carr Wood and Stockmoor Common. Nine caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir between 19th July and 15th August, and eight instances of retrapping of some of these birds indicated that at least four remained from seven to eleven days in the area. Last one there on 4th September.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*
Migrant breeder (2-3), Scarce winter visitor.

Apart from one visiting a bird table at Denby Dale in late February and another at a Birkby Hall Road garden on 28th there were no other reports until 3rd and 4th April when a male was in Bretton Park. Arrival dates were typical with birds at ten more sites during April.

A total of 87 singing males located were distributed through the 10km squares as follows:- SE 01 - 16; SE 10 - 10; SE 11 - 23; SE 12 - 3; SE 20 - 18 and SE 21 - 17. A few would be passage birds, but the majority would be in territory and breeding was proved in 12 localities. A late bird at Mount, Outlane on 21st October. Males near Stocksmoor Reserve on 19th November and in Beaumont Park on 20th feeding on berries of White Bea *Pyrus aria*.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Migrant breeder (1-2).

A male at Spring Wood, Netherton on 1st May, and two at Hagg Wood, Thongsbridge on 2nd May at which site a pair bred. Other singing males at Meltham Mills on 6th May; Langsett on 8th; Hoyland bank and Deffer Wood on 27th May, and another at Spring Wood on 22nd. A male sang at Drop Cough regularly from 5th to 17th June, and at least one pair bred at Cliff Wood, Langsett. One caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st August and still present on 2nd.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*
Migrant breeder (2), Scarce winter visitor.

A male in Lower Fell Greave on 3rd and 4th March, and on 19th March. One at Helme on 30th March, then one to two at four more localities on 2nd and 3rd April.

Bred at Bretton Park (three pairs), Deffer Wood (four pairs) and Beaumont Park. Singing males at eight localities during April, but not reported again from these, included three at Thunderbridge on 14th. During May singing males at Thongsbridge, Storthes Hall (two), Hinchliffe Mill, Holmbridge, Windy Bank Wood, Almondbury, Cannon Hall and Horbury.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and Royd Moor Reservoir on 9th October, and at Meltham on 24th.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Migrant breeder (3-4).

Singles at Bretton Park, Blackmoorfoot, Hill Top Reservoir and Meltham on 3rd April, Drop Cough on 8th and Stile Common on 11th, and arrived at 16 more places between 13th and 17th April. Sixteen at Drop Cough on 4th; 14 at Bradshaw on 19th, and 18 in the Brookfoot Lake area on 24th April.

Successful breeding reported in many localities. Fifty located in Deffer Wood in two hours on 15th May.

Recorded in five localities during September, with the last at Blackmoorfoot on 18th.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*
Resident breeder (2), Common passage visitor.

The breeding population may be considerably higher than indicated as above as its widespread distribution in coniferous plantations has been confirmed through atlas surveying. Numbers are difficult to estimate in the many rather dense plantations of the area.

Occasional birds at Blackmoorfoot between 10th September and 13th November, and also noted in four other non-breeding areas in the same period.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

Rare visitor.

One at Scammonden on 31st January (JEO), and one at Ingbirchworth in woodland by the reservoir on 24th September (JKT et al).
Ninth and tenth records for the area.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder (2-3).

One at Windy Bank Wood on 12th May then two at Digley, Tunnel End (Marsden), at Bottomley (Stainland) on 14th, and at Bretton Park on 15th.

Pairs bred at Royd Edge Clough, Helme Lane, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (two), Meltham Mills, Windy Bank Wood (two), Digley (three), Mugg Wood, Bretton Park (two), Gunthwaite and Silkstone, and probably at Armitage Bridge and Booth Dean Clough.

Singles at Crosland Moor on 6th September; Oakes on 11th, and Swinden Plantation on 18th.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Migrant breeder (1).

A female at Windy Bank Wood on 2nd May and a male on 5th. A pair at Meltham Mills on 6th and 10th May. A pair bred at a nest box in a Brockholes garden. A pair breeding in Windy Bank Wood had eight eggs on 25th May, and six young in the nest on 4th June and were still feeding young in the nest on 16th, but on 25th June none of the family were located. At Cliff Wood, Langsett a pair were breeding, and another male was in the wood on 3rd June.
A ringed bird was caught at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd August.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (2).

Ten at Bretton Lakes on 3rd January; eight at Deighton on 21st and 12 in Deffer Wood on 31st.

Pairs breeding or probably breeding at Elland Gravel Pit, Grimscar Wood, Almondbury, Mollicar Wood, Farnley Lane, three sites near Kirkburton, Dungeon Mill, Cliffe Wood (Brockholes), Netherton Fold, Digley, Gunthwaite, Jowett House Farm, Bretton Lakes and Springwood (Bretton).

More flocks than usual at the year-end, with over 20 at Royd Moor on 2nd October; then during November 30 to 35 on 6th and 22 on 27th at Bretton Lakes, and 10 by the canal at Golcar on 11th, and 20 at Cannon Hall on 26th, and during December 10 each at New Park, Denby Dale on 6th and Gunthwaite on 18th, and about 25 in Blacker Wood on 30th.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

Rare visitor.

One in Bretton Park on 6th, 23rd and 25th February (several observers).

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

Resident breeder (2).

Few records received. One to two in Deffer Wood in January and two at Stockmoor on 17th February and one or two at Hartcliffe Mills on 29th. Singles at Lower Fell Greave and Ingbirchworth on 8th and 20th March respectively. Present in Blacker Wood, Skelmanthorpe in March and April.

At least one pair bred in Bretton Park, and up to three were recorded on five dates from 14th October to the year-end, One in Deffer Wood on 15th May probably breeding.

One at Hill Top near Moyland Swaine on 7th August; one at Scout Dike on 18th September and three on 2nd October; two in Lepton Great Wood from 22nd September to the year-end, and up to five in Blacker Wood on 25th September, and two there on 30th October.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*
Resident breeder (3).

At least 20 at Bretton Lakes, and 30 in Deffer Wood on 11th January, and up to 40 at Yateholme on 15th February.

Bred in the above localities and at Lower Fell Greave, Boothroyd Wood, Rishworth Lodge Plantation and Langsett.

Regular visitor to garden sites in September and October at Lindley Moor, Scapegoat Hill, Oakes, Meitham and Almondbury.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*
Resident breeder (5).

Over 130 in Bretton Lakes Reserve on 11th January and up to 60 on 2nd February. Large numbers in Beaumont Park on 22nd February, and 81 in the Brookfoot Lake area on 24th April. At Blacknurscot 22 juveniles caught and ringed on 25th June.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*
Resident breeder (4).

In the Bretton Lakes Reserve 35-45 on 9th and 11th January, and 2nd February; 43 in the Brookfoot Lake area on 24th April.

Breeding status of this and the previous species apparently unchanged.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*
Resident breeder (1).

Two fed regularly on nuts close to a house at Arkenly Lane, Almondbury from January up to 9th April (OS, VAF). Singles at Bretton Lakes on 1st and 10th January; 20th and 21st February and 5th, 23rd and 30th March (GK, DMP, DP). One in Lower Fell Greave on 8th March and 3rd April (JER).

A pair bred in Beaumont Park and were seen at various stages of the breeding cycle for two months from 15th April (DMAN, DM, TD).

An odd coincidence of singles seen in the west of the area, away from regular sites, both on 3rd July were one at Oakes (JMD) and one at Rishworth Lodge Plantation (JJB). Two at Cannon Hall on 3rd December (ML).

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*
Resident breeder (2-3).

Reported from five sites in the winter months only; from 20 sites in the breeding season only, and from four sites in both periods.

Bred at Shaw Wood, Dean Wood, Beaumont Park, Armitage Bridge, Helme Lane, Hagg Wood, Baffer Wood and Swinden Plantation, and probably at Windy Bank Wood, Digley, Bretton Park and Srockhoies. Six in Lower Fell Greave on 3rd April.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Rare visitor.

Addition to the 1985 Report; One in Bretton Park on 16th November.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2).

Six together at Bretton Lakes on 19th February. Parties, and counts of five, at Anchor Wood on 12th and Thunderbridge on 14th April, and at Lumb Lane, Almondsbury on 19th May for a further few days. At least 10 in Fell Greave Woods on 3rd April, six pairs between Golcar and Linthwaite on 5th April. Present in at least 12 more localities in the early months.

Bred at Royd Edge Clough, Meltham, Beaumont Park and near Dove Stone Reservoir. Present in at least five other localities in the breeding season.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4).

A pre-roost build up of 75 in the Longwood Valley on 12th January. Forty-four on 31st January and 69 on 13th February roosting at Blackmoorfoot. Over 30 in Fell Greave Woods in March. Twenty-two in the Brookfoot Lake area on 24th April.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4).

At Ringstone Edge 38 on 24th January; 107 south-west over Pule Hill on 22nd October at 07.45 hours. Widespread breeding reports with nests situated in cavities in buildings, trees and rock-faces.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5).

Remains a very common breeding bird of the area. The Rookeries have been well documented in the past 40 years, but information on new sites or abandonment of old sites would be welcomed.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (3).

Twenty-one in the Elland Gravel Pit and Brookfoot Lake areas on 3rd January and 24th April; 20 at Booth Dam Quarry on 20th June. At least 39 at Broadstones Lodge on 20th July and 25 in fields south of Broadstones Reservoir on 25th September.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Rare visitor.

One flew west calling over the Silberry area on 15th May (BA). Third record for the area.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

Remains a widespread breeder, and large flocks often over 1,000 birds feed on farmland both before and after the breeding season. Nine hundred flew west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 6th April.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*
Resident breeder (5).

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*
Resident breeder (2).

A flock at Paul Lane near Colnebridge numbered 25 to 30 between 6th and 11th January, and about 30 were there on 5th April. At Gunthwaite 25 on 23rd April, and 40 on 14th August; 13 near Leeds Road Playing Fields on 13th August, and 26 at Enley Moor on 7th October. Reports of one to three at Ingbirchworth on 20th and Royd Moor Reservoir on 30th March; at Lumb Lane, Almondbury on 19th March; near Sheephouse Wood on 30th May; near High Moyland on 19th November, and at Grimescar on 29th December. Four at Lingards Wood on 3rd April.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*
Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor,

A flock at Bretton Lakes in January for the first two weeks peaked at 90 on 11th, and 80 were at Paul Lane, Colnebridge on the same date. In Deffer Wood 120 on 15th February.

Visible movement at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on six dates from 17th September to 29th October totalled 374 south and 83 west, with maximum on 2nd October of 202 and 26 respectively. South-westerly movement noted over Pule Hill from 25th September to 30th October (five dates) totalled 266, with a peak of 135 on 2nd October. West over Drop Clough 4,133 from 3rd September to 8th November.

A flock at Wilshaw of 120 to 200 from 13th November to 11th December.

GRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*
Uncommon to common winter visitor,

Apparently a regular flock at Bretton Lakes from 1st January to 19th April, with mainly single figures to 26th January, then 20 on four dates to 16th April, and 50 on 14th and 40 on 27th February. One regularly in a Holmbridge garden from 21st February to 19th March. Three to six in Lower Fall Greave from 8th March to 3rd April. Up to 30 near Tunnel End from 12th to 26th March. Three in Cawthorne Park Wood on 8th March. Forty-five in Lingards Wood on 2nd April, and 15 at Araitage Bridge on 8th.

Visible migration over Pule Hill of eight on 1st, four on 3rd, and 2 on 22nd October, all south-west.

Reported from eight localities on a total of 14 dates from 22nd October mainly single birds only, but seven at Blackmoorfoot on 28th November and two at Wilshaw on 5th and 11th December. A few more were at Bretton Lakes with two on 10th and one on 23rd October; 20 on 2nd and 10 on 3rd November, five at Morton Wood during December.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*
Resident breeder (4).

The only flock of any size was one of over 100 near Holmfirth on 25th September.

Visible migration noted at Blackmoorfoot and Pule Hill was only in single figures, apart from 28 south-west on 22nd October at the latter site.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*
Resident breeder (2-3).

A few during the early months including four at Ingbirchworth on 1st January.

Pairs bred at Rishworth Lodge, Booth Dam Clough, Lindley Moor, Woodsome and Helae Lane and one was seen carrying nesting material at Queensgate, Muddersfield. Probable breeding pairs in 13 other localities.

About 50 in Deffer Wood on 29th August; 30 at Crimble Clough on 4th September, and at Ingbirchworth on 24th and 18 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 25th; 10 at Spicer House Lane on 29th October; 25 at Scapegoat Hill on 10th December and 14 at Broadstones on 17th.

Twenty-seven west at Drop Clough on 6th October, and at Blackmoorfoot 25 south on 1st, and 22 south on 22nd October.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon winter visitor.

Regularly at Bretton Lakes up to 17th February, with 30 on 1st January, 45 on 3rd and 30 on 14th February, 18 at Silkstone Sewage Farm on 1st January, and 24 at Cannon Hall on 16th March.

Three singing at Scrat Haigh Wood on 17th February.

A male near Holme Styes on 14th May. On 30th June a party of 10, mostly juveniles, in Rishworth Lodge Plantation. One at Thick Hollins on 8th July.

Visible migration reports included 83 south and 28 west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir between 17th September and 22nd October; 14 south-west over Broadstones on 25th September; 10 south-west over Pule Hill on the same date and seven on 1st October, and a total of 276 west over Drop Clough between 25th September and 15th October. Singles noted over other places.

Between 25 and 30 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 17th and 18th September. Up to 30 in Lepton Great Wood from 21st November onwards. About 50 at Elland Gravel Pit on 5th December. Small flocks 10-15 at two places in late December.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Resident breeder (3-4). Partial migrant.

Returned to the area in late March and early April and then becoming rapidly established in breeding localities, 50 at Lepton on 1st May. Flocks at Broadstones of over 40 on 1st August, and 34 on 25th September. Fifty-six south-west at Pule Hill on four dates between 25th September and 22nd October, and totals of 61 south and three west over Blackmoorfoot between 17th September and 22nd October. None reported after late October.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Resident and partial migrant breeder (2-3).

The flock that built up at the end of 1987 to the east of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir remained in the area, and numbered 56 on 24th and 104 on 31st January and 20 on 21st February. Twenty-two in the same area on 25th March. A flock in the Broadstones area from 5th March to 9th April peaked at 71. At least 25 on Slaithwaite Moor on 13th March. Small numbers returned to breeding areas such as Deer Hill and Digley at the end of March, and to most other localities during the first two weeks of April. Twenty-five on Rishworth Moor on 4th April; 56 in Booth Dam Quarry and 40 further up the valley on 7th, and over 70 at March Haigh on 13th April.

Widespread breeding records from moorland sites.

Summer and autumn flocks, of 40 at Booth Dam Quarry on 30th June; 45 at Rishworth Lodge on 10th July; 42 at Boshaw Whans on 21st July; 70 at Scamondon on 2nd August; over 100 over Flush House near Digley on 25th September, and 45 at Scapegoat Hill on 29th; and 60 at Giggie on 2nd October; 15 at Scapegoat Hill on 10th

Visible migration quite light, with 10 south-west over Pule Hill on 3rd October the maximum.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flamma*

Resident breeder (2), Uncommon winter visitor,

Sixteen in Bradley Wood on 8th; seven in Deffer Wood on 11th, and 20 at Deighton on 25th January; 20 at Digley on 21st, and 10 at Bretton Park on 23rd February were the only early flocks.

Bred at Booth Dean Clough, Scamonden, Diggle, Snailsden and Digley, and probably at 12 more sites where birds were present during May and June.

Over 40 in Swinden Plantation and 15 at Ingbirchworth on 8th May. Forty-seven flew south at Blackmoorfoot on 13th August as did 11 on 28th. Other movements noted were of single figures including five south and eight west on 1st October at Blackmoorfoot.

Parties of three each in Lepton Great Wood on 24th November and Bretton Park on 19th.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Resident breeder (1), Uncommon passage visitor,

One in Deffer Wood on 3rd April (DB), and two on 15th May (JED). One heard calling overhead at Lindley Moor on 12th June (JED). Nine in Swinden Plantation in late June (CS).

At least four at Snailsden and six near Ramsden Reservoir on 5th August (JMP). Two south over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 6th August (MLD). Two at Digley on 5th November (JMP).

BULLFINCH *Fyrthula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2).

A flock of nine in Deffer Wood on 11th January, and 11 at Scamonden on 14th and seven there on 6th February. Eight between Siaithwaite and Linthwaite on 1st March.

Bred at Blackmoorfoot, Meltham Mills, Booth Dean Clough, Bretton Lakes and Deffer Wood, and probably in at least eight other places.

Seven at Blackmoorfoot on 7th August.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare visitor,

Three at Bretton Lakes on 1st January then one to two there on five dates to 5th April. Two south over Bretton Park on 3rd July. Again at Bretton Lakes three on 10th October, then one to two on six dates to 12th December (many observers). At Cannon Hall two on 3rd, and five on 10th December (NL).

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare visitor,

One on moorland just to the north of Cupwith Reservoir on 20th January, and one near Oxygrains Beck on 25th (JED).

Sixth and seventh records for the area.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor,

A flock on Siaithwaite Moor, that presumably had probably present for at least three weeks, from 13th January (nine) to about 23rd February. Other counts included 10 on 14th January (JED); four on 16th (JMD), four on 25th and three on 31st January (JED); one on 14th February (OS), and eight on 16th (JED).

One south over Bretton Park on 16th November (JBB).

Addition to the 1997 Report; One at Winscar on 24th November.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3).

Good numbers in Deffer Wood throughout the year with 47 on 31st January, and 31 on 15th February. Ten to 12 in the Denby Dale and Colnebridge areas in the early months.

Breeding evidence reported from 15 localities. Twenty near Dearne Dike Lane on 11th December.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident Breeder (2).

Recorded in every month except January, and no parties of more than five noted.

Bred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Scamonden, Ingbirchworth Reservoir, Dear Hill, Holt Head and Gunthwaite and probably at South Dean Clough, Rishworth Moor, Cupwith Reservoir, Scout Dike Reservoir and present at many other suitable sites in the breeding season.

Four south-west over Pule Hill on 25th September.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

Resident breeder (1).

One in song at Thurstonland on 20th April.

Three near New Park, Denby Dale on 3rd February and at least ten there on 29th September.

Occasional sightings of singles near Kirkheaton.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

With apologies for any omissions.

<p>B. Arncliffe J. S. Arncliffe P. Atkins J. B. Baxter J. Beaumont C. Biltcliffe J. J. Bowley D. W. Brierley D. Butterfield T. Cantwell G. Carr G. N. Carr S. Chippendale D. R. Collins S. R. Cooke J. Cudworth J. E. & Mrs. S. M. Dale J. M. Dale M. L. Denton T. Duckworth C. Duke K. Fawcett S. Graham D. J. Hall M. Hayes T. & Mrs. M. Hetherington R. D. & Mrs. S. E. Holloway C. Horne D. S. & Mrs. V. A. Ives G. Kaye G. Kitchen N. Leese D. Manchester (D. Man) P. L. Martin</p>	<p>D. Maude (DM) G. Moss D. M. Owen J. Palliser N. E. Parker B. Penistone T. Piggott O. M. Pogson D. M. Pogson S. Pogson K. Pratt D. Proctor H. Quarterman J. F. Reynolds J. E. Rogan M. Saxelby D. Shore G. B. Silver B. Smith P. Smith P. J. W. Smith S. Smith D. J. Standing M. Stead D. Sykes C. C. Thomas J. Thurman M. Tunmore M. J. Watson R. D. Wilde B. W. Woodcock Barnsley Bird Study Group Halifax Scientific Society Huddersfield R. S. P. B. Group Wakefield Naturalists Society</p>
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RINGING REPORT

One of the main factors governing the use of mist-nets for catching birds is the weather. The first winter period of the year, although generally mild, was dominated by unsettled conditions and consequently netting was out of the question. How many times over the years has one gained the impression that we experience reasonably good weather on week-days but suffer a deterioration at week-ends? In 1968 this generalisation proved to be a reality! As week-ends are the main period of ringing activity at this time of year this was unfortunate and, instead of catching many hundreds of birds, only three were ringed.

The ringing of passerine pulli is an exacting procedure, with most species having to be ringed when the flight feathers protrude a little way beyond the quill. Any earlier and the parents may mistake the ring for a faecal sack and, in an attempt to rid the nest, throw out the helpless chick. Any later and there is the likelihood that the young will 'explode' from the nest, thereby leaving themselves open to predation and other risks. Timing is therefore of vital importance. In 1968 most of the nests under surveillance had ringable young at the end of May or early June. It was during this period that I chose to visit southern Spain with John Reynolds and his wife. The opportunity to ring these birds was therefore missed. (This last statement should simply be taken as an excuse not a complaint). The Black-headed Gull colony at Black Moss remained at a low ebb, with only two pairs attempting to breed and, for the fourth consecutive year, no young were ringed. However, it was mainly due to the nest finding capabilities of Tim Duckworth that several broods and nests of the later breeders were located. In total 60 pulli were ringed, this consisting of: Meadow Pipit (10 Royd Edge Clough), Dipper (4 Hill Top, 4 near Stainland), Whinchat (6 Deer Hill, 17 Royd Edge Clough), Blackbird (3 Upper Cumberworth), Garden Warbler (2 Royd Edge Clough), Blue Tit (3 Upper Cumberworth), and Yellowhammer (5 Royd Edge Clough).

As Blackmoorfoot is Huddersfield's main supply reservoir, Yorkshire Water now make every effort to keep the water at a high level. This is a new development and, although one cannot stand in the way of progress, it is detrimental to the ringing programme, as the netting area falls below the high water level. As we are only dealing with a few feet of water it was decided to seek permission from Yorkshire Water to build a metal 'pier' which would project above the water level along the main net site. Not only did the Yorkshire Water foreman, Ian Wright, give permission but he also supplied the materials to do the job. Due to this construction it is now possible to erect a net in all but the highest water level. It is thanks to Ian that the ringing of birds can continue, albeit on a smaller scale, but without the construction of 'The Pier' ringing during autumn would have ceased.

As with last year the second winter period of the year was unseasonally mild. Consequently very few birds were tempted by the provision of peanuts. Hence fewer than normal Greenfinches were handled at this time.

Given the above facts it is not surprising that only 478 birds were ringed, making this the poorest year since 1969 when only 402 were ringed although no birds were ringed in 1970 due to the absence of ringers. The number of species handled was only 27, and for the tenth 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 the 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.

Sex: M = Male F = Female

Manner of recovery; V Caught and trapped and released with ring,
 VV Ring number read in field or sight record of identifiable colour marks.
 X Found dead or dying.
 XL Found dead (not recent)
 † 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 Greenfinch (VC05124), the colour marked Black-headed Gull from Elland gravel pit and the colour ringed Herring Gull from Blackmoorfoot were received too late for inclusion in the 1987 report.

RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDS

HERON

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 88	Bretton, near Wakefield 53 37'N 1 34'W
	VV	4.9.88 to 2.10.88	Washington (Wildfowl Trust Reserve) Tyne and Wear 54 54'N 1 29'W

161 Kms N.

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 88	Bretton
	VV	25.9.88	Blackmoorfoot, near Huddersfield 53 37'N 1 52'W

18 Kms W.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

ENG9389	1	22.6.83	Black Moss, near Marsden 53 34'N 1 55'W
	VV	17.2.88	Ainsdale, Merseyside 53 37'N 3 3'W

74 Kms W.

GREENFINCH	5M	25.1.87	Blackmoorfoot
	V	30.12.87	Lower Denby, near Holmfirth 53 34'N 1 39'W

15 Kms ESE.

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Birds colour marked as 3Js at Alborg, Jylland, Denmark 57 4'N 9 48'E during the autumn of 1987 were seen as follows: (Each line represents a single individual).

Elland gravel pit, near Halifax 53 42'N 1 49'W	4.8.87
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Blackmoorfoot	13.2.88
	16.2.88

It is possible that the Elland bird was seen at Blackmoorfoot on the same date (see 1987 Report).

A bird colour marked as a 3J at Alborg during the autumn of 1988 was seen at Blackmoorfoot on 16.9.88.

HERRING GULL

Colour rings	7F	13,10,81	Coxhoe, Co Durham 54 42'N 1 29'W
	VV	22,1,87	Blackmoorfoot 129 Kms SSW.

PIED FLYCATCHER	F	3,6,88	Holme Wood, Loweswater, Cumbria 54 34'N 3 22'W
	V	2,8,88	Blackmoorfoot 144 Kms SE.

M. L. Denton

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

In Muddersfield 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; e.g. 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 lines show the approximate period between ringing and either retrap (Table 1) or death (Table 2). The figures show the number of individual retrapped or found dead near their place of ringing.

TABLE 1 - Retraps

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	TOTAL
ROBIN	1					1
BLACKBIRD	1					1
BLUE TIT	2	1			1	4
GREENFINCH	1					1

It is interesting that no summer visitors feature in the above table.

TABLE 2 - Recoveries

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	TOTAL
SONG THRUSH			1	1

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RING TOTALS LIST - 1988

Sparrowhawk	1	Redstart	1	Blue Tit	101
Moorhen	1	Whinchat	23	Great Tit	8
Swallow	2	Blackbird	14	Maggie	1
Meadow Pipit	10	Sedge Warbler	1	Chaffinch	2
Pied Wagtail	7	Garden Warbler	11	Greenfinch	19
Dipper	8	Blackcap	11	Bullfinch	9
Iren	15	Wood Warbler	1	Yellowhammer	5
Duncock	22	Willow Warbler	15	Reed Bunting	4
Robin	37	Spotted Flycatcher	1		
		Coal Tit	2		
				GRAND TOTAL	478

M. L. Denton

FIELD TRIPS 1988

KNOTFORD NOOK, LINDLEY WOOD AND GOUTHWAITE RESERVOIRS

17 January 1988

Our first field trip of the New Year took place on one of those grey, overcast, windless January days that somehow just manage to avoid fulfilling the promised rain that we all expect, but hope will not be forthcoming. For the time of year it was exceptionally mild.

All of the three areas visited can throw up the occasional really good bird, and this was the case on our visit.

At Knotford Nook, we had excellent views of flying Snew - two birds - one a definite adult female, and the other a (probable) first-winter male. Here also we had reasonable views of Green Woodpecker and very good views of male Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Kingfishers were seen at all three sites; singles at Knotford Nook and Lindley Wood Reservoirs, and up to three birds at Gouthwaite, where they were both on the reservoir and on the river.

Goosander, also, were at all three sites, but a remarkable group of up to thirty birds were present on the water at Lindley Wood. Here nobody can have failed but to have had excellent and prolonged views of a species that, in these parts and in these numbers, must be considered out of the ordinary!

Common Eull were also present in large numbers, with up to 400 on Lindley Wood Reservoir and 300 (maybe more) on Gouthwaite.

At Gouthwaite, the hybrid Tufted x Pochard (?) that had caused such speculation that a Lesser Scaup had turned up, was still in the area and was seen by many. We were informed by local birdwatchers, that a Red Kite had been in the area for an hour about an hour before we arrived, but it must have moved on, for none of our party saw it. Some were compensated by views of Peregrine, Merlin, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk.

On the grassland beside the river it was good to see Partridge in some numbers - at least ten birds were present in one covey, and Pheasants in the same field numbered some sixteen birds.

Finally, Dippers on the River Nidd deserve some mention: three birds were seen, two being a pair together, the male heard in song and holding territory.

A total of 67 birds on the day!

RUTLAND WATER

14 February 1988

This area was a new venue for the Club's field trips although many of the 37 people participating had been here previously.

Since the reserve's inception, in 1975, the nature reserve land and the whole water area has become one of the most important wild-fowl sanctuaries in Great Britain, and has been scheduled as a Grade I SSSI.

It is also a site of international importance for the Gadwall, attested to by the fact that we saw well over 100 birds of that species in the area on this visit. Including Gadwall, we recorded twelve species of duck, one species of Swan (Mute Swan - c30) and six species of geese. One of these - Snow Goose - it must be said, has doubt over its 'wild' status. Despite being free-flying, they are probably feral birds, but there were four blue-phase and three white birds and they were still good to see, grazing amongst a mixed flock of 'Greys'.

I would also like to mention Ruddy Duck here - with up to c30 birds of both sexes observed, this is obviously an important wintering area for them.

Just two other species require mention. There were good numbers here of wintering Ruff - I am not sure of numbers but I personally counted up to c20, and there were probably more.

Lastly, a quite dramatic entrance was made by a male Peregrine which made a rapid sweep over the scrapes and mud-flats overlooked by several of the hides. As it passed over, its potential prey species made a rapid exit. When this happens we not only observe the predator, but we also get good opportunities to see what else is in the area, which might otherwise have gone un-noticed.

A total of 71 species were recorded on the reserve on the day.

CORS CARON

20 March 1998

Formerly known as Tregaron Bog, it is widely acclaimed as the finest example of a raised bog in the whole of England and Wales. It is a National Nature Reserve covering three square miles and is of interest to both botanists and birdwatchers.

Set in the heart of 'kite country', as birdwatchers, it is for the raptor populations that the trip is primarily undertaken. On our trip, four - perhaps, five - species were encountered.

The most notable, Red Kite, numbered up to ten individuals, with up to five on the reserve. Buzzard, with probably as many as 50 individuals on the day, had up to 20 on the reserve and is probably breeding in the adjacent woodland. There were singles each of Sparrowhawk and Peregrine, the latter being observed on two occasions. There was also an unverified report of Hen Harrier, which is a species that does occur regularly.

Other than for raptors, ornithologically the area has less appeal but other species do occur. Perhaps, from our point of view the most exciting is Raven, individuals of which were seen on a number of occasions, and which does breed in the adjacent woodlands but which displayed no obvious signs of having done so this year. (In the past by this time we have observed occupied nests.)

Some members of our group observed Nuthatch, a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was suspected, and still others saw a (male) Stonechat.

Fifty-three species were recorded on the reserve - a figure, I think only slightly diminished by the heavy rain which fell towards the end of the day. The locality is noted for quality rather than quantity.

HEST BANK; MORECAMBE BAY & LEIGHTON MOSS NATURE RESERVE CENTRE; SILVERDALE, NW LANCs. 17 April 1998

Initially, birds were in short supply on the salt marsh and estuary on our arrival at Hest Bank at 09.30 hours; things were just beginning to pick up and become more interesting when we had to leave. High tide would occur at 11.25 - it was unfortunate that we could not afford to remain longer at this site if we were to have sufficient time at our main venue of the day, Leighton Moss, which, I am sure, everyone reading this must be familiar with, and needs no further description.

At Hest Bank large numbers of Oystercatchers were present, along with good numbers of Curlews. Other wader species included both Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, Redshank, Knot and Dunlin. Summer migrants comprised Willow Warbler and Swallow, though many more of these would be seen later in the day at Leighton Moss.

Highlights from Leighton Moss included good views of at least two (one winter and one partially summer-dressed) Spotted Redshanks; excellent and sustained views of a second year Mediterranean Gull (having

seemingly full adult summer plumage, but still possessing dark wing tips - it was a smashing bird) and also an adult male Marsh Harrier, busily engaged in nest-building (a pair successfully fledged two young here last season).

Other noteworthy species heard or seen included Bearded Tit and Bittern. Summer migrants already included Swallow and Sand martins, Cuckoo (heard), Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff.

A total of 78 species from both sites on the day.

SOUTH STACK AND CEMLYN BAY - ANGLESEY

15 May 1988

For the last trip of the current programme, another new venue was tried. For many participating this was the first time that they had visited the area - for others it was a return visit. Despite the relatively low numbers of bird species - though not birds - observed (in all, 65 species) I feel that the day was successful and that the locality justified the time spent travelling to it.

For certainty, the unusual habitat - a combination of sea cliffs with maritime heathland - was an interesting one, carrying not only birds (and there were some surprises) but its own particular mix of wildflowers which were in great profusion, and its own insects - notably Marsh Fritillary, and several Painted Ladies. Adder and Common Lizard are reputedly 'common' (on the maritime heath) but no-one, I fear, in our party came across them.

The bird of the day at South Stack had to be the Choughs, of which we had at least one pair, which I was told by the wardens had a nest "on the ledges below". Very good, prolonged views were to be had of these birds both on the ground and in the air, and they could be seen with very little effort at all times throughout our stay at this locality.

Later in the day, on the advice of those who were more familiar with the area, we moved on to spend an hour or so at Cenlyn Bay, which is on the island of Anglesey proper, half an hours travelling time to the north of South Stack. The main attraction here are the mud-edged brackish pools which adjoin a shingle bar above a storm beach. In this locality several hundred pairs of terns - Arctic, Common and a few Sandwich - breed alongside a few pairs of Black-headed Gulls. On the day we were very pleased to find pairs of both Little Tern and Roseate Tern amongst their numbers. Here also were we able to find (one) adult male breeding-plumage Ruff and (a pair) Red-breasted Mergansers to round off a fine day before setting off for home.

SEAFORTH DOCK NATURE RESERVE

24 September 1988

For those who do not know the area - and that included myself before this trip - this, a new venue for the Club's trips, is an area of salt and freshwater open areas, marsh, and sand dunes, located on the River Mersey adjacent to the New Royal Seaforth Dock just five miles NW of Liverpool city centre.

At first sight it is an unprepossessing locality, on the edge of industrial 'wastelands' and with a scrap-metal breakers' yard providing an uninspiring back-cloth for the reserve itself. After the initial shock, however, it does bear closer inspection and after periods of favourable wind the area can have a very interesting, and large, passage migration of interesting sea and shore birds. The best times to visit the area are in April (up to c300 Little Gulls) and September.

As I feared it might be, our trip was spoilt by too nice weather! The sun shone, it had been warm and the winds, though from the right quarter and had been for a day or so, were far too weak to have had any influence on bird movements.

With only one or two exceptions there was little in the area to enthuse over. Both Little Gull and Mediterranean Gull were reported from the area (both singles, I believe) along with a nice female Scaup, Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper. There were surprisingly large numbers of Terns and a Yellow Wagtail was heard calling as it passed overhead but I don't think the bird was seen.

A total of just over 50 species were recorded in this locality. This was boosted to around 70 for the day after spending two hours in the coniferous woodlands and sand dune systems at Forby Point, and the National Trust's, "Red Squirrel Reserve", six miles to the north, where we ended the day.

SPURN POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

16 October 1988

The trip started at 10pm, on the evening of the 15th with a 'phone call telling of the impressive list of rarities currently on site and where they might be expected to be found. This information given to me I was able to pass on to the fifty-one (!) participants, and the prospect of some of them really set the bus buzzing!

By the end of the day most of us had had views of most of the 'specialties' in the area, and were in agreement that this had been one of the best days at Spurn for many years.

Birds seen included a report of Great Northern Diver (?), visual sightings of Long-tailed Skua (1), Wryneck (1-3), Red-rumped Swallow (1), Richard's Pipit (1), Black Redstart (c6), Pallas's Warbler (1), Yellow-browed Warbler (2-3), Radde's Warbler (1-2), and Firecrest (1). The bird of the day was without doubt a first year Isabelline Shrike, which had been caught and identified in the hand by Observatory personnel the previous day. The bird was obliging and gave excellent views on its perch in sea-buckthorn close-by the Warren over considerable periods of time. Earlier in the day it had been seen feeding, when it killed and ate a young Robin. Other notables, if the above were not enough, included dark-bellied Brants, Woodcock (1), Whimbrel (2), Great Skua (1), Short-eared Owls (2), Redstart (5), Stonechat (4), Whinchat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel (1), several thousand Fieldfare and Redwing and Pied Flycatcher.

75 species from the area on the day.

GIBRALTER POINT - LINCOLNSHIRE

13 November 1988

Some members of the party had views of such birds as Merlin (1), Waxwings (3), Long-tailed Duck (2), Snow Bunting (6), and Hen Harrier (1) but, in general, the area was rather quiet.

There were some fine views of flying Wigeon over the "Spit" and along the River Steeping, heading north, inland, with numbers up to possibly c250 birds, and the "New Saltmarsh" and the "Spit" had up to c200-250 Brent Geese. About 30 Greylags were seen passing overhead here, heading east. Offshore between four and seven Red-throated Divers could be seen whilst sea-watching from the dunes near "Mill Hill Platform".

On the salt marsh between the "West" and "East" dunes up to c20 Twite were recorded.

RIBBLE MARSHES AND MARTIN MERE WILDFOWL TRUST GROUNDS

4 December 1988

It was originally intended on this trip that we should spend the whole day in the MNR, on the marshes at Marshside, Crossens, Banks and Hesketh Out-marsh but in consideration of the weather forecast that had been given for the day, and taking into account weather conditions, and day-light levels, on arrival it was thought more prudent to spend part of the day at least within reach of the relative shelter of the hides at Martin Mere. Some of us might be able to remember a previous wet day at Banks!

Notwithstanding, the morning was spent at Marshside and Crossens with the most noteworthy species observed being Gadwall (1), Pintail (3), Pink-feet, Merlin (1-2), up to 15 Black-tailed Godwits, both male and female Stonechats, at least 20 Twite near the sand-winning plant and 1-2 Snow Buntings.

Martin Mere is always worth a visit for its masses of wildfowl, despite the criticism of artificiality that I have heard levelled at it in regard to its 'wild' marsh areas. At a glance it can be seen that the birds obviously like it when both teal and Pintail can reach up to 10,000 each, where early-winter flocks of Pink-feet, before dispersal, can peak at 34,000 and where Whooper and Bewick's Swan numbers can reach figures of up to 200 and 300 respectively.

Ruff numbers were down on previous visits but, by way of compensation, some members of the group had views of 1-2 Jack Snipe.

Several species of raptor were seen over the wild marsh with perhaps the most memorable being three Marsh Harriers in the air together. Those fortunate enough to be in the Miller's Bridge Hide at this time must have had glorious views of these birds. Merlins were seen on at least two occasions and I believe Short-eared Owl was also recorded.

As a footnote I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those persons who participated in the Club Trips over the past year for their support and encouragement, their presence, whether on a regular basis or intermittently, contributes directly to the success of the trips, which I fervently hope have been enjoyed by all.

I ask for their continuing support over the coming year.

David Butterfield

Field Trips Organiser.

THE TETRAD BREEDING SURVEY — PROGRESS REPORT

As we go to press the fourth season of field-work is almost completed leaving the 1990 season on which to check on the more elusive species, and concentrate on a few poorly covered areas.

Some information has been received from all 150 tetrads and TABLE A summarises totals of species from these within each 100m square.

TABLE A

100m Square Number	SE00	SE01	SE10	SE11	SE20	SE21	Totals
Tetrads with < 20 species	13	2	4	0	3	9	31
Tetrads with 20 - 39 species	10	6	9	11	7	9	51
Tetrads with > 40 species	2	17	13	14	15	7	68
Total registrations	472	1035	912	1024	1022	695	5221

The figures for total registrations include records for all categories, that is possible, probable and confirmed breeding and so far 113 species have been logged, and breeding confirmed for 96 of these.

TABLE B lists the species most widely recorded and also those for which breeding has been confirmed in more than 70 tetrads.

TABLE B

All Categories			Confirmed Breeding		
	Species	Tetrads		Species	Tetrads
1	Skylark	125	1	Blue Tit	95
2	Blackbird	119		Starling	95
	Carrion Crow	118		Swallow	95
4	Swallow	114	4	Blackbird	89
5	Blue Tit	113	5	House Sparrow	83
	Maggie	113		Maggie	83
	Willow Warbler	113	7	Carrion Crow	80
8	Starling	112	8	Hiedle Thrush	79
9	Chaffinch	111		Robin	79
10	Woodpigeon	110	10	Meadow Pipit	73
11	Mistle Thrush	106	11	Great Tit	72
	Wren	106	12	Willow Warbler	70

The Atlas recorders again give grateful thanks to all who have participated in the work and will welcome offers of help for the 1990 season.

John E. Dale

ATLAS RECORDERS

SE00, SE10	Michael Pinder 29, Thick Hollins Methan, Huddersfield.
SE01	Michael Denton
SE11	Brian Armitage
SE20	John Dale
SE21	David Proctor Lynchurst Woodbine Street Ossett, Wakefield

CLUB OFFICIALS FOR 1989

President	Michael Denton 77 Hawthorne Terrace Huddersfield Tel. 646990
President Elect, Recorder and Conservation Officer	John Dale 158 Lindley Moor Road Lindley Moor Huddersfield Tel. 652453
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Martin 26, Lindwell Greenland Halifax Tel. 78852
Hon. Secretary	Brian Armitage 105 Forest Road Daiton Huddersfield Tel. 544276
Field Meetings Organiser	David Butterfield 15 Dene Road Skelmanthorpe Tel. 852005
Committee Members	Lynn Cotton Michael Pinder John Reynolds Peter Smith