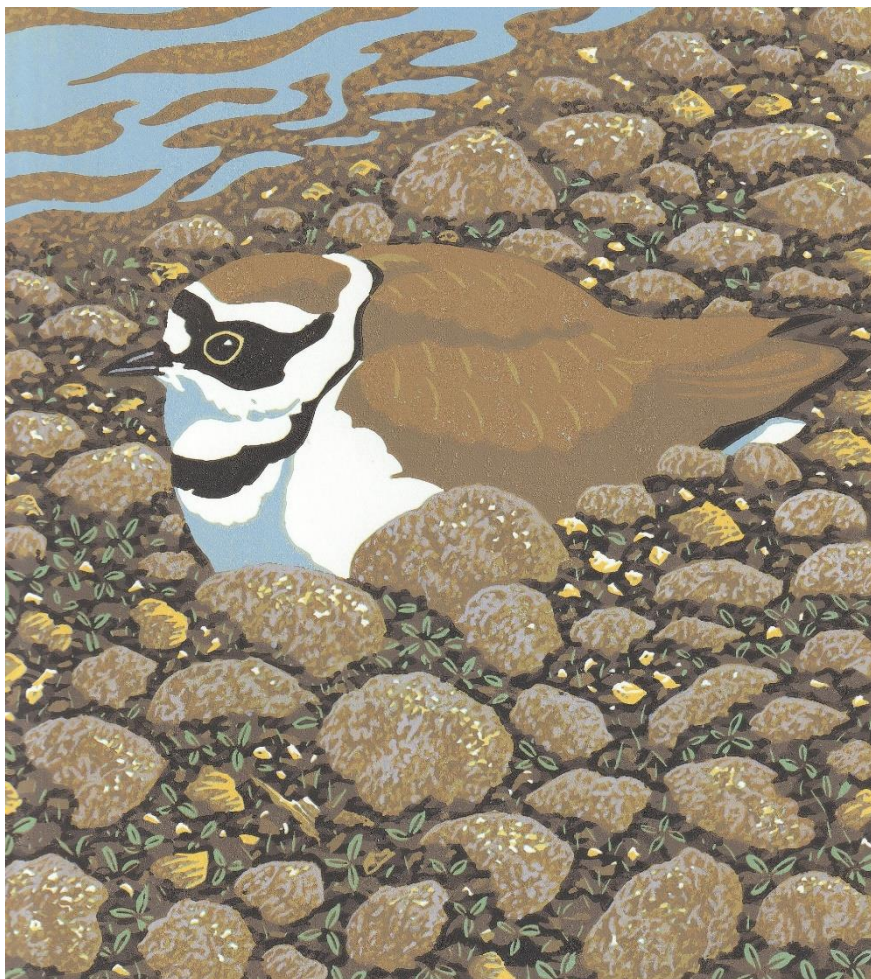




**Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

# **Birds in Huddersfield 2021**



# HUDDERSFIELD RECORDING AREA

The bird recording area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits and Dewsbury Sewage Works.

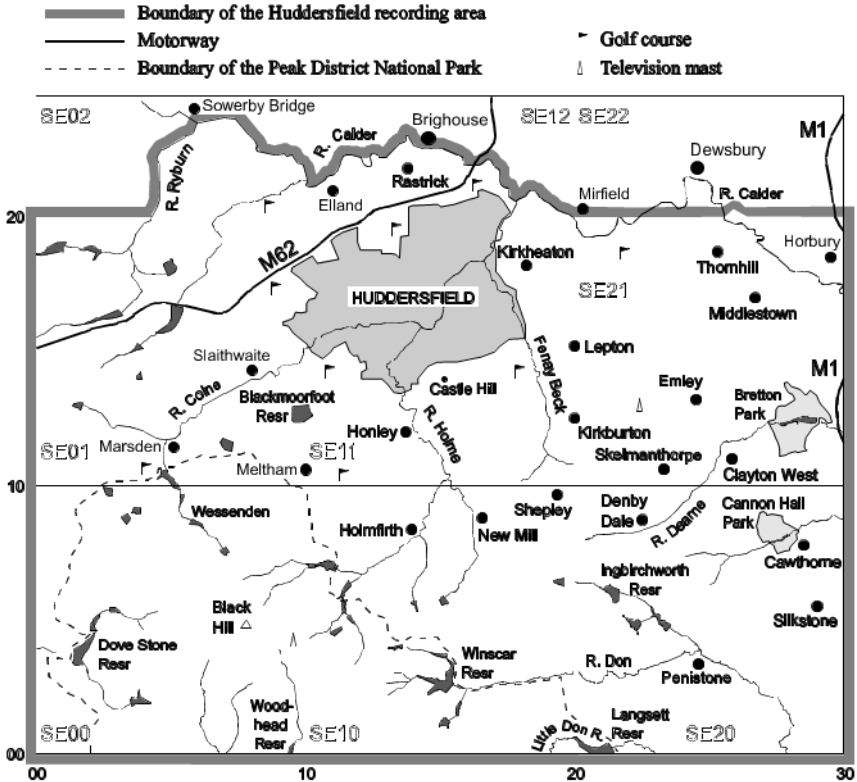


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area

# **Birds in Huddersfield**

## **2021**

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*Birds in Huddersfield 2021* is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports produced by the Club since our formation in 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Cover artwork: **Little Ringed Plover (Stuart Brocklehurst)**.

Stuart Brocklehurst is a wildlife artist and printmaker and has been providing the artwork for our covers for over 30 years. You can see more of his work on his social media sites:  
[www.stuartbrocklehurstprints.blogspot.com](http://www.stuartbrocklehurstprints.blogspot.com)  
[www.facebook.com/stuartbrocklehurstprints](http://www.facebook.com/stuartbrocklehurstprints)

Rear cover photograph: **Male Crossbill (Dave Pennington)**

See article in *Birds in Huddersfield 2019/20* and at the rear of this report

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2021 was a year of working to get the Club back to some form of normality after a difficult period. A major factor in this was to put together a programme of speakers for the remainder of the season and the subsequent one and thanks to David Brierley this was achieved. The programme contains speakers with expertise in a wide range of subjects and we hope you will come along and support them. We will be staying in the Reception Room as this was the only room available at the time and is a little more spacious than the Old Court House and is also equipped with integral lecture facilities.

Another subject we visit in these pages on a fairly regular basis is membership. Our Club like most others is in constant need of new members and it is something we again must try to address. Sadly, although we hopefully are now exiting one difficult period we seem to be entering another. The cost-of-living crisis will hit most of society and it would be naive to think that our expenses won't increase, with the most likely being speakers' travel expenses. At the moment we don't know what the damage will be and will have to keep an eye on it. Fortunately, we have the resources to cover us at present but longer term who knows?

On a brighter note, by the time you read this I certainly hope you will have received your annual report. It is neither a quick nor easy job as I'm sure you appreciate, and I would like to thank firstly Mike Denton and Mike Wainman for the many times they have carried out this task in the past and we are striving to ensure the same quality. As far as this year is concerned, I would like to thank John Parkinson and Alan Wiggins who bravely jumped in at the deep-end, Dave Pogson, a more seasoned campaigner, who came out of retirement, and all who helped with the writing. Dave Pennington, a proofreader extraordinaire, who also helped with much welcome advice and last, but not least, Hazel who spent many hours at the PC working on the lay-out and much more, apart from her usual duties and without whom my PC would no doubt have ended up in the garden, via the kitchen window. Here's to the next one.

Dave Sill

# ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club was formed in 1966 and registered as a charity in July of 2003, with the aims of:

## 1. Studying and recording the wild birds of the area and publishing an annual report:

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 54 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological recording and *Birds in Huddersfield 2021* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

From time to time we also publish more specific, one-off works, including in 2001 an *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area*, in 2004 *Birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1985-2003* and in 2008 a major work *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area*, which reviewed the complete history of every species recorded in the area since records began, right up to modern times. In January 2017 we published another major work *A Natural History of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Huddersfield* by Mike Denton to commemorate our half-centenary in 2016/17. In 2018 we republished as an on-line digital 'e-book' *An Account of the Birds of the Huddersfield District*, first issued by S. L. Mosley in 1915 – this was a landmark book in both local and national ornithology and that we were able to bring it to a wider audience to appreciate its importance.

In 2021 we published *The Birds of Marsden* by local author and ornithologist Mike Pinder, it is a really good read, and features his own excellent illustrations. This book has proved very popular with both birdwatchers and the public alike.

We also publish on-line and in our annual report the *Huddersfield List*, a checklist of all the species of wild birds and additional races that have officially been accepted as having been recorded in the area. This is now updated annually as a 'tick list' to enable birders to record their own yearly and lifetime sightings around Huddersfield.

Our publications are to be found in the Huddersfield Library and go to many regional and national ornithological and wildlife conservation bodies.

The majority of the Club archive, including all of our reports since 1966, is available in digital format on our website for viewing by the public. This is an invaluable source for everyone interested in the history of the birds of the area.

## 2. Promoting education of the public about wild birds and their habitats:

Our lecture and meeting programme runs between September and May each year, at which visiting experts present on a wide range of birding topics, from local to overseas, with some stunning still and video photography. We also have a wealth of birding and photographic expertise within the Club and enjoy presentations from members equally as knowledgeable and fascinating as our visitors.



Our website [www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk](http://www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk) contains information about birding in the area, as well as about the Club and our activities. The forum is open to public view and shows the latest local bird sightings posted by members, often with photos, and is a great way of finding out what is around. There is also a Twitter feed @Hudds\_BWC through which members and supporters share their birding sightings and experiences.

### **3. Supporting research into conservation of wild birds and their habitats:**

Readers will be only too well aware of the threat to many of our wild birds, but if conservation is to be effective, it needs to be based upon hard evidence and research. This is where the Club comes in. We have members with substantial experience in bird observation and surveying and there is also a role for less experienced volunteers.

The Club has played a major role in many bird life surveys of local, regional and national importance, including over 50 for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), RSPB, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park, Kirklees Metropolitan Council and The Friends of Beaumont Park. We also advise Kirklees Council on bird life issues and provide data in connection with planning applications.

We aim to undertake a survey programme of some type every year of a part of the Club area or of a particular species.

In 2014/15 we launched a nest box scheme, working with another local charity the Bridgewood Trust that provides support for adults with learning difficulties, and which built the boxes at their centre in Edgerton, providing occupational work for people in their care. Boxes were provided free of charge to several local woodlands, targeting threatened species such as Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, as well as more common species.

Our work is undertaken entirely by un-paid volunteers, and we rely entirely upon the generosity of members and upon voluntary donations to continue our work.

Members of the public are welcome to all of our meetings and patch outings, free of charge (voluntary donation), and we try to provide something for birdwatchers of all tastes and experience. It is a great way to learn about birds and to meet fellow birders. So, whether old hand or beginner, why not come along and join us? Members receive a free copy of our Birds in Huddersfield annual report. Simply contact Hazel Sill or any member of the Committee - see page 153 or visit our website for more information.

[www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk](http://www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk)



## 2021: THE BIRDING YEAR

Let's hope that this year is a step in the right direction after the last couple of years, and that we can return to some normality. The total of species recorded in our area this year was 169 and three sub species. This is five more than last year but three down on the average of the previous 10 years. No new species to our area were seen but as usual there were some welcome rarely recorded ones.

### JANUARY.

The year started where the previous one had left off, with temperatures hovering around freezing with some snow and strong NE winds. Little wonder that the **Yellow-browed Warbler** remained at Horbury SW until 4<sup>th</sup>, no less than 30 early **Skylarks** were feeding near Farnley Tyas on 2<sup>nd</sup> and on the same day the first **Curlew** of the year appeared in a snowstorm at Thurlstonland, whilst the day after three **Jack Snipe** were found at Farnley Tyas. The first and highest count of 200 **Pink-footed Geese** went over Fixby also on 3<sup>rd</sup> with the 4<sup>th</sup> bringing 12 **Whooper Swans** NW over Blackmoorfoot, where 50 **Golden Plovers** were present too.

Conditions started to change on 10<sup>th</sup> with SW winds, whilst temperatures fluctuated from just above freezing to just short of double figures. A **Little Egret** appeared at Lockwood and a **Water Rail** at Cromwell Bottom with some **Stonechats** being recorded on higher ground. **Redwing** numbers were quite low as were **Brambling**. The 17<sup>th</sup> brought the first **Merlin**, chasing **Pied Wagtails** at Horbury SW, 11 **Shovelers** to Horbury Strands/Wike and two **Green Sandpipers** near Clayton West SW. At Bretton Park on 18<sup>th</sup> a single **Pochard** was on the lake and 100 **Lapwing** were present.

Then on the 19<sup>th</sup>, storm Christoph was approaching with heavy rain on a SW wind throughout the night, with the 20<sup>th</sup> bringing widespread flooding to much of the Country and in the evening a good covering of snow to our area. The snow was heavier on 21<sup>st</sup> and temperatures fell once again to around freezing for the remainder of the month.

Despite this the first **Blackcap** showed, at Blackmoorfoot 14 **Shelduck** were present on 25<sup>th</sup> as were 89 **Wigeon** at Broadstone Res. the same day. A **Yellow-legged Gull** roosted at Blackmoorfoot as well as Juvenile **Iceland Gulls**, **Caspian** and a **Mediterranean** to round off a good month here and overall.

### FEBRUARY

The first day of February saw the same cold weather and the first **Crossbill** of the year to Holme Styes and a welcome **Firecrest** to Cromwell Bottom, which managed to stay until 16<sup>th</sup> March. Worse wintery conditions with a good covering of snow arrived on 2<sup>nd</sup> and nothing much of interest until a **Green Sandpiper** was found feeding at Clayton West on 4<sup>th</sup> and the following day the first **Oystercatcher** arrived at Horbury Wyke, and a **Mediterranean Gull** was in the Blackmoorfoot roost where regular **Iceland Gulls** were also still seen.

By 7<sup>th</sup>, as 330 **Redwings** were found feeding at Almondbury, we were back to NE winds, zero temperatures and snow for the next week and with the Jet Stream pushing across below us it brought very cold weather from the Continent and what amounted to a mini-Beast from The East. Apt perhaps that 28 **Whooper Swans** flew N over Langsett on 12<sup>th</sup> and four **Dunlin** visited Blackmoorfoot on 13<sup>th</sup>. The same day that Greenhead Park Lake even saw the first ice skaters for 100 yrs. A thaw started the following day and the milder weather stayed for most of the remainder of the month with a lot of rain on strong S Westerlies.

Broadstone saw 20 **Brambling** on 15<sup>th</sup>, a **Red Kite** flew over Holmfirth on 16<sup>th</sup>, the same day as a welcome **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was heard in Honley Wood and on 18<sup>th</sup> a **Ringed Plover** visited Langsett on 18<sup>th</sup>. On 21<sup>st</sup> 15 **Skylark** were feeding amongst stubble at Broadstone, and the following day 160 **Linnet** were there too with the first **Hen Harrier** of the year passing over Tinker Hill.

The first good count of 18 **Curlews** were on Thick Hollins Moor on 25<sup>th</sup>, 100 **Fieldfare** at Wards End the day after and three **Goldcrest** at Lockwood and 40 Lesser Redpoll brought the month to an end.

## MARCH

With high pressure from the Continent continuing, conditions were mainly cold, still and damp with some fog. Single **Caspian Gulls** were found at Blackmoorfoot and Dewsbury on 4<sup>th</sup>, with 54 **Curlews** on Thick Hollins Moor the day after. Then the first **Crossbills** of note, 30, flew from Crossley's Plantation on 7<sup>th</sup> when a **White-Fronted Goose** was on Broadstone Res. The 9<sup>th</sup> saw a **Little Egret** at Bretton, 23 **Oystercatchers** at Haddingley Lane and the first **Hen Harrier** of the year, a 'Ringtail' over Ramsden Clough.

The wind had changed to W and by 10<sup>th</sup> the Jet Stream brought us heavy rain on a gale force wind and these same conditions lasted until the 14<sup>th</sup> with even some sleet. Even so, the first **Osprey** arrived flying N over Rastrick, and 73 **Curlews** were at Holme Styes, both on 11<sup>th</sup>. Nothing much of note then although **Red Kites** began to appear at a few locations, two **Shelduck** were on Royd Moor Res. on 16<sup>th</sup> and some three-figure counts of **Fieldfare** were seen. Between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> movement of **Whooper Swans** was observed at 11 sites and nocturnal **Common Scoter** and even **Water Rail** were heard over. What was considered the first returning **Blackcap** turned up on 20<sup>th</sup> at Hepworth with no less than seven **Bullfinch** visiting a Linthwaite garden following day. The first **Redshanks** arrived with two at Boshaw Whams and Ramsden Clough. The first **Merlins** were around the Wards End area on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> on which date close-by on March Haigh Res. a male **Red-Breasted Merganser** appeared. Our earliest ever **Common Tern** by a fair margin visited Blackmoorfoot on 24<sup>th</sup> where on 27<sup>th</sup> the first **Sand Martins**, five, flew W.

Temperatures were rising somewhat with variable wind directions and the final two days brought temperatures of up to 20c and sunshine. On 29<sup>th</sup> the last **Goldeneye** left Blackmoorfoot with the first **Ring Ouzel** at Wards End farm on 30<sup>th</sup> when the first **Swallow** went over Fixby, with the last day bringing more **Swallows** to four locations and the first **Willow Warblers** arriving, with one at Ingbirchworth and three at Broadstone Heath.

## APRIL

All change weatherwise on 1<sup>st</sup> as a NE wind brought cooler conditions and the first **House Martin** of the year at Blackmoorfoot and a **Twite** at Penistone. The 2<sup>nd</sup> saw a **White Wagtail** at Meltham Mills SW and not too far away, 50 **Whooper Swans** were counted over from Blackmoorfoot. The following day the first **Little Ringed Plover** was at Ingbirchworth, and **Merlins** were recorded at three different sites. Then on 5<sup>th</sup> a strong NNE from the Arctic saw temperatures fall further. A male **Hen Harrier** visited Dunford Bridge on 5<sup>th</sup> and 625 **Golden Plover** fed at Whitley Common the day after. The 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> brought a flurry of nocturnal records of **Common Scoter** passing over our area, with a change for a day on 8<sup>th</sup> with showers becoming wintery, on this date a welcome **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was found at Bretton Park and no less than 150 **Sand Martins** were at Dewsbury SW with one or two **Red Kites** being seen. The 9<sup>th</sup> saw the first **Common Sandpiper** on the Calder and was followed by many more at various sites and a **Black**

**Redstart** visited Blackmoorfoot on the same date. High pressure and temperatures below freezing took over by 11<sup>th</sup> and these quite calm conditions continued for some time.

The first **Pied Flycatcher** on 12<sup>th</sup> at Cliff Wood brought a rush of firsts, with a **Yellow Wagtail** over Boshaw Whamson 13<sup>th</sup>, with **Ringed Plovers** at Bird's Edge and Boshaw Whams on 14<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile a **Water Pipit** had visited Wards End Farm on 13<sup>th</sup>. A busy day then at Stirley Hill Farm on 15<sup>th</sup>, with first **Swift**, **Garden Warbler** and **Whitethroat**. Things calmed down a little until the last **Brambling** departed from Carlecotes Ponds on 19<sup>th</sup>, the last **Pink-footed Goose** and 7 **Whooper Swans** did the same over Horbury, Wyke and Blackmoorfoot respectively on 20<sup>th</sup>, which also brought more arrivals, in the shape of a **Redstart** at Thongsbridge, **Grasshopper Warbler** at Broadstone Res. and other sites and **Cuckoos** at Deer Hill and four more places.

Things moved apace with a **Lesser Whitethroat** at Cheesegate Nab and interestingly a nocturnal **Avocet** recorded over Thongsbridge on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A **Bar-Tailed Godwit** was an unexpected treat at Boshaw Whams on 25<sup>th</sup> and an **Osprey** flew over Wards End Farm the following day with 27<sup>th</sup> seeing the last **Goldeneye** of the winter at March Haigh Res. and the first **Whinchats** at three locations with a **Little Egret** still present from 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Calder.

Suddenly on 28<sup>th</sup> a strong, very cold NE took over, the day that two, perhaps aptly named **Arctic Skuas** struggled into it past Wards End Farm and 150 **Swallows** sought shelter at Elland GP with the same conditions bringing a productive month to an end,

## MAY.

Brought the last of the previous month's weather and the first day saw 45 **Fieldfare** still at Red Lane, Meltham with 90 at Broadstone and the **Black Redstart** that had been visiting a Shepley garden was finally seen. The following day at Broadstone Res. no less than six **Garden Warblers** were counted. A Westerly then took over and low pressure with a vengeance arrived on 3<sup>rd</sup> with torrential rain on a force 7 S Westerly and low temperatures. This didn't hold things up though and the same day saw a **Grasshopper Warbler** at Broadstone Heath, two **Ringed Plover** still at Boshaw Whams, **Little Ringed Plovers** at four sites and a **Sedge Warbler** feeding at Ingbirchworth. Two more 'firsts' arrived on 5<sup>th</sup> with **Hobbies** at Scout Dike and Wards End Farm and **Whimbrels** visiting Deer Hill and Blackmoorfoot. Dewsbury SW held impressive counts of 150 **Swallows** and 350 **House Martins** on 6<sup>th</sup>, the same day that a **Green Sandpiper** was found on the Calder at Earlsheaton. A visiting **Arctic Tern** departed W from Woodhead Res. on 8<sup>th</sup>, with light Easterlies taking over on 9<sup>th</sup>, two **Yellow** and a **White Wagtail** were at Horbury SW where two **Common Terns** were seen on the nearby canal the following day. The 11<sup>th</sup> then brought the first **Tree Pipit** at Yatholme and the last **Ring Ouzel** at Langsett, with another **Tern**, this time a **Sandwich**, passing S over Linthwaite on 12<sup>th</sup>, and a night-time **Water Rail** being recorded over Thongsbridge both on 12<sup>th</sup>.

Back to Dewsbury SW on 14<sup>th</sup> and more good counts, this time 200 **Swifts** and 50 pairs of **Sand Martins** and on this same date the welcome sound of a **Reed Warbler** at Kerry's NR. An **Osprey** flew E over Rastrick, eight **Yellowhammers** visited Ingbirchworth and the first of the usual late arrival, **Spotted Flycatcher** was at Dove Stone all on 16<sup>th</sup>. Westerlies then arrived on 17<sup>th</sup> with rain, some heavy, more or less until the month end. With most arrivals completed there was little else of any note apart from a nice adult **Spoonbill** at Horbury Strands/Wyke on 25<sup>th</sup> and another **Reed Warbler**, this time at Cromwell Bottom on 27<sup>th</sup>

## JUNE

This is the month when we try to assess the progress or not of some of our rarer breeders and it may have been made easier this year as finally temperatures reached into the 20c's for the first two weeks. As is usual there are winners and losers in this exercise but that doesn't mean that they won't be reversed next year as we are dealing with such low numbers in far spread locations and with different reasons for different species.

Good to have **Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers** seen at three places this year, **Barn Owls** are doing much better, thanks to some well-placed nest boxes, but always prone to fluctuations in prey numbers. **Hobby** too is a species on the increase though very wary around nesting sites and hard to pin down. After much on-going work to improve our surrounding moorland **Dunlins** appear to be taking full advantage. **Grasshopper Warblers** though prone to annual fluctuations are usually reeling at a good number of places now, with many more sites in more remote areas likely not even found. **Nightjars** continue at the usual locations, with this year appearing to have been a successful one and for **Woodcock** too. **House** and **Tree Sparrows** are increasing now after years of struggle, and we now have three successful pairs of urban **Peregrines** after years of persecution.

Others doing not so well, **Cuckoo** numbers were down this year, just one pair of **Little-Ringed Plovers** were present through the breeding season but probably weren't successful. Many species are either in decline or their population is shifting, and we are just a part of it. The reasons for this are more often to do with climatic problems both in their wintering grounds and on migration routes, with probably much of it to do with global warming. Singing males often heard in spring doesn't guarantee successful breeding, not even breeding at all, as many are just passing through. **Wood Warbler** is often guilty of this, as is the case this year. **Yellow Wagtail** and **Tree Pipit** are well recorded here but are mainly just passing through, though they were both regular breeders in the past. Others with wintering problems that can be seen even through our own records are **Pied Flycatcher**, with despite singing males, no proof of breeding, **Spotted Flycatcher** with numbers down and proven breeding at just three sites. **Garden Warbler** though seen regularly, numbers are falling and was proven to have bred at just two locations this year. Perhaps, because our area was a stronghold for years, **Whinchat**, of which numbers have dropped dramatically, and just by following the records in our own annual reports shows by how much. Finally, a resident, **Willow Tit**, which although there was no definite proof of breeding noted, there were a good number of birds found in a few locations.

## JULY.

Can be a month without a lot of activity and as the same rainy weather conditions continued this year was no exception. It stopped finally on 7<sup>th</sup>, the day a **Common Tern** flew W at Blackmoorfoot and on 9<sup>th</sup> **Hobbies** were seen at five locations. A good count of 26 **Common Scoter** were on Ingbirchworth on 13<sup>th</sup>. Flocks of post breeding **Meadow Pipits** were now being seen at a number of locations and as we entered a period of high pressure and temperatures into the high 20's **Grasshopper Warblers** were reeling again, and a **Tree Pipit** flew over Dove Stone. **Lapwings** began to gather, with a flock of 300 at Windmill Lane on 17<sup>th</sup>, when two **Green Sandpipers** left SE from Harden Res. a **Lesser Whitethroat**, scarce this year, was spotted at Denby Dale and up to 10 **Stonechats** were around the Wards End Farm area where also a juvenile **Grasshopper Warbler** visited on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The same location saw 160 **Goldfinch** on 25<sup>th</sup> and a **Sedge Warbler** on 26<sup>th</sup>. A spell of S Westerlies with lots of rain then saw out the rest of the month with the highlights being

500 **Swift** over Broadstone Res. on 28<sup>th</sup> and on the last day, six **Spotted Flycatchers** at Wards End and a **Merlin** chasing **Meadow Pipits** over Saddleworth Moor.

## AUGUST.

The month opened with benign mild weather and 90 **Goldfinch** at Wards End on 1<sup>st</sup> it was the highest of some low counts. A **Redstart** at Scammonden on 3<sup>rd</sup> was the first of many here over the month and at Blackmoorfoot on the same day, a 'cream crown' **Marsh Harrier** flew over. A **Yellow Wagtail** appeared at Wards End on 4<sup>th</sup> and that night a **Turnstone** was recorded over Thongsbridge. On 6<sup>th</sup> heavy rain on a force 6 S Westerly took over for a while though a **Grasshopper Warbler** was still showing at Deanhead Res. and returning **Wheatears** were visible but only in small numbers. A juvenile **Yellow-legged Gull** visited Langsett on 8<sup>th</sup> and up to six **Spotted Flycatchers** were around Wards End Farm on 10<sup>th</sup>. **Lapwings** were now beginning to gather and 100 were at Broadstone Res. on 12<sup>th</sup>, the same day as a **Merlin** headed W over Harden Quarries and the high number of 10 **Whimbrel** were feeding at Ingbirchworth Res.

Another night-time recording over Thongsbridge, this time a **Green Sandpiper** on 13<sup>th</sup>. Four **Red Kite** and five **Hobbies** were recorded over this period and an **Osprey** passed low S over Wards End Farm on 15<sup>th</sup>, the same day that 12 **Chiffchaffs** were in a Thongsbridge garden whilst the following day saw the last **Cuckoo** of the year. Conditions were much drier by now and by 20<sup>th</sup> temperatures were into the mid-20s. A **Ringed Plover** was heard passing W over Harden Quarries, and a **Tree Pipit** moved S with the following day a **Sedge Warbler** close to Wards End Farm a day later on 21<sup>st</sup>.

The first of the returning **Whinchats** was found on 22<sup>nd</sup> with another **Osprey** high W over Marsden the day after. Then after some heavy showers the 24<sup>th</sup> brought counts of 10 **Sand Martin** at Horbury Wike, 36 **House Martin** at Blackmoorfoot and a **Whimbrel** N at Harden Quarries. Langsett had a **Little Egret** on 25<sup>th</sup>, then until the month end the country was under a high pressure and NE wind but still mild. A **Yellow Wagtail** was at Boshaw Whams on 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 **Willow Warblers** at Scammonden and a **Hen Harrier** at Wards End on 27<sup>th</sup>, a **Tree Pipit** S at Harden, a maximum count of 50 **Swallows** and a **Garganey** at Blackmoorfoot on 28<sup>th</sup>. Two nice records then on 30<sup>th</sup>, with another **Marsh Harrier** S over Blackmoorfoot and a welcome, if brief, flock of 20 **Twite** at Wards End Farm and the final day Scammonden ending the month where it started, though this time with three **Redstart**.

## SEPTEMBER.

The same mild conditions continued with the 1<sup>st</sup> seeing an **Arctic Tern** depart W from Blackmoorfoot, a **Greater Scaup** on Deanhead Res. and a **Greenshank** at Langsett with another there on 4<sup>th</sup>. With temperatures rising a **Reed Warbler** visited a Fixby garden on 5<sup>th</sup> and at Marsden the following day a **Marsh Harrier** and an **Osprey** were viewed from Wards End Farm whilst six **Ring Ouzel** flew S over Pule Hill. Warm air from France then arrived briefly giving 25c on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. On the first date the final **Swift** flew high W over Wards End where the last **Grasshopper Warbler** was flushed and the day after the last **Sand Martins**, two, flew S over Harden Quarries with 40 **House Martins** still at Broadstone and a great count of no less than 26 **Snipe** at Cupwith Res. Despite a downpour on the afternoon of 9<sup>th</sup> the last **Lesser Whitethroat** was in the garden at Wards End Farm, the last **Common Sandpiper** was seen at Blackmoorfoot, and another **Marsh Harrier** flew high W up the Colne Valley. Continuing on the raptor theme **Merlins** were recorded from six different sites, 10 **Kestrel** were feeding along the edge of the Colne Valley and an **Osprey** went S over the same location on 11th. On this same date four **Yellow Wagtail** visited Boshaw Whams and 49 **Pied Wagtails** were feeding on Marsden Cricket Field. We

were back to S Westerlies by now and for most of the remainder of the month The 12<sup>th</sup> was a busy day, the last **Redstart** stopped over at the Wards End garden. The same location, together with Blackmoorfoot also had the last **Spotted Flycatcher** of the year with a **White Wagtail** also present at the former and a **Hen Harrier** viewed from Harden Quarries. A **Redshank** paid a visit to Deer Hill on 13<sup>th</sup> when 42 Swallows were still frequenting Blackmoorfoot with the first of these venues also hosting two **Dunlin** the following day. On 13<sup>th</sup> the first of many **Hen Harrier** records came from Marsden, whilst 12 **Wheatear** were counted at nearby Buckstones car park on 15<sup>th</sup> the same day that the last **Whinchat** was at Wards End, the last **Whitethroat** was seen at Penistone and the last **Yellow Wagtail** was feeding at Marsden Golf Course the day after. We were back into a period of SW winds and temperatures over 20c again and on 17<sup>th</sup> the only **Red Kite** of the month flew W over Blackmoorfoot, and seven **Buzzards** were circling overhead. Heavy rain on 19<sup>th</sup> and the last **Willow Warbler** was at Wilshaw on 20<sup>th</sup>. Blackmoorfoot saw two **Ringed Plover** together with two **Dunlin** fly W on 22<sup>nd</sup> and the following day the first **Pink-footed Geese** arrived with 90 flying W over the Calder at Dewsbury and two days later the first **Whooper Swans**, as four flew W at Pule Hill and yet another ‘first’ with a **Brambling** at Hade Edge on 26<sup>th</sup>. This same day the Royd Moor Hill observers counted 70 Teal flying E and at Maythorn 300 **Lapwings** had gathered as had 40 **Swallows** and the last **Hobby** passing low over Shepley on 28<sup>th</sup> was the last bird of note and the month came to an end with ‘deluges’ on the last day.

## OCTOBER.

The same rain continued and the first returning **Ring Ouzel** visited Wards End Farm on 1<sup>st</sup> and a welcome **Hawfinch** flew SE over Harden Quarries the day after. The 3<sup>rd</sup> saw a flock of 100 **Linnets** at Hartcliff Hill, single **Wheatears** at three locations, the last **House Martins** as five flew over Lower Maythorn and the first **Fieldfares** when 15 flew S over Wards End Farm. On 6<sup>th</sup> over 6,000 **Pink-footed Geese** flew E over our area with the bulk over Harden Quarries and a **Mediterranean Gull** roosted on Langsett Res. whilst the first **Redwings** of the winter, five, flew SE over Pule Hill. Milder weather with temperatures reaching 20c on 8<sup>th</sup> ensued and **Tree Pipits** were heard over Harden Quarries in a bumper year for the species here. Bramblings however were in short supply up to now. Harden Quarries also had a **Rock Pipit** flying S on 9<sup>th</sup> when a **Great White Egret** flew W at Ringstone Edge and also a flock of 22 of the ever less common **Collared Dove** at Oldfield. Again, another **Hawfinch** went SE over Harden Quarries on 10<sup>th</sup>. On 12<sup>th</sup> a forlorn looking juvenile **Swallow** on a cold, grey day rested on wires briefly at Wards End Farm and in the Marsden area as a whole, eight **Merlin** records were forthcoming. These lower temperatures and overcast conditions prevailed and a **Little Egret** appeared at Blackmoorfoot on 14<sup>th</sup>, with perhaps the same bird again on 16<sup>th</sup> with one appearing on the shore at Royd Edge the same day and the last **Curlew** at Broadstone also on 16<sup>th</sup>. Heavy rain and gales from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> saw a Male **Hen Harrier** at Wards End with a **Jack Snipe** at Cupwith the day after and an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** the day after that. Cold NN Westerlies arrived on 21<sup>st</sup> and seven **Great Crested Grebe** were on Royd Moor Res. where 10 **Yellowhammers** also visited together with 20 **Skylarks**. Single **Red Kites** visited Blackmoorfoot on this same day and on 26<sup>th</sup> and in the meantime a **Little Egret** flew over Champaney Hill on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Blackmoorfoot saw both 24 **Wigeon** and three **Pintail** on the water on 25<sup>th</sup> and over 5,000 **Starlings** were counted over our visible migration watchpoints. Still on the wildfowl theme, a total of 52 **Teal** were on Langsett on 26<sup>th</sup> as was an adult **Mediterranean Gull** and with

heavy rain and flooding in the north of the country until the heaviest on the last day, there was just time for the first **Goldeneye** to show at Blackmoorfoot on 30<sup>th</sup>.

## NOVEMBER.

What had been almost two weeks of constant wet weather continued and a **Jack Snipe** was flushed close to Wards End Farm. Then temperatures fell on 3<sup>rd</sup> but was mainly dry with 150 **Golden Plover** feeding at Broadstone Res. and **Bramblings** noted by their near absence up to now, with just the occasional single being seen. Between 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, a **Pintail** was on Blackmoorfoot and on the former date a **Yellow-legged Gull** visited Cromwell Bottom. Then damp and overcast weather set in as a **Great White Egret** flew W at Baitings Res. on 5<sup>th</sup> with the following day Blackmoorfoot hosting the first of a scattering of **Goldeneye** and another **Hen Harrier** was close to Wards End Farm. The 8<sup>th</sup> saw the highest count of **Bullfinch** of the year, eight, at Holme Styes and by now up to 250 **Lapwing** were gathered around Blackmoorfoot. On 10<sup>th</sup> Bretton Park hosted seven **Shovelers** and five **Gadwall** with 550 **Fieldfare** at Langsett and a wintering **Chiffchaff** in a Thongsbridge garden the day after, the same day as yet another **Hawfinch** flew SE over Harden Quarries. Then nothing much of note until 15<sup>th</sup> when a **Green Sandpiper** flew SW past Wards End Farm and over 3,500 **Pink-footed Geese** passed over our area, with the most over Harden Quarries. Blackmoorfoot Res. had a 1<sup>st</sup> Winter **Mediterranean Gull** in the roost on 17<sup>th</sup> and a **Pintail** there on 19<sup>th</sup> whilst 76 **Teal** were on Langsett on 21<sup>st</sup>.

Cold and frosty conditions came on 22<sup>nd</sup> with the next bird of note being an Adult **Caspian Gull** in the Blackmoorfoot roost on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a wintering **Chiffchaff** at Ladywood Lakes on 24<sup>th</sup> with the 25<sup>th</sup> seeing 24 **Wigeon** on the water and a **Little Egret** W over Blackmoorfoot. Then with storm 'Arwen' brewing and the wind swinging round to the NW bringing snow and some below freezing temperatures the only noteworthy records, despite the conditions, were up to five **Stonechats** present on the edge of Marsden Moor and double figure counts of **Reed Buntings** in the Wards End Garden.

## DECEMBER.

Temperatures were still around freezing, and the 1<sup>st</sup> brought a **Goldeneye** to Blackmoorfoot with this being the forerunner of 10 records throughout the month, albeit just ones and twos. A **Hen Harrier** on 2<sup>nd</sup> was the first of three records from Wards End Farm with 3<sup>rd</sup> bringing an adult **Caspian Gull** to the Blackmoorfoot roost with this same bird seen on a further seven occasions. On the same day, an adult **Mediterranean Gull** flew SW over Panna Dam in Meltham. Wintery showers arrived on 4<sup>th</sup>, though five **Stonechats** were still at Broadstone Res. on 5<sup>th</sup> with 75 **Golden Plover** flushed by a **Buzzard** on Garside Hey and 30 **Brambling** briefly visiting Wards End on 7<sup>th</sup>. Another Storm, this time 'Barra' on 8<sup>th</sup>, bringing driving rain on strong S Westerlies. An adult **Mediterranean Gull** roosted at Blackmoorfoot on 10<sup>th</sup>, with a different individual there on 11<sup>th</sup>. The highest count of **Teal**, 96, were on Langsett on 12<sup>th</sup> and six **Snipe** were still at Deer Hill on the same date. With much mist over parts of our area 14 **Reed Bunting** were in the Wards End garden on 13<sup>th</sup>, the same date that a lingering **Meadow Pipit** was on the moor nearby and the highest count of **Redwings**, a mere 90, were at Wood Nook on 14<sup>th</sup>. Little then until what must have been the impressive sight of 61 **Mute Swans** at Ravensthorpe on 18<sup>th</sup>, with the following day seeing a now scarce **Pochard**, a male, over Cheesegate Nab on 19<sup>th</sup> with at Ingbirchworth Res. the day after, a female, which was also present on a further three occasions. Still on 20<sup>th</sup> and another **Mediterranean Gull** was at Blackmoorfoot with a **Stonechat** nearby on Meltham Cop on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A good covering of snow came on 26<sup>th</sup> and a roost of 50 **Magpies** was counted at Thurlstonland on 28<sup>th</sup> with Gull roost counts at Blackmoorfoot of 2,500



**Black-headed**, 500 **Common** and 190 **Herring**, all on 28<sup>th</sup>. Back to strong S Winds and heavy rain. A **Peregrine** was around Thurlstonland Bank on 29<sup>th</sup> and with temperatures up to 11c on 30<sup>th</sup> with warm air from the sub tropics 200 **Lapwing** were feeding at Slaithwaite Road. Meltham and the final day seeing 450 **Pink-footed-Geese** over Blackmoorfoot, where an **Iceland Gull** roosted and the highest count of **Fieldfare** for the month, 140, at Ingbirchworth, bringing the month and the year to an end.  
Dave Sill

## NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

The area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE02 and SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pit and Dewsbury Sewage Farm. See also the map inside the rear cover.

Following a detailed review by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee in 2017, the BOU announced that it would adopt, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, the International Ornithological Union's (IOU) IOC World Bird List for all its taxonomic needs, including the British List. In line with that decision, the taxonomic order of Club reports follows that recommendation.

The most recent IOC World Bird List (v. 10.1), although incorporating a new taxonomic order, which the Club has adopted, makes no scientific name changes.

The status of each species is indicated by the following classifications:

Resident breeder	Migrant breeder	Partial migrant
Winter visitor	Passage visitor	Rare visitor
Vagrant		

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

1.	1-20 pairs per year	4.	510-2500 pairs per year
2.	21-100 pairs per year	5.	2501 or more pairs per year
3.	101-500 pairs per year		

These figures were derived from data gathered during the Club's breeding atlas undertaken in the years 1987-92. Since this time a number of species have decreased alarmingly e.g. Whinchat but, due to a lack of detailed information, it would be an impossible task to judge the numbers now involved. In an effort to overcome this problem, although retaining the original estimate, any species which has shown a noticeable decline has now been indicated.

Species that are 'Red listed' in the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) *The State of the UK's Birds 2020*, i.e., those of high concern, are marked accordingly. Precise locations for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1981) and for some other sensitive species have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication might lead to harmful disturbance.

**Abbreviations:** the following have been used in order to keep the text concise:

c.	-approximately	GP	-Gravel Pit	CP	-Country Park
N	-North	NR	-Nature Reserve	Viz	-Visible
S	-South	SW	-Sewage Works	mig	migration
E	-East	SP	-Sludge Plant		
W	-West	Res.	-Reservoir		

On page 136 is a complete list, 'The Huddersfield List', of the 277 species and 14 additional distinct races of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2021. The List incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

All reports of rare and unusual species and races that require a description have been assessed by the Club Records Committee, Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU) Adjudication Panel or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC), as appropriate.

A comprehensive list of co-ordinates of sites within the Club area can be found on our web site:

**[www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk](http://www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk)**

## CLASSIFIED LIST 2021

**CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis***  
**Resident breeder, increased to (2-3), 50-150 pairs**

Monthly maxima at regularly occupied sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Windy Bank Res.	nc	7	1	1	nc	nc	nc	2	nc	30	50	50
Ingbirchworth Res.	nc	nc	nc	2	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	200	200	59
Scout Dike Res.	120	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	200	300
Broadstone Res.	220	220	70	nc	nc	nc	15	36	96	nc	30	nc
Royd Moor Res.	6	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	15	nc	150	nc	nc
Ringstone Edge Res.	nc	34	22	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	30	nc	nc	nc
March Haigh Res.	nc	6	16	10	nc	10	nc	nc	8	19	nc	14
Blackmoorfoot Res.	3	14	13	4	3	5	0	116	4	61	74	93
BMF days present	1	11	24	11	5	3	0	23	4	11	11	17

Records were received from 27 locations (31 in 2020 and 42 in 2019). Apart from those tabulated above, the only counts of 25 or more were as follows.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – 250 on 17<sup>th</sup> January and 40 on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Deanhead Res.** – 140 on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ladywood Lakes** - 63 on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**Dewsbury SW** – 27 on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Cupwith Res.** – 45 on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**Mirfield/Ravensthorpe** – 83 by the weir on the Calder on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

The only report of breeding was from **Lockwood Brewery Dam**, where a pair successfully raised a brood of four.

**BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis***  
**Rare visitor and occasional feral breeder (1), 0-1 pairs.**

The only record was of one with Canada Geese at **Bretton Lakes** on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser***  
**Uncommon, decreased to rare/scarce passage visitor, increasing feral visitor.**

In 2020, Ingbirchworth provided the vast majority of birds but this year that fell to the Broadstone area. Overall, the species remains under-reported.

Monthly maxima at regularly occupied sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Nov	Dec
Ingbirchworth Res.	nc	5	nc	2	nc	nc	23	6	2	108
Broadstone Res.	111	100	80	nc	nc	nc	2	80	250	nc
Bretton Lakes	80	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - birds were seen on 23 dates, a vast increase on the high of last year. Sightings fell into two distinct periods: 11 between 16<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> April and 12 between 6<sup>th</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> December. The majority of records involved no more than three individuals which were only present for the day, but four flew N on 30<sup>th</sup> March, five which arrived at 10.00hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup> April departed E at 10.30hrs. the following day, and seven accompanied the Canada Geese on 17<sup>th</sup> December. There were no long-stayers with the exception of a single which remained with Canada Geese between 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December.

Apart from those mentioned above, the only counts of more than five came from Harden Quarries, where movements assumed to be of local birds included 43 (30 SE and 13 W) on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 20 NW on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus*  
**Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.**

Passage over the area during the first winter period once again continued on a downward trend with a mere 1,102 birds in only 21 skeins, (2020 provided 5,100 birds in 57 skeins). Of the 21 skeins recorded only the following numbered more than 150:

**3<sup>rd</sup> January** - 200 at 10.58hrs. over **Fixby**.

**31<sup>st</sup> January** - 150 NW at 10.30hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**.

**9<sup>th</sup> February** - 200 N over **Wards End Farm, Marsden**.

The last skein seen was of 70 W over **Almondbury** on 27<sup>th</sup> February, though after this date nocturnal overflying birds were sound recorded on five occasions until 4<sup>th</sup> March, though numbers are impossible to determine. After this date one or two birds continued to be seen feeding together with Greylag or Canada Geese, mainly around the **Broadstone** area, on a further six dates in March, until a single was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and finally one at **Horbury Wyke** on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

The second winter period was a complete contrast however, with a total of 29,100 birds in 269 skeins passing over the area between 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> December. Compare this with the 24,000 birds in 184 skeins in 2020 and 13,800 birds in 112 skeins in 2019 and the difference is marked.

The first returning birds were reported on 23<sup>rd</sup> September with 90 W over the **River Calder** at **Dewsbury** and 70 W over the **Holme Valley**. On 24<sup>th</sup> 100 flew NW over **Honley** at 10.00hrs. and 35 flew W over **Pule Hill**, and on 25<sup>th</sup> 75 flew over the **Royd Moor Hill watch point** with 78 E over **Wards End Farm** on 26<sup>th</sup>.

The following months again provided some impressive counts, particularly 6<sup>th</sup> October

involving 6,000 individuals, and between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October 10,000 were observed. The following list contains all movements in excess of 150 birds:

**25<sup>th</sup> September** – 154 E (75 at 09.05hrs. + 19 at 09.20hrs. and 60 at 10.50hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**.

**29<sup>th</sup> September** – 176 NW (101 at 10.30hrs.+ 75 at 10.50hrs. ) over **Blackmoorfoot**. 510 (233 at 08.30hrs. 75 at 08.40hrs. 202 at 09.03hrs.) over **Harden**.

**2<sup>nd</sup> October** - 256 W at 09.41hrs. over **Fixby**.

**4<sup>th</sup> October** - 300 SE at 11.30hrs. over **Honley**. 226 (skein heard NE at 08.20hrs. + 50 NE at 08.40hrs. + 76 E at 08.50hrs. + 100 E at 08.55hrs.) over **Pule Hill**. 130 (60 E at 08.50hrs. + 70 NW at 09.16hrs.) over **Wards End Farm**. 100 NE over **Meltham**.

**6<sup>th</sup> October** – 5,760 E in 40 skeins over **Harden**. 325 E (300 at 09.25hrs. + 25 at 10.55hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**, 200 E at 09.19hrs. over **Wards End Farm**.

**7<sup>th</sup> October** – **1033 (87 NW at 08.55hrs. + 100 W at 09.10hrs. + 110 E at 09.15hrs. + 100 E at 09.45hrs. + 75 NW at 11.45hrs. + 550 ENE at 16.00hrs.)** over **Blackmoorfoot**, 150 W at 09.50hrs. over **Bolster Moor**, c.150 W at 13.45hrs. over **Lindley**, 150 E at 12.00hrs. over **Shepley**.

**8<sup>th</sup> October** – 399 W (333 in 5 skeins between 09.10hrs. and 09.45hrs. + 66 E at 09.45hrs.) over **Harden**.

**9<sup>th</sup> October** – 507 (11 S at 08.55hrs. + 130 W at 09.25hrs. + 26 W at 10.05hrs. + 10 W at 10.30hrs. + 100 W at 10.45hrs. + 160 W at 11.30hrs. + 70 W at 12.20hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**, 355 (35 E at 08.50hrs. + 120 W at 09.25hrs. + 60 W at 09.37hrs. + 100 W at 10.50hrs. + 40 NW at 10.42hrs.) over **Wards End Farm**. 207 (85 W at 09.15hrs. + 122 E at 10.02hrs.) over **Harden**.

**10<sup>th</sup> October** – 311 (97 W at 08.50hrs. + 50 E at 08.57hrs. + 116 E at 09.21hrs. + 48 W at 10.19hrs.) over **Harden**.

**11<sup>th</sup> October** – 443 (140 E at 08.35hrs. + 160 E at 08.45hrs. + 43 E at 09.40hrs. + 100 W at 09.55hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**, 408 (140 E at 08.20hrs + 90 E at 08.33hrs + 18 E at 08.35hrs. + 25 E at 08.48hrs. + 50 E at 08.50hrs. + 30 E at 09.35hrs. + 55 E at 09.50hrs.) over **Wards End Farm**. 470 (370 E in 4 skeins between 08.37hrs. and 09.12hrs. + 100 W at 09.56hrs.) over **Harden**.

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** – 236 (70 E at 09.20hrs. + 120 E at 09.25hrs. + 8 W at 09.55hrs. + 38 W at 12.15hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**. 320 (250 E at 08.50hrs. + 70 E at 09.15hrs.) over **Wards End Farm**.

**3<sup>rd</sup> November** – 1,085 (145 E at 08.30hrs. + 90 E at 08.35hrs. + 250 W at 08.35hrs. + 150 W at 08.53hrs. + 450 W at 09.00hrs.) over **Harden**. 260 (120 E at 08.30hrs. + 140 E at 11.00hrs.) over **Wards End Farm, Marsden**.

**4<sup>th</sup> November** – 150 E over **Harden**.

**6<sup>th</sup> November** – 380 E (180 at 09.50hrs. + 200 at 10.30hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**.

**9<sup>th</sup> November** – 254 W 214 (skeins of 170 + 44) at 10.25hrs. + 40 at 10.35hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**.

**11<sup>th</sup> November** – 328 (40 W at 09.50hrs. + 28 W at 10.10hrs. + 200 W at 12.20hrs. + 60 W at 12.25hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**, 250 W over **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, 245 (65 E at 09.05hrs. + 60 E at 09.15hrs. + 60 SW at 09.45hrs. + 60 W at 09.50hrs.) over **Harden**.

**13<sup>th</sup> November** – 155 E (110 at 09.05hrs. + 45 at 10.45hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**, 150 E at 09.03hrs. over **Wards End Farm, Marsden**

**15<sup>th</sup> November** – 685 (109 W at 10.20hrs. + 220 W at 10.35hrs. + 160 W at 10.50hrs. + 100 W at 11.00hrs. + 56 NW at 11.45hrs. + 40 W at 11.55hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**, 200

W at 10.30hrs. over **Cheesegate Nab**, 670 (all NW 130 at 10.25hrs. + 200 at 10.35hrs. + 160 at 10.50hrs. + 180 at 12.00hrs.). 1,000+ (5 skeins) W to NW over **Meltham Mills**.  
**20<sup>th</sup> November** – 350 (50 W at 10.50hrs. + 70 NW at 10.55hrs. + 90 NW at 11.00hrs. + 60 At 11.05hrs. + 80 W at 11.35hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**, 400 (all NW 250 at 09.45hrs. + 70 at 11.00hrs. + 80 at 12.10hrs.) over **Wards End Farm, Marsden**  
**24<sup>th</sup> November** - 170 NW at 10.25hrs. over **Wards End Farm, Marsden**  
**5<sup>th</sup> December** – 223 (44 W at 10.20hrs. + 110 W at 10.55hrs. + 26 W at 11.00hrs. + 43 W at 11.05hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**.  
**16<sup>th</sup> December** - 200 NW at 16.35hrs. over **Wards End Farm, Marsden**.  
**17<sup>th</sup> December** – 296 (210 W at 10.25hrs. + 38 NW at 10.30hrs. + 2 NW at 11.15hrs. + 46 NW at 11.45hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**, 360 (200 NW at 10.30hrs + 160 NW at 13.50hrs.) over **Wards End**  
**20<sup>th</sup> December** - 200 over **Almondbury**. 200 NW at 11.30hrs. over **New Mill**.  
**21<sup>st</sup> December** – 376 (180 W at 09.15hrs. + 66 NW at 09.35hrs. + 130 W at 11.25hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**. 300 W at 12. 15hrs. over **Marsden Golf Course**.  
**22<sup>nd</sup> December** – 204 (42 W at 09.10hrs. + 42 NW at 10.40hrs. + 120 W at 12.10hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**, 200 W over **Broadstone Res**.  
**30<sup>th</sup> December** – 277 W (37 at 11.15hrs. + 240 at 15.30hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**.  
**31<sup>st</sup> December** – 450 (200 NW at 14.30hrs. + 250 W at 16.05hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**.

At **Blackmoorfoot**, grounded birds were recorded in the company of Canada Geese as follows: in November, eight were present on 15<sup>th</sup>, three on 20<sup>th</sup>, two arrived with 46 Canada Geese on 22<sup>nd</sup> and remained for the following three days and then, in December, two were present between 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, three on 5<sup>th</sup>, and two on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons*  
**Rare visitor.**

A first-winter of the nominate Eurasian race was seen with other geese in the **Broadstone Res./Windmill Lane** area on several dates between 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March (DMW, DHP, NWM, KH *et al.*). Photographs indicated that it was almost certainly the same bird as one which had been present in the Lower Longdendale Valley, beyond our southern boundary, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*.  
**Resident, occasional breeder (1), 0-3 pairs.**

Birds were reported from a similar number of sites to last year, with definite breeding at two of them, and some exceptionally high counts.

**Windy Bank Res.** – birds continued to be seen here on every visit by the local observer, which was almost daily. The family party of six continued to be present from the previous year and into March and it wasn't until April that the number dropped to four on 13<sup>th</sup> then two on 19<sup>th</sup>. May then saw between one and four throughout, with then a maximum of just three for the next three months until five were present on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of September, then again, the only counts above three were four on 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December. It is interesting to compare the observations from this site with those from Blackmoorfoot (below).

**Horbury SW** – six were present on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and throughout the month.

**Ladywood Lakes** – 48 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> January and 32 on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**Bretton Park** – three on 18<sup>th</sup> January, two on 25<sup>th</sup> March, and seven (2 adults + 5 juveniles) on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – five were present on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and a single on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – reported as ‘present’ during January and February, with two on the canal on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - two juveniles, which records show had originated from the incestuous pair at Windy Bank Res. (see above) were present between 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April and again from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> September (when they departed S at 09.55hrs.). Three birds (the original two and what was presumed to be a sibling from Windy Bank Res.) were then present between 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September. The following day only one remained, the bird then being present until 2<sup>nd</sup> November. One of the birds returned on 21<sup>st</sup> December and remained until 27<sup>th</sup>, being joined by two others on 28<sup>th</sup>, then the last three days of the year saw two individuals in residence.

**Thornhill, Dewsbury** – a party of six on the Calder and Hebble Canal on 17<sup>th</sup> August consisted of two adults and four well grown cygnets.

**Mirfield/Ravensthorpe** – counts from the Calder in the Ladywood Lakes (see above) area included 36 adults on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 51 on 30<sup>th</sup> September, and 61 on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**Boshaw Whams** – two probable second-years present from 17<sup>th</sup> September were joined by three juveniles on 10<sup>th</sup> November, with all five then present more or less daily until at least mid-December.

### **WHOOPEER SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus*

**Scarce passage and winter visitor.**

Birds were recorded during the first winter period as follows:

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a herd of 12 flew NW at 12.00hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 38 (22 flew W up the Colne Valley at 10.40hrs. plus 16 flew NW at 11.30hrs.) on 19<sup>th</sup> March and seven flew N at 07.55hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> March. In April, 50 flew NW at 11.15hrs. on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 31 flew N at 08.55hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> and seven adults were present on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – birds were reportedly seen in February, but unfortunately no dates or numbers were provided.

**Silkstone** – 30 flew over at 10.37 hrs. on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Netherthong** – 16 flew over on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Silkstone Common** – 30 flew over on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Deffer Wood** – 32 were seen over here on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Dewsbury SW** – a single was present on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Royd Moor Hill watch point** – on 20<sup>th</sup> March 20 flew in towards Winscar.

**Shelley** – nine flew over on 20<sup>th</sup> March and 33 flew W on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Upper Denby** – 20 flew NW on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Linthwaite** – seven flew NW at 07.55hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Digley Res.** – a party of six which included two juveniles was present on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Fixby** – one flew N at 16.30hrs. and a single was sound recorded at 02.06hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Langsett** – 28 flew N over the Little Don Valley on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Birds were recorded during the second winter period as follows:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – the first returning birds were four W here at 09.40hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup>



September. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, four flew E at 08.20hrs.

**Harden Quarries** – two flew E at 08.50hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> October and three flew WNW at 07.50hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup> October with two SE at 07.30hrs. and one E with Pink-footed Geese at 09.00hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> October. Then in November, 28 (13 SE at 07.20hrs. 15 E at 08.53hrs.) on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7 E at 08.58hrs. on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – in October, five (2 adults and 3 juveniles) arrived from the E at 11.30hrs. on 7<sup>th</sup>, eight flew E down the Colne Valley at 11.00hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup>, four (2 adults and 2 juveniles) were present during the afternoon on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and two adults departed W at 08.40hrs. on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three adults were present on 18<sup>th</sup> November, eight flew NE (6 at 08.45hrs. and 2 at 09.05hrs.) on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, and four adults arrived from the E at 08.40hrs. and departed W at 10.10hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Wards End Farm** – one flew E with a skein of Pink-footed Geese on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 4 flew E at 09.50hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> November, and 9 flew E on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**Royd Moor Res.** – a single was present on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Winscar** – five adults and three immature birds were present on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Broadstone Res.** – 6 flew E over the heath on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 14 were sheltering on the water on 20<sup>th</sup> November. A maximum of two birds were recorded on three occasions in December.

**Ringstone Edge** – two departed at 11.37hrs. on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – what were thought to be the same two birds as those at Ringstone Edge (see above) arrived here at 12.00hrs. on the same day.

Nocturnal sound recordings:

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded in February at 20.27hrs. on 11<sup>th</sup>, 22.28hrs. on 27<sup>th</sup>, and 23.49hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup>, and also at 01.50hrs. on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Skelmanthorpe** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded on 11<sup>th</sup> February, and 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Fixby** - a single was sound recorded at 02.06hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> April, followed in October by 'a number' over on 16<sup>th</sup> October and a single on 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna***

**Uncommon passage visitor.**

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – there were four records (6 in 2020). The only record in the first half of the year involved a flock of 14 on 25<sup>th</sup> January. There were then no occurrences until six (4 adults and 2 juveniles) were present on 17<sup>th</sup> August, the only records thereafter involved a single on 21<sup>st</sup> December and a party of eight which departed W at 14.57hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Royd Moor Res.** - two were present on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – a single was seen on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

### **MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata***

**Rare to scarce visitor. Has bred.**

Records came in from 10 locations, well above the three of last year.

**Mirfield/Ravensthorpe** – one was on the Calder on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ladywood Lakes** – perhaps the same bird as the above was seen here on 6<sup>th</sup> January.  
**Rastrick** – a male and female were on a small pond close to the M62 motorway on 27<sup>th</sup> February.  
**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a male departed S at 08.10hrs. on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.  
**Bretton Lakes** – one on the upper lake on 8<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Hinchcliffe Mill** – one was at Bottoms Mill Dam on 9<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Butterley Res.** – a male was present on 1<sup>st</sup> May.  
**Langsett Res.** – a male was present on 5<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Ryburn Valley** – three males and two females were on the **River Ryburn** on 9<sup>th</sup> November.  
**Silkstone Common** – three in flight on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**GARGANEY** *spatula querquedula*  
**Rare passage visitor.**

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - an eclipse male was present on 28<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, GK, DM, GBS).

**SHOVELER** *Spatula clypeata*  
**Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor**

Birds were reported from six locations as opposed to the nine of last year, and only 16 records were received this year compared to the 23 of last. Despite this, the number of individuals involved was similar, with 60 this year against the 64 of last.

**Ossett Spa SF** – four were present on 17<sup>th</sup> January.  
**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – counts in January included 11 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. The only other records referred to singles on 5<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March, and three on 4<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Bretton Lakes** – three males were on the upper lake on 18<sup>th</sup> January, one was on the upper lake on 21<sup>st</sup> January and seven, (two on the upper lake and five on the lower) on 10<sup>th</sup> November  
**Dewsbury SW** – seven were present on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, with five on 20<sup>th</sup> March and two on 8<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – in comparison to 2020, when birds were present on 11 dates, this year's showing was abysmal, with only four occurrences: the only record in the first half of the year involved a male and female on 11<sup>th</sup> April. There were then no occurrences until four were present on 18<sup>th</sup> September, but the only records thereafter involved a male and female on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and a female on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**GADWALL** *Mareca strepera*  
**Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Has bred.**

The number of records remained low, coming from just six localities (6 in 2020 and 7 in 2019), and again there was no evidence of breeding (the last proof of which was in 2018).

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – one on 8<sup>th</sup> January, two on the River Calder on 17<sup>th</sup> January, and two on 4<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Dewsbury SW** – three on the River Calder on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Clayton West SW** – a male and female were on the Water Treatment Works pool on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – the only records involved a party of three (2 males) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and a female-type on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Scout Dike Res.** – a male on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Bretton Lakes** – a male and female were on the lower lake on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 11 were present on 21<sup>st</sup> September, and five were on the upper lake on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

### WIGEON *Mareca penelope*

**Common passage and winter visitor.**

Records were received from 12 waters (14 in 2020 and 11 in 2019).

In the first winter period records came from just six locations, three fewer than last year. A male and female were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> January, with four (2 males) on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February. In March, a female was present on 1<sup>st</sup> and a male and female on 25<sup>th</sup> and on 14<sup>th</sup> April. **Broadstone Res.** held birds throughout January in varying numbers from just single figures up to 89 on 25<sup>th</sup>, and these continued into February with 62 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 94 on the 20% of water which remained ice-free on 11<sup>th</sup>. 12 were still present there on 1<sup>st</sup> March. **Horbury Strands/Wyke** held 25 on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and 20 on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Unusually, the only record from **Meal Hill Lake** during this period was of 20 on 15<sup>th</sup> February. The same number were at **Horbury Wyke** on 1<sup>st</sup> March, but the only other March sightings were of 14 at **Dewsbury SW** on 20<sup>th</sup> and a single male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup>.

However, nocturnal sound recording remained productive. At **Fixby**, calls were recorded in February on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>, in March on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, and in April on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>. At **Skelmanthorpe**, birds were recorded on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> February (two flocks), and 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March. At **Thongsbridge**, nocturnal flight calls were recorded on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> (two flocks) and 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> March. The fact that birds passed over all three sites during the night of 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March is worthy of note.

There were no further records then until three appeared at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup> September, with the same month seeing eight on **March Haigh Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> and a female at **Brun Clough Res.** on 24<sup>th</sup>. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, the second winter period produced birds on twenty-seven dates between 21<sup>st</sup> September and 24<sup>th</sup> December, but flock size rarely exceeded nine (usually fewer than 4) with the exception of 24 on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Elsewhere, the only October sightings were of singles at **Boshaw Whams** on 1<sup>st</sup> and **Cupwith Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup>, with 19 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** during the last week of the month. On 1<sup>st</sup> November four were on **Broadstone Res.**, this had risen to 10 by the 15<sup>th</sup> and on this same date six were on **Meal Hill Lake**. Apart from those at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see above), there were no birds recorded during December.

Meanwhile, evidence of autumn nocturnal passage came from **Thongsbridge**, where flocks were sound recorded on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> October and twice on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> November.

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

**Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs. Common, but decreasing, winter visitor.**

Records were received from a measly 26 locations this year. This was well down on the 41 of 2020 and the 32 of 2019. However, the species remains very much under-recorded, which makes any change in population difficult to assess.

Maximum numbers at the only regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	58	60	22	18	14	18	47	43	41	42	48	37
Ingbirchworth Res.	19	40	nc	22	nc	nc	nc	52	nc	nc	20	38
Broadstone Res.	nc	4	2	8	2	7	18	6	6	nc	20	nc

Elsewhere, notable counts (30+) were received from the following locations:

**Lockwood Brewery Dam** – double figure counts in most months with a maximum of 33 in January.

**Greenhead Park** – 58 on the lake on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Royd Moor Res.** – 45 on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

**Holmfirth** – 42 on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Windy Bank Res.** – 54 on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cupwith Res.** – 68 on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Thornhill, Dewsbury** – 54 on 17<sup>th</sup> August.

**Bretton Park** – 40 on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Langsett Res.** – 60 on 26<sup>th</sup> October and the year's maximum count of 103 on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Breeding was confirmed at just six locations; exactly half of last year's total. These were **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (from a total of 62 ducklings only three reached the flying stage), **Scout Dike Res.** (13 ducklings), **Langsett** (7 ducklings), **Broadstone Res.** (13 ducklings in 2 broods), **Isle of Skye Quarry** (12 ducklings in 2 broods), and **Lockwood Brewery Dam**, where a brood of four was successfully reared.

**PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

**Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.**

There were six records this year, double those of last year, and all during the second half of the year.

**Harden Quarries** – a flock of 14 flew high NW at 07.13hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup> September (DHP, NWM).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - there were five records (2 in 2020). A flock of eight was present on 21<sup>st</sup> September, a single on 6<sup>th</sup> October, three on 25<sup>th</sup> October, a female from 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November, and a male on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**TEAL** *Anas crecca*

**Resident breeder (1), 1-20 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.**

Records were received from 23 waters, back up from the 14 of last year. Although breeding was again not proven, pairs of birds were present at the right time in at least four locations.

**Royd Moor Res.** – low single figures were reported throughout January.

**Scout Dike Res.** – reported in January but with no counts provided.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – ‘present’ in January, but with no counts provided.

**Horbury/River Calder** – four on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – during the first winter period occurrences were restricted to a male and female on 10<sup>th</sup> January, a male on 14<sup>th</sup> February, a male and four females on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, and two males on 9<sup>th</sup> April. There were then no records until ten were present on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Thereafter, birds occurred on a further 31 dates between 21<sup>st</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> December. Flock size rarely exceeded seven (usually 5 or less) with the exception of ten on 19<sup>th</sup> September and 13 on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – three on 17<sup>th</sup> January, singles on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March, and 4<sup>th</sup> April, and 10 on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ossett Spa SW** – five on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**Bretton Park** – one on 18<sup>th</sup> January, nine on 9<sup>th</sup> March, two on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and five on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**Dewsbury SW** – five on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and 65 on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Rastrick** – two on a small pond close to the M62 on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

**March Haigh Res.** – a male and female on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, two on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**Boshaw Whams** – three on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – in April, seven on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and two on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – two on 12<sup>th</sup> April and, in December, six on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 14 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Broadstone Res.** – seven on 12<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Langsett Res.** – 20 on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 52 on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 76 on 21<sup>st</sup> November and 96 on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Buckstones** – two on a nearby pool on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**Woodhead Res.** – a male and female inside our recording area on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**Deer Hill Res.** – a male on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – in May, a pair present between 12<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with a second pair on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Cupwith Res.** – five on 7<sup>th</sup> and two on 8<sup>th</sup> September and 5 on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Deanhead Res.** – 11 on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**Royd Moor Hill watch point** – 70 flew E on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Nocturnal sound recordings:

**Fixby** – flocks were recorded on four nights between 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls were sound-recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> August, 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> August, and 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> September.

**POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*

**Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Has bred.**

Eight dated records were received from five locations (2 in 2020), but probably only five

individuals were involved.

**Bretton Lakes** – a single on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – the decline in records continued, and the only one involved a male on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**March Haigh Res.** – a female on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**Cheesegate Nab** – a male flew N on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a female was seen on 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*

**Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.**

There were records from 19 locations, which was the same as last year but five down on the year before. Overall, this species remains under-recorded, with some suitable locations providing very little information. Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
BMF days present	5	6	5	2	7	6	13	31	28	15	5	4
Blackmoorfoot Res.	9	11	2	3	3	2	3	10	18	6	3	3
Ingbirchworth Res.	1	nc	3	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	7	3	16
Royd Moor Res.	12	nc	9	nc	nc	5	6	9	nc	nc	nc	nc
Bretton Lakes	9	12	13	nc	nc	nc	nc	9	9	nc	nc	nc
Windy Bank Res.	12	8	10	10	4	2	9	8	18	16	17	16

Despite the fact that pairs were seen in suitable locations, breeding was proven once again at just one, where an adult with five ducklings was seen.

**GREATER SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

**Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.**

**Deanhead Res.** – a first calendar year female, initially identified as a Common Pochard, was photographed and remained for more than one day from 1<sup>st</sup> September (CBB, AC).

**COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

**Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.**

Records came from seven locations, one more than last year, and included some impressive nocturnal sound recordings from three of them. The species is known for passing from east to west across country to wintering areas in the Irish Sea from late summer onwards, with males predominating at first and then females following on. A return movement then takes place in spring. As can be seen from the recordings below, 21<sup>st</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> April were the busiest dates for birds passing over.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a female on 19<sup>th</sup> March (NWM) and 26 (just 4 females) on 13<sup>th</sup> July (CD, DHP, NWM, II).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – there were eight records (11 in 2020 and 6 in 2019). A male arrived at 10.15hrs. on 9<sup>th</sup> April (MLD, GBS), a female was present on 17<sup>th</sup> May (MLD, GBS), ten (9 males) were seen on 25<sup>th</sup> June (MLD, GBS) and a male was present on 29<sup>th</sup> June (MLD, DM, GBS). In July, four (2 males) were present on 13<sup>th</sup> (MLD *et al.*) and two males were seen on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> (these were different males to those on 13<sup>th</sup>) (MLD, DM, GBS). The only other records involved a female-type on 11<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, GBS *et al.*) and a flock of 18 which flew W up the Colne Valley at 12.00hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> October (MLD, DM, GBS).

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – five were present on 5<sup>th</sup> July (JM), and a male on 12<sup>th</sup> August (DT).  
**Langsett Res.** – a male was present from 29<sup>th</sup> July until 6<sup>th</sup> August (RJB).

Nocturnal sound recordings:

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded at 02.09hrs. on 18<sup>th</sup> March and then in April at 02.58hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 groups of various sizes during the late evening of 7<sup>th</sup>, at 22.25hrs. and 22.43hrs. on 11<sup>th</sup>, and at 23.14hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup>. In autumn, calls from several birds were recorded at 22.04hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup> September (DHP).

**Fixby** – six nocturnal calls were recorded at 21.17hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> March. On 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> April, calls were recorded at 21.59hrs., 22.25hrs., 21.43hrs., 21.44hrs. (51 calls), 23.28hrs. (34 calls), and 00.10hrs. (12 calls) (DT).

**Skelmanthorpe** – nocturnal calls were recorded at 21.03hrs. and 21.58hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> March (KW).

### **GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

**Uncommon winter visitor.**

Records were received from ten locations, which was similar to last year.

Records from the first winter period were as follows.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – records during the first winter period were limited to a female-type on 5<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January, a male on 26<sup>th</sup> January, a male and female on 15<sup>th</sup> February, and a male from 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**Horbury** – four were on the River Calder on 7<sup>th</sup> January, with six the following day and a single on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Horbury Wyke/Strands** – three on 31<sup>st</sup> January and a single on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Dewsbury SW** – six were present on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – a single was present on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – a male was present from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**March Haigh Res.** – in April, a male was present on 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and a male and female were in display from 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> and again on 19<sup>th</sup>, but only a female was seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Fixby** – nocturnal overflying birds were recorded on 7<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January.

The second winter period showed a complete contrast to the above, with **Blackmoorfoot Res.** seeing more birds whilst everywhere else saw just the opposite.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – although birds were more in evidence during the second winter period, this only amounted to an eclipse male on 30<sup>th</sup> October, two males on 6<sup>th</sup> November, an adult female from 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November, a male and adult female on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, two adult females on 30<sup>th</sup> November and, in December, an adult female from 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>, two adult females on 6<sup>th</sup>, an adult female from 7<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, a male on 10<sup>th</sup>, a male and adult female on

20<sup>th</sup>, and an adult female on 21<sup>st</sup>. It is interesting that there were no immature birds during this period.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – a male and female were on the ski lake on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a female was present on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*

**Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred in small numbers since 2007.**

There were records from 24 localities (2 more than last year) and although during the summer months records were limited, breeding was confirmed at two sites. At **Horbury Wyke** a female and seven well grown ducklings were on a shingle island on the River Calder on 28<sup>th</sup> May. On 31<sup>st</sup> of the same month, two pairs, each with 10 young, were on the River Calder at **Ossett**.

As has become the norm, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** has become the species' stronghold, and the table below shows the monthly maxima there.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
days present	31	28	30	14	1	0	0	0	4	23	19	31
bird/days	135	134	118	31	1	0	0	0	4	45	90	113
maximum	15	10	12	7	1	0	0	0	1	3	12	8

The annual number of bird/days totalled 671, a substantial increase on the 532 in 2020 and 463 in 2019.

During the first half of the year records came from far more sites than in the second, with 21 received in addition to those above. The majority involved five birds or less, with exceptions to this as follows. **Ladywood Lakes** and the adjacent River Calder held birds regularly throughout, with the maxima in January being 11 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 7<sup>th</sup>, seven on 21<sup>st</sup>, and 17 on 25<sup>th</sup>. February records included 16 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and eight on 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in January, seven were at **Lockwood** on 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 at **Magdale Dam** on 16<sup>th</sup>, and seven at **Horbury SW** on 31<sup>st</sup>. Nine were on **March Haigh Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup> March. In May, eight were at **Horbury Wyke** on 28<sup>th</sup>, with seven on the nearby River Calder on 31<sup>st</sup>.

The second part of the year yielded records from nine locations but, apart from Blackmoorfoot (see above), only two of them held five birds or more. These were **Mirfield/Ravensthorpe**, where seven were on the River Calder on 12<sup>th</sup> November and 11 there on 18<sup>th</sup> December, and **Windy Bank Res.**, where birds were present throughout, and counts in November included six on 17<sup>th</sup>, seven on 19<sup>th</sup>, eight on 20<sup>th</sup> and six on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**RED – BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*

**Rare to scarce passage visitor.**

A male was on **March Haigh Res.** from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March.



**RED GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus*  
**Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.**

This species remains under-reported, meaning that any changes in population are difficult to assess.

**Black Hill/Harden/Ramsden Clough/Yateholme** - birds were seen throughout the year, with a flock of c.80 present on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Dunford Bridge** - four on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**Langsett** - a single on 15<sup>th</sup> February, a group of 14 on 13<sup>th</sup> April, and two on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Crossley's Plantation** - three on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Salter's Brook** - two on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Winscar** - 11 on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Cartworth Moor** - two on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Wards End Farm** - apart from one on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, all observations were between mid-October and the end of November and involved no more than two birds.

**GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*  
**Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs. Red listed.**

Sporadic records were received from seven locations, which is two fewer than last year and well down on earlier years.

**Red Lane/Brow Grains, Meltham** - three were seen on 29<sup>th</sup> January. A pair was on territory in July and August, and up to three were seen on several dates between 1<sup>st</sup> October and the end of November.

**Horbury** - six were in a field off **Hostingley Lane** on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - as is usual for this species, records were very sporadic but the presence of a family party consisting of two adults and four half-grown young on **Meltham Cop** in late July indicates how secretive the species can be. The only other records, all from **Meltham Cop**, involved a single on 16<sup>th</sup> February, three on 18<sup>th</sup> February, and singles on 11<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June, and 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Cheesgate Nab** - two on 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Broadstone Res.** - two pairs were present on the heath on 20<sup>th</sup> April, and two birds (perhaps a third pair?) were at nearby Potters Gate on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - a pair on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*  
**Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.**

Birds were recorded regularly throughout the area over the year, mainly as singles. Larger groups are listed below.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – up to four were present throughout the year and a female with six half-grown young were present on **Meltham Cop** in late July. This is only the second recorded instance of breeding at the reservoir, the other being in 1979.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a group of six was present throughout January and February with 15 seen on 6<sup>th</sup> March. A group of 10 were seen later in the year in November.

**Cawthorne** - six on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**Dunford Bridge** - ten present on 20<sup>th</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Penistone** - seven on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Cartworth Moor** - seven on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Binns Lane, Holmfirth** - eight on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa*

**Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.**

Birds were seen on a regular basis from late February until early November. The maximum count was seven in mid-September.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – there was a similar showing as last year, with five between 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February, singles on two February dates and 13<sup>th</sup> March, three on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> October, and four on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Most records were from **Meltham Cop** or the SW corner overflow field, and only once from a field to the west.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – birds were seen from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> November, with six present in April, two in early May, and six again in mid-August. These relatively small numbers are probably a sign that none were released by the ‘local shoot’ last year.

**Bretton Park and Lakes** - one on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Deanhead Clough** – in April, a pair on 2<sup>nd</sup> was followed by singles on 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Whitley Edge** – two on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Jos Lane, Shepley** – a single on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

**Salter’s Brook** - one on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Oxspring and Four Lane End, Penistone** – three on 19<sup>th</sup> May, with seven seen later in the year on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Wood Nook** - one on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**Brow Grains, Meltham** - a single and a group of five on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**Silkstone Common** - a group of three on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

**Rare visitor. Former migrant breeder, which appears to be making a comeback. Red listed.**

Two recently favoured locations again produced several June records of both females and ‘churring’ males. Five pairs appeared to be on territory at one of them, with another four or five pairs at the second. Unfortunately, no information was received from a third locality where breeding is thought to have taken place in recent years.

**SWIFT** *Apus apus*

**Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.**

The earliest bird was on 15<sup>th</sup> April, but as usual, numbers didn’t pick up until May. Overall, counts seem to have remained low, with single figure observations for the most part,

although there were one or two larger groupings in double or triple figures. The final sighting of the year was of one on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Stirley Hall Farm** – one on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a single on 27<sup>th</sup> April was the first at this site. Thereafter, birds were present on a near daily basis between 5<sup>th</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> August but, with the exception of passage birds, number rarely reached double figures. The only gatherings in excess of 20 involved 30+ on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June, 50+ on 21<sup>st</sup> June, and 25 on 24<sup>th</sup> June. There were a small number of days when higher numbers occurred on passage, all in August: 42 flew S on 7<sup>th</sup>, 30+ S on 13<sup>th</sup>, 110 S on 14<sup>th</sup>, and 210 W in a strong westerly wind on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Lindley** – up to four birds were seen regularly around the clock tower from 1<sup>st</sup> May through to the end of August.

**Royd Moor Res.** – in May, two on 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by 12 on 9<sup>th</sup>, four on the following two days, and a group of 20 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Dewsbury SW** – 50 on 6<sup>th</sup> May and 200 on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – the first was seen on 9<sup>th</sup> May, with six on 11<sup>th</sup> and five on 19<sup>th</sup>. Birds were feeding over the valley on 10 dates in June, with 47 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. On 18<sup>th</sup> June, 300+ birds moved very high W ahead of a weather front and 50 moved W on 28<sup>th</sup>. In July birds were seen flying W on 16 dates, with 45 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 40 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and 100 on 26<sup>th</sup>, although no more than five birds were seen in nearby Marsden. August saw 25 birds on 9<sup>th</sup>, 105 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 40 on 15<sup>th</sup>, and the last bird was a single moving high W on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Crosland Moor** – two on 11<sup>th</sup> May, with birds then seen daily until 19<sup>th</sup> August, although there were never more than eight at any one time. The last observation was of a single on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Golcar** – the first birds were a group of six seen on 24<sup>th</sup> May. Single figures were then seen regularly through to 20<sup>th</sup> August, with 12 on 30<sup>th</sup> May and a notable 42 on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**Meltham** – small numbers were seen from 28<sup>th</sup> May through to 28<sup>th</sup> July.

**Royd Moor Hill** – 25 on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**Bare Bones Road** - groups of 25 and 30 birds were seen on 14<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July respectively.

**Broadstone Res.** - a group of c.500 birds were seen over the reservoir and heath on the afternoon of 28<sup>th</sup> July.

**Harden Quarries** – eight flew S together on 12<sup>th</sup> August and one did likewise on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Fixby** – a total of 230 birds were seen during the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> August, with 50 flying E, 30 S, and the remaining 150 feeding.

### **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*

**Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Red listed.**

Birds were recorded between 20<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> August at just 15 locations this year, compared with 27 in 2020. All records are listed below.

**Deer Hill Res.** – song was heard regularly between 20<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Winscar** – one in song on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Later, a juvenile present on 16<sup>th</sup> August was the final record of the year.

**Ramsden Clough** – one seen and heard on 25<sup>th</sup> April, with the same or another on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Meltham Mills** – single males in song on 27<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Meltham** – up to four birds were in song throughout May in the **Royd Edge/Brow Grains** area.

**Langsett Res.** – two birds heard on 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Boshaw Whams** – one flew SSW on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Windle Edge** – one in flight on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – in May, one on 10<sup>th</sup> and one singing on 19<sup>th</sup>, with one then heard regularly between 27<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – male and female present on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a single male on 1<sup>st</sup> June was the only record.

**Yateholme** – one in song on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**Crossley's Plantation** – one on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Snailsden Res.** – a juvenile was observed being fed by a Meadow Pipit on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

**Harden Quarries** – a juvenile flew S on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

### **FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia*

**Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.**

This remains a much under-reported species, with 42 of the 70 records coming from one **Almondbury** garden.

Long-staying flocks were recorded as follows.

**Rastrick** – at least 20 were present throughout the year.

**Elland** – 50, a drop of 10 on last year, were present all year.

**Lindley** – 60 were regularly present, which is the same as in 2020.

**Holmfirth** – 10 were regularly noted.

**Greenhead Park** – a flock of up to 26 was regular here.

**Huddersfield town centre** – around 60 were present throughout.

**Almondbury** – as noted above, this garden provided over half of our records. Birds were seen throughout the year in small numbers, with a maximum of nine in June.

### **STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*

**Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.**

Birds were recorded at 32 locations, with the largest gatherings seen at **Emley**, **Skelmanthorpe**, **South Crosland**, and **Whitley Common**. Several widespread reports from gardens mostly referred to one to five birds, and usually from April onwards, but the garden at **Wards End Farm** held up to nine, and one in **Almondbury** had birds present in February.

Evidence of breeding was scarce, but there was one instance of displaying and later a juvenile at **Wards End Farm**, and one bird was heard in song at **Fixby**.

Larger assemblages were recorded at:

**South Crosland** – 37 on 1<sup>st</sup> January and 26 on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Emley** – c.100 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.  
**Skelmanthorpe** – 100 on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.  
**Whitley Common** – 35 on 15<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Ingbirchworth** – 25 on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Birds considered to be on migration were recorded as follows:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – 17 flew W on nine dates between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> November, with maxima of three W on 16<sup>th</sup> September and 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 42 flew in various directions on 19 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup> November. The maximum count was 11 SE on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Wards End Farm** – two flew W on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

### WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

**Resident breeder (4), 2,000-2,500 pairs. Numerous but irregular winter visitor.**

More records than usual were received, but many included no specific counts or were grouped over a number of days, perhaps giving the impression that numbers were slightly down. That said, maximum day counts at two migration sites reached well into the thousands. Early in the year there were a few large gatherings. Numbers then dropped off around March but started to increase again at the start of the bilberry season before reaching a peak in autumn. At **Thongsbridge** they were ever more numerous, with newly fledged young seen in February and November as well as the more usual months.

Some of the larger counts of birds deemed ‘present’ were as follows.

**Meal Hill, Hepworth** – two flocks of c.100 in each on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cartworth Moor** – c.80 in a field to the N of **Elysium** on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Wards End Farm** – in July, birds were seen daily flying to and from the moors where bilberries grow, with a maximum of 80 on 31<sup>st</sup>. In August, double figures were reported daily, with 100 on 4<sup>th</sup>, but numbers began to reduce as the bilberries were depleted.

Visible migration was noted at four sites.

**Wards End Farm** – 18 W and 550 S on 26<sup>th</sup> January with 40 N then 160 NW and 10 SE on 21<sup>st</sup> February. In March, a total of 227 flew W on nine dates, with a maximum of 100 on 30<sup>th</sup>. In October, a total of 2,838 were observed on 11 dates with maxima of 750 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 600 on 15<sup>th</sup>, and 500 on 16<sup>th</sup>. The observer suspected that poor weather conditions had a limiting effect on numbers moving here.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – 11,381 flew mainly SW on 24 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 20<sup>th</sup> November, with peak counts of 2,175 S and SW on 16<sup>th</sup> October and 2,753 SW on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – counts were undertaken on 13 dates between 15<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> November, producing a total of 20,125 birds flying mostly W and SW. Maximum counts were 5,166 on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct and 4,592 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Ramsden Clough** – c.500 flew S on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*  
Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

This species remained widely distributed, with mostly single-figure groups reported from several gardens and urban areas. Evidence of breeding was scarce, although one observer did witness copulation. The highest garden counts came from **Almondbury** (seven), **Thick Hollins, Meltham** (six), **Wooldale**, and **Golcar** (five). A garden in **Holmfirth** held fewer than usual this year, and at least two succumbed to Sparrowhawk attacks. The only double-figure flocks were seen at **Oldfield**, where 19 were counted on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> October and 22 on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Nine were at the SE corner of **Holme Styes plantation** on 12<sup>th</sup> September, with smaller numbers noted there on several other dates in autumn. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were present throughout the year, especially around the village, but never more than four were seen.

Passage birds were noted as follows.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – two flew W on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – two flew SW on 11<sup>th</sup> August, one flew W on 25<sup>th</sup> September, four U-turned NE on 21<sup>st</sup> October, and two flew W on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

Resident/migrant breeder (1). Mainly a scarce winter visitor.

There were five records, but four of them referred to nocturnal flyovers, and the other was undated.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – a single was reported in January, but unfortunately no date was given (per CBWG).

**Fixby** – four calls were recorded at 02.31hrs. on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, which was the first record from this site. Four calls were also recorded at 00:41hrs on 11<sup>th</sup> July (DT).

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded at 23.16hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> March and 22.36hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> May (DHP).

**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

There were reports from 25 locations, a slight increase on last year, but counts never exceeded a handful. **Windy Bank Res.** held birds for nine of the twelve months. Successful breeding was recorded at **Blackmoorfoot, Slaithwaite, Meltham Mills, Turnbridge** and **Lockwood Brewery Dam**, where two pairs managed to raise one young each after the rest were predated.

Nocturnal flight calls were recorded at the following locations.

**Thongsbridge** - calls (sometimes several series per night) were recorded on four nights in February, 15 nights in March, 13 nights in April, 11 nights in May, nine nights in July, and two nights in August.

**Fixby** – an unknown number were recorded at 01.16hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup> February, with 36 calls in two minutes. This was followed by recordings of eight singles in March, with two on the 8<sup>th</sup>, five singles in April, with two on 16<sup>th</sup>, and further singles on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**Skelmanthorpe** - calls were recorded on one night in February and five in March, mainly between 00.28hrs. and 02.54hrs.

**COOT** *Fulica atra*

**Resident breeder (2), 30-50 pairs. Uncommon to common winter visitor.**

This species was again reported from twelve waters, and remains under-recorded, although numbers at some locations did appear to have increased. However, only two sites produced records throughout the year.

Maximum counts and breeding records were as follows.

**Boshaw Whams** - present in varying numbers throughout the year, with a juvenile seen on 7<sup>th</sup> July and a maximum count of 22 on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Ladywood Lakes** - 14 on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**Windy Bank Res.** – monthly maxima included 12 on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 10 on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 13 on 14<sup>th</sup> August, and 10 on 17<sup>th</sup> September. At least 36 other dates produced counts of up to eight individuals. Two adults and eight young were recorded on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Hepworth** - two, including one carrying nest material, on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Nocturnal flight calls were recorded at the following sites.

**Thongsbridge** - calls (sometimes more than one series per night) were recorded on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> February and then three nights in March, five nights in April, two nights in May, and one night in July.

**Fixby** – singles were recorded on seven nights in February and March, with another on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Skelmanthorpe** – calls were recorded on six nights between 21<sup>st</sup> February and 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**Partial migrant breeder (1), 5-15 pairs.**

Records were received from 20 locations (21 in 2020), with breeding taking place at at least five of them (up from 3).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – present throughout the year. Three were under the south bank willows on 6<sup>th</sup> January and one was 'trilling' on 5<sup>th</sup> March. On 8<sup>th</sup> July, a pair were with four juveniles whilst another two adults were on the other side of the res. Five were present on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – two were reported at various sub-sites on several dates in January, with four on the Calder on 8<sup>th</sup>. A single was on the Wyke on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ladywood Lakes** – two on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Scout Dike Res.** – noted throughout the year, with evidence of successful breeding.

**Broadstone Res.** – singles were recorded throughout the year, with two in May, July, and September.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – records included a single on 17<sup>th</sup> March and more or less constant bubbling 'song' during the early morning of 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Dewsbury SW** – one on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Carlecotes Ponds** – a single on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Brun Clough Res.** – singles on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> August (a juvenile), and 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**Redbrook Res.** – one on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – a single present on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Wingscar Res.** – a presumed pair on 26<sup>th</sup> April, when bubbling 'song' was also heard.

**Royd Moor Res.** – an adult was with one young on the pool at the W end on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Other records included four on 25<sup>th</sup> May and three on 30<sup>th</sup> October

**March Haigh Res.** – a single was present on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Deanhead Res.** – up to three (an adult feeding to juveniles) on several dates in August and early September.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – although there were more records than last year, this only amounted to singles on ten dates between 21<sup>st</sup> August and 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**Bretton Lakes** – September records from the upper lake included three on 8<sup>th</sup> and seven on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Boshaw Whams** – one on 1<sup>st</sup> October, two on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, and another single on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Nocturnal sound recording:

**Fixby** – nocturnal flight calls were sound-recorded on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> January and on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls were sound-recorded on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> April, 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> April, and 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> May.

### **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

**Partial migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.**

There were reports from 11 waters, three of which held birds throughout the year and two of them for five months. Adults with young were noted at three sites.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – during the first winter period never more than three were present on 19 dates until birds became 'resident' between 7<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> August. The table above clearly indicates that, although numbers fluctuated, these never exceeded the single day visits by five on 18<sup>th</sup> May and four on 5<sup>th</sup> August. As in 2020, the falling water level precluded any breeding attempt in the west bank willows. Following the departure of the 'resident' birds on 16<sup>th</sup> August, never more than three (usually only 1 or 2) were present on 19 dates between 21<sup>st</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	4	4	4	5	3	2	4	3	2	2	2

**Scout Dike Res.** – very few dated records were received, but they included a single on 25<sup>th</sup> January and three on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Another observer stated that the species was seen on almost all visits here, with well grown young also seen.

**Broadstone Res.** – one or two seen infrequently in January, March to May, and July, with three on 21<sup>st</sup> April.



**Bretton Park** – records were hard to come by, and seven on 25<sup>th</sup> March was the highest count received.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – present throughout the year with up to four seen regularly between January and March, and seven on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, one adult had a fish c.10cm long, with a juvenile trying to get at it to eat. On 18<sup>th</sup> July two adults were with four juveniles whilst another two adults were elsewhere on the res. Eight were also present on 11<sup>th</sup> August and on two dates in December.

**Royd Moor Res.** – seen infrequently throughout the year, but seven were present on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Ringstone Edge** – one or two seen regularly between February and April, with two on 8<sup>th</sup> June and three on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Boshaw Whams** – a pair with three young were present on 29<sup>th</sup> July and then seen regularly up to 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**Redbrook Res.** – an adult on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Langsett Res.** - three juveniles were present from 25<sup>th</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Deer Hill Res.** – a single on 30<sup>th</sup> August was stated to be ‘a bit unusual’ at this site.

### **BLACK-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis*

**Rare visitor.**

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – one was present and photographed on 6<sup>th</sup> March (DF, DHP, NWM, DT *et al.*).

This is the first record since one at Blackmoorfoot Res. in June 2016.

### **OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*

**Migrant breeder since 1999 (2 pairs), with a recent marked increase in breeding numbers. Uncommon passage visitor, increasing.**

Records were received from 22 locations, six down on last year, with breeding at three of these, equal to last year.

The earliest returning bird was at **Horbury Wyke** on 5<sup>th</sup> February. The next was a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup>, with four there on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Counts at this site are tabulated below. On 24<sup>th</sup>, three were at **Ingbirchworth**, three were in flight over **Isle of Skye Quarry**, two were at **Broadstone Res.** (where numbers reached 10 by the end of the month), and one was at **Scout Dike**. These were followed by five at **Winscar Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> and two at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup>.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bmf days present	0	7	14	30	25	21	9	5	0	0	0	0
Bmf maximum	0	5	7	3	4	4	2	5	0	0	0	0

March saw the highest numbers of the year. Double figure counts came from **Broadstone Res.**, with 14 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 21 on 21<sup>st</sup>, and 18 on 27<sup>th</sup>. Nearby, 23 were present at **Windmill Lane** on 9<sup>th</sup>, and 15 were at **Haddingley Lane** on 16<sup>th</sup>. At **Cheesegate Nab**, 11 were present on 17<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Although birds were ever-present in the **Broadstone** and **Blackmoorfoot** areas, breeding was proven (or highly suspected) at just three locations. At **Langsett Res.**, three young hatched from a nest on the shore on 7<sup>th</sup> July, but no further information was forthcoming. Another pair nested in a field at **South Crosland**, but again the final outcome was unknown. At the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, a pair behaved as if young were present on 13<sup>th</sup> June, although there had been no sign of them nesting on the usual ledge high on the rock face (which was used every year between 2013 and 2020).

In July and August, records came from just eight locations. Most involved singles, but five were at **Langsett** on 31<sup>st</sup> July and four at **Crosland Hill** during August. One at **Blackmoorfoot** on 28<sup>th</sup> August looked set to be the final record of the year, but was trumped by one over **Fixby** on 26<sup>th</sup> September (see below) and, somewhat unexpectedly, a single at **Boshaw Whams** on 1<sup>st</sup> October. This latter bird was pursued by a Peregrine for around three minutes before finally escaping by ditching into the water.

Nocturnal migration was recorded as follows.

**Fixby** – between 7<sup>th</sup> February and 27<sup>th</sup> May birds were recorded on 10 nights with, on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 59 calls recorded over a 30 second period. Recordings were then obtained on a further 11 nights between 14<sup>th</sup> July and 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Thongsbridge** – birds were recorded overflying on 17 nights between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> August.

#### AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

**Rare passage visitor.**

One was sound-recorded as it passed over **Thongsbridge** at 23.09hrs. on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (DHP). The recording can be heard online at <https://xeno-canto.org/642914>

#### LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

**Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (3), 100-500 pairs. Numerous passage/winter visitor. Red listed.**

Apart from at **Blackmoorfoot** (see below), numbers continued to be restricted, and in January the largest assemblage was c.100 at **Bretton** on 18<sup>th</sup>. 50 were recorded at **South Crosland** on 7<sup>th</sup>, 38 at **Ringstone Edge** on 18<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 22<sup>nd</sup> at **Horbury**, and a single flew high W over **Fixby** on 29<sup>th</sup>. A flock was reported over **Meltham** on 17<sup>th</sup>, but no numbers were provided. February fared a little better as there were 17 records, with the largest assemblage again c.100, in fields off **Birds Nest Lane**, west of **Broadstone Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup>. Flocks of c.80 were recorded at **Broadstone Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup>, **Cawthorne** on 7<sup>th</sup>, and **Cupwith Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup>. 30 were seen in flight at **Ingbirchworth** on 16<sup>th</sup>, with the following groupings in the twenties: **Snape Res.**, 29 on 1<sup>st</sup>; **Wards End Farm**, 21 W on 11<sup>th</sup> and 20 W on 13<sup>th</sup>; **Broadstone Heath**, 28 on 24<sup>th</sup>; **Penistone**, 29 on 25<sup>th</sup>; and **Ringstone Edge Res.**, 22 and 15 on 26<sup>th</sup>. The remainder were all in single figures, as were most counts in March, when **Ringstone Edge** (23 on 6<sup>th</sup>) and the **Broadstone** area (maximum 60 on 9<sup>th</sup>) were the only locations with counts exceeding six. April counts then included 14 at Cheesegate Nab on 2<sup>nd</sup> (with 10 still there on 22<sup>nd</sup>), 13 at Cartworth Moor on 7<sup>th</sup>, and 15 at Langsett on 13<sup>th</sup>.

Birds displaying, nest building and showing agitation or distraction behaviour were recorded widely, but the only evidence of chicks or nests came from the following locations: **South Crosland** (7 pairs), **Cheesegate Nab** (7 pairs, with chicks seen), **Bradshaw Moor** (3 fledged young visible), **Harden Moss** (4 young visible), **Snape Res.** (3 well-grown young visible on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 5 on 23<sup>rd</sup>). At **Langsett** there was at least one nest, with 15 birds present, and at **Isle of Skye Quarry** a presumed pair was behaving territorially as early as 21<sup>st</sup> February and an adult was engaged in distraction display on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Post breeding assemblages once again started to appear in June, although they were initially small. However, a surge in numbers came in July, when up to 120 were regularly seen in the **Broadstone** area and c.300 were at nearby **Windmill Lane** on 17<sup>th</sup>. This area then continued to produce counts in triple figures in August and September, with 300+ on 12<sup>th</sup> September and a similar number at nearby **Maythorn** on 26<sup>th</sup>, although numbers did then begin to decline. Other triple-figure counts during this period came from **Harden Quarries**, where c.150 on 9<sup>th</sup> August (and 88 on 11<sup>th</sup>) were assumed to be local birds moving between fields to feed; **Ringstone Edge**, which held 140 on 28<sup>th</sup> August; **Royd Moor Res.**, where a maximum of 210 were counted on 25<sup>th</sup> September, and **Blackmoorfoot** (see below). These sites also produced a number of double-figure counts, as did others including **Langsett Res.**, **Hartcliff Hill**, **Horbury Wyke**, and **Redbrook Res.** The few records of birds in flight noted movement in a mainly westerly direction, and presumed nocturnal migration was noted at **Fixby**, with a single call recorded at 04.33hrs. on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The limited reports for the remaining months showed a similar pattern. **Broadstone** showed variations between 35 and 120 in November, two were at **Silkstone Common** on 29<sup>th</sup> November, and there were at least 200 in a field off **Slaithwaite Road, Meltham** on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Based on last year's meagre showing, the number of birds at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was impressive.

As is now usual, flocks tended to be centred on the fields to the east. Although numbers during the first winter period only maintained treble figures until 21<sup>st</sup> February, the post-breeding assemblage commenced in late June and, although numbers fluctuated daily thereafter, good numbers were present throughout the following six months. Monthly maxima at this site are tabulated below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
294	103	26	19	8	93	200	200	250	200	250	300

### **GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

**Migrant breeder (2-3), 50-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor, decreasing.**

Birds were reported from 26 locations, an increase from the 18 last year, and breeding was noted at two of them. In January and February there were just occasional sightings following a similar pattern to last year, but these were followed by a large influx.

In January, between 28 and 50 birds were at **Blackmoorfoot** on six dates, 40 were at **South Crosland** on 7<sup>th</sup>, six were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup>, and five at **Broadstone** on 25<sup>th</sup>. Two present at **Holme Moss** in the second half of the month were considered unusual, with one observer commenting that they were the earliest he'd seen there. In February, nocturnal

flight calls were recorded at **Fixby** (on 6<sup>th</sup>) and **Skelmanthorpe** (on two dates), and single-figure groups were seen at **Bird's Nest Lane**, **Ramsden Clough**, **Broadstone Heath** and at **Wards End Farm**, where 30 flew W on 21<sup>st</sup>. A group of 30 were also present at **Cupwith Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup>.

As expected, March and April saw numbers increase. 200 flew S over **Buckstones Moss** (seen from **Wards End Farm**) on 18<sup>th</sup> March, but the highest counts came from the **Broadstone** area, which held at least 900, possibly 1,000, on the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The observer noted that they were very restless and flighty, covering the area from **Brown's Edge Rd.** to **Maythorn** and **Windmill Lane**, but landing for short periods in the fields SW of **Broadstone Res.** This area continued to produce very good counts for the rest of spring, with up to 800 at **Maythorn** on 28<sup>th</sup> March, c.625 at nearby **Whitley Common** on 6<sup>th</sup> April, and up to 400 still present around **Broadstone** between 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April. Other high counts came from **Ringstone Edge Res.**, which held c.350 on 5<sup>th</sup> April, and **Wards End Farm**, where 230 were seen over **Garside Hey** on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Smaller numbers were recorded in April at **Whitley Edge** (30 on 7<sup>th</sup>), **Cartworth Moor** (60 on 16<sup>th</sup>), and **Penistone** (21 on 27<sup>th</sup>). At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, although singles were seen on 24 dates, the only double figures during the month were 37 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 19 on 13<sup>th</sup>; these being followed in May by 33 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 14 on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding season records were typically vague, with successful breeding reported from just two sites. Up to four pairs bred at **Deer Hill**, where a nest with four eggs was found by chance, and other pairs clearly had young. On 8<sup>th</sup> June, a survey at **Dove Stone RSPB** revealed a nest with a late clutch of two eggs, one of which was in the process of hatching.

The only July sightings were of four at **Snailsden Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> and two at **Winscar** on 16<sup>th</sup>, and the single August record was of one on 6<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where 2 flew W on 17<sup>th</sup> September. On 25<sup>th</sup> September, 42 flew W then returned E at **Pule Hill**, but numbers only really began to build up in October, when 46 were at **Broadstone** on 16<sup>th</sup> and c.130 dropped onto the moor at **Wards End Farm** on 26<sup>th</sup> (see below for more records from this site). In terms of grounded birds, the **Broadstone** area then provided the highest counts, with November reports of 150 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 60 on 20<sup>th</sup>, but by this time it was clear that most birds had left the area. At **Blackmoorfoot**, two to four birds were seen on three dates up to 15<sup>th</sup> December, but the only other record during this month was of 75 which were flushed by a Common Buzzard on **Garside Hey, Marsden** on 7<sup>th</sup>.

Visible migration was noted as follows.

**Harden Quarries** – in September, one flew S on 16<sup>th</sup> and four flew NW on 25<sup>th</sup>. In October, singles flew S on 11<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. In November, 10 flew NW on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Royd Moor Hill watch point** – 52 flew NW on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – in October, 100 SW on 20<sup>th</sup>, 50 SW on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 120 E on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 50 E on 26<sup>th</sup>, and 30 on 30<sup>th</sup>. In November, 70 SW on 4<sup>th</sup>, 120 E on 6<sup>th</sup>, then 35 E on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – 42 flew W then returned E on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 32 flew E and 29 S on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.

There were records from six locations.

**Langsett Res.** – one at the dam wall end of the reservoir on 18<sup>th</sup> February (AWH.).

**Boshaw Whams** – a presumed pair in an adjacent boggy field on 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May (DHP, NWM).

**Harden Quarries** – one was heard calling as it flew W at 08.10hrs. on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – two flew W with two Dunlin at 09.45hrs. on 22<sup>nd</sup> September (MLD, DM, GBS) and a single was heard calling at 10.30hrs. the following day (SP).

Nocturnal sound recording:

**Fixby** – nocturnal flight calls were sound-recorded on 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> August, and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> September (DT).

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls were sound-recorded at 03.18hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup> September (DHP).

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*

Migrant breeder (1), 0-8 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

There were records from twelve locations between March and September.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – there were 16 records in April between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Singles were present on seven days, with two on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. and three on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (DHP, NWM, SP, DMP, AK, NS, SC, IMc).

**Horbury Wyke** – a single on 4<sup>th</sup> April (MCud).

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – a single on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and two on 26<sup>th</sup> (DT).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – two flew W on 8<sup>th</sup> April, one at 09.15hrs. and the other at 09.55hrs. (MLD GBS).

**Cupwith Res.** – in April, two on 10<sup>th</sup> and a single on 26<sup>th</sup> (DT).

**Woodhead Res.** – in April, two on 16<sup>th</sup>, three on 18<sup>th</sup>, two on 25<sup>th</sup>, and two on 26<sup>th</sup> were all within the Club recording area, as was a single on 17<sup>th</sup> May (DHP).

**Langsett Res.** – in May, two on 3<sup>rd</sup> and at least one on 10<sup>th</sup> (NWM, DHP).

**Wingscar Res.** – a presumed pair on 9<sup>th</sup> May, with at least one still present on 15<sup>th</sup> May (DHP).

**March Haigh Res.** – a single on 24<sup>th</sup> May (DWS).

**Wessenden Head Res.** – a pair was present throughout spring, but no evidence of breeding was seen (DHP, DMP).

**Dove Stone RSPB** – the only record available was of one on 16<sup>th</sup> May (GMBRG).

Nocturnal sound recording:

**Fixby** – on 16<sup>th</sup> March, nocturnal sound recording picked up two calls at 03.56hrs. and another at 23:40hrs. In autumn, two calls were recorded on 22<sup>nd</sup> September (DT).

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*  
**Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.**

Records came from nine locations between 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and included a bird which, due to injury, was present for much of the summer (see **Victoria**, below).

**Deer Hill Res.** – two flew WNW on 5<sup>th</sup> May (SP, DMP).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a single in the fields to the W departed to the W at 10.20hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup> May (MLD, GBS *et al.*).

**Meltham** – a very vocal bird flew NW over Wessenden Head Road on 11<sup>th</sup> May (SP, DMP).

**Victoria, Hepworth** – a flightless bird which was missing the whole of its left wing (presumed to be the result of a collision with overhead cables), was present in a field on Bedding Edge Road near the crossroads from at least 27<sup>th</sup> June until 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Aside from the missing wing, it appeared to be in remarkably good health during this period (DMW *et al.*).

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – three flew SW with a Curlew at 17:40hrs. on 7<sup>th</sup> August (DWS).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a flock of 10 adults and juveniles foraged in a mowed field off Horn Lane at 08.30hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> August but had gone by 10.00hrs. (KH).

**Harden Quarries** – one flew N at 07.23hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup> August (DHP, NWM).

Nocturnal sound recordings:

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded at 01.33hrs. on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 22.13hrs. (at least two birds) on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 00.07hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> July, and 03.53hrs. on 11<sup>th</sup> August (DHP).

**Fixby** – at least three, possibly four, were sound-recorded at 02.42hrs. on 19<sup>th</sup> August, with 25 calls picked up during a three minute period (DT).

**CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*  
**Migrant breeder (3), 100-250 pairs. Common passage visitor. Red listed.**

The first returning bird was seen circling over **Thurstonland** in a snow storm on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, followed by another single flying NW over **Wessenden Head Road** on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Singles were then reported at **Boshaw Whams** and **Carlecotes Ponds** on 17<sup>th</sup> and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The only double figures over this period were 11 seen in a field off **Bird's Nest Lane** on 21<sup>st</sup> and at **Cartworth Moor** on 25<sup>th</sup>, with 18 noted at **Thick Hollins Moor** on the same day. The **Broadstone** area only managed a maximum of two throughout the month.

During March to June there were reports from 31 locations (28 in 2020). Most counts were in single figures, and those in double figures were a little lower than last year. In March, 54 were seen at **Thick Hollins Moor** on the 5<sup>th</sup>, with 41 still there on 24<sup>th</sup>. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had 19 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 26 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 27 on 11<sup>th</sup>. **Broadstone Res.** hosted 23 on 9<sup>th</sup>, with a maximum of 35 on 14<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by *c.*73 photographed flying over **Holme Styes** on 11<sup>th</sup>, 43 at **Slaithwaite Road, Meltham** on 12<sup>th</sup>, 35 at **Cartworth Moor** on 17<sup>th</sup>, and 10 in the **Cheesegate Nab** area on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Some large gatherings persisted into April, with 30 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 49 on 7<sup>th</sup> at **Meltham Grange**. Also on 7<sup>th</sup>, 72 were on **Thick Hollins Moor**, with a further 66 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, and 29 on 25<sup>th</sup>. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, 11 were present

on 6<sup>th</sup> with 45 on the following day. The next double figures counts (of which there were only two), came in late June, with 30 on **Flight Hill, Winscar** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 16 feeding in fields at **Hazelhead** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Evidence of breeding was disappointingly scarce. Birds were recorded displaying, singing, agitated, and in pairs, but there were only two confirmed sightings of juveniles. The first was at **Wards End Farm**, where the observer remarked that just the one breeding pair was the lowest ever, with one juvenile seen on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. **Meltham Moor** held two juveniles in a mowed field on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Following a report of 10 maximum in July at **Broadstone**, with no date specified, the remainder of the records were in single figures. **Blackmoorfoot** held single figures throughout until the end of August, four were at **Winscar Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> September, and five at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> August, with the final records of the year being singles at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> and **Broadstone Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

**Wards End Farm** – three flew W on 8<sup>th</sup> July, one flew SW with three Whimbrels on 7<sup>th</sup> August, a single flew W on 12<sup>th</sup> August, and two singles passed over on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Harden Quarries** – six flew high W on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

Nocturnal sound recording:

**Skelmanthorpe** – calls were recorded on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Fixby** – calls were recorded on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March and on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Thongsbridge** – calls were recorded on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> March, and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> April.

**BAR- TAILED GODWIT.** *Limosa lapponica*

Rare to scarce passage migrant.

**Boshaw Whams** – a bird in summer plumage was photographed in a field adjacent to the reservoir on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Unfortunately, it couldn't be relocated in the evening (HWGF).

**TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

Rare passage migrant.

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls from several birds were recorded at 03.03hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup> August (DHP). The recording can be heard online at <https://xeno-canto.org/666387>

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor. Red listed.

There were reports from six locations (two more than last year), with evidence of breeding at one of them.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – four flew W on 13<sup>th</sup> February. On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, two flew W with two Ringed Plovers at 09.45hrs., and a flock of 16 flew W at 10.20hrs. Three flew W on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – singles on the dam wall on 8<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> September. The latter was strikingly long-billed, and suspected of being a juvenile female of the race *alpina* (TM).

**Dove Stone Moss** – a nest with 4 eggs was found on a breeding bird survey at **RSPB Dove Stone** on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**Wessenden Head Res.** – two on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Fixby** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded at 01.47hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> July and 01.51hrs. on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

**Deer Hill Res.** – two on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Calls were then heard on the following day, but no birds were located visually.

### **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

**Resident breeder (2), 25-75 pairs. Uncommon winter visitor.**

This species was reported from 22 locations, a substantial increase on last year, although there were no records between the beginning of July and the end of October.

Prior to the breeding season there was an abundance of records, compared to the four of last year, as below:

**Royd Moor Res.** – a single was present on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**Wood Nook** – one on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**Carlecotes Ponds** – singles were present on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January, with two on 15<sup>th</sup> and one on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**Honley Wood** – a single flushed on 24<sup>th</sup> January and another on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cowcliffe** – one flew W on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – one was in a field to the W on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**Thurstonland Bank** – one feeding on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**Skelmanthorpe** – a single on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ramsden Res.** – one on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**Crossley's Plantation** – singles on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> April, with no less than five on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Kitchenroyd** – one on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Riding Wood Res.** – three were present on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Shelley Ozzings** – one flew past on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

During the summer months roding birds were recorded as follows: at least four at **Holme Styes** on 27<sup>th</sup> May and several dates in June, at least three at **Storthes Hall** woodlands on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, up to eight at **Yatcholme** between 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June, and one at **Crossley's Plantation** on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

In the second winter period, records were received from seven locations (8 last year). These were:

**Carlecotes Ponds** – two on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**Deer Hill** – two on 24<sup>th</sup> November.

**Meal Hill, Hepworth** - one on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**Royd Moor Res.** – one nearby on 28<sup>th</sup> November.



**Orange Wood, Blackmoorfoot** – one on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**Wards End Farm** – one on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**Thick Hollins Moor** – one on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

**Scarce passage and winter visitor.**

There were 12 sightings from six locations, a significant increase on the single record of the previous year. On 3<sup>rd</sup> January, three were on private land near **Farnley Tyas**. At **Boshaw Whams**, singles were present on 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> January and on 15<sup>th</sup> February. At **Wards End Farm**, a single was flushed on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and another on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. At **Ringstone Edge Res.**, three were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April. The last of the spring was a single at **Yateholme** on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

In autumn, a single was at **Cupwith Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup> October, and one was flushed at **Wards End Farm** on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

**Resident breeder, decreased to (2), 50-100 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.**

Pre-breeding birds were recorded at seven sites, two more than last year, with the numbers of birds increased too. At **Horbury SW** a single was present on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, and **Carlecotes Ponds** held three on 12<sup>th</sup> January. At **Boshaw Whams**, birds were present on several dates in January, with maxima of 19 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 13 on 31<sup>st</sup>. In February at **Wards End Farm** singles were flushed on 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March, whilst at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** two were present on 10<sup>th</sup> February and one on 18<sup>th</sup>, with **Boshaw Whams** holding a maximum of five on 17<sup>th</sup>. At **Isle of Skye Quarry** two were seen on 24<sup>th</sup> February, with a single at **Moselden** on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

At the start of the breeding season 25 were recorded at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> April whilst **Boshaw Whams** had nine birds in an adjacent boggy field on 15<sup>th</sup>. Drumming and chipping was heard and seen at six locations, with single birds involved at **Wards End Farm, Boshaw Whams, and Isle of Skye Quarry. Snape Res.** had one to three on several dates in May, with chipping heard on 12<sup>th</sup>. At **Yateholme** five were drumming and chipping nearby on 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June and at **Crossley's Plantation** three were drumming and chipping nearby on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Following the breeding season birds were seen at just 11 locations with mainly just one or two birds involved (albeit with some notable exceptions). **Wards End Farm** saw birds on 13 dates, with a maximum of three on 25<sup>th</sup> August. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the number of occurrences later in the year remained very low, and only amounted to a maximum of five (usually only 1 or 2) on five September dates and two October dates. **Broadstone** held four on 4<sup>th</sup> September and at **Cupwith Res.** 24 were present on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 26 along a very narrow W shore on the following day, but the number had fallen to 11 by the 20<sup>th</sup>. At **Flight Hill**, four were present on 7<sup>th</sup> October, and at **Deer Hill Res.** at least six birds were still present in a boggy field on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Visible migration, which is not often witnessed in this species, was recorded from the following locations:

**Wards End Farm** – three NE on 25<sup>th</sup> August and two W on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 71 flew mostly SW on 18 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> November. Maximum counts were 20 on 26<sup>th</sup> September and 10 on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – one flew W with nine Black-headed Gulls on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – birds flew W on four September dates: a single on 11<sup>th</sup>, two on 12<sup>th</sup>, five (4 + 1) on 17<sup>th</sup>, and three on 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

**Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.**

Records were received from 22 sites, down from the 25 in 2020. Unlike in that year, there was no evidence of overwintering, although the first sighting of a single bird was notably early on 31<sup>st</sup> March at **Ingbirchworth Res.**

The usual April influx began on 9<sup>th</sup>, with one on the River Calder at **Healey**, and even that was quite early. This was followed on 11<sup>th</sup> by singles at **Digley Res.** (where there were two on 17<sup>th</sup>), and **Winscar Res.** (where at least two presumed pairs were present by 21<sup>st</sup>). The next at **Ingbirchworth** was a single on 13<sup>th</sup>, after which birds gradually appeared at seven other upland reservoirs during the course of the month. Most records referred to singles, but two were at **Ringstone Edge** from 14<sup>th</sup>, **Woodhead Res.** (northern arm) from 16<sup>th</sup>, and at **March Haigh** and **Langsett**, both on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The following two months saw birds present at 19 sites, including nearly all of the above, but only **Winscar Res.** and **Dove Stone Res.** produced records throughout this period. Counts rarely exceeded two, but three were **Redbrook Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> June and at least four at **Langsett Res.** on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and **Winscar Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Breeding no doubt took place at several of these sites, but the only proof came from **Dove Stone Res.**, where four, including recently fledged young, were seen on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Records from July to September were unusually hard to come by. Apart from at **Blackmoorfoot**, and those recorded nocturnally (see below for both), the only records referred to three at **Winscar Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> July, one at **Langsett Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup> July, one over a **Thongsbridge** garden on 4<sup>th</sup> August, and one again at **Winscar Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, although a pair bred last year, this year's showing was meagre. A single on 23<sup>rd</sup> April was the first, but by late May birds had only been seen on a further 18 dates, with never more than two individuals being present. Visits were very short lived (1 or 2 days) with the exception of two which remained between 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May. There were no June records, and July only produced one or two on six dates, August had a single on five dates, and the only other records involved singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Nocturnal sound recording:

**Thongsbridge** – flight calls (all thought to be from single birds) were recorded on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> May, twice on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> July, and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Fixby** – singles were recorded in August on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>.

**GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*  
Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Observations came from five locations, down from the seven in 2020

**Clayton West SW** – in nearby flooded fields, two were in flight on 17<sup>th</sup> January (DHP) and one feeding on 4<sup>th</sup> February (AWh).

**Earlsheaton** – one along the River Calder on 16<sup>th</sup> April and what may have been the same bird on 6<sup>th</sup> May (JH).

**Harden Res.** – two flew low over the reservoir then left to the SE towards Winscar Res. on 17<sup>th</sup> July (II).

**Wards End Farm** – one flew SW at 10.20hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup> November (DWS).

Nocturnal sound recording:

**Thongsbridge** – flight calls from a single bird were recorded at 02.10hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> August (DHP).

**REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*  
Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-5 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor.

There were records from 11 locations, an increase on the six in 2020, although there were once again none from the Calder Valley. It is of some interest that nocturnal birds were sound-recorded over no fewer than four widespread sites during the night of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March, and that the first daytime sighting came later that morning.

**Boshaw Whams** – in March, two were present in adjacent fields on 20<sup>th</sup>, with singles there on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a single on 30<sup>th</sup> March was the only record.

**Ramsden Clough** – two together in flight on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Broadstone Res.** – there were two records of single birds, one on 8<sup>th</sup> April and one bathing and preening on the dam wall on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – a single seen by three observers on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

**Upper Windleden Res** – one on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Deer Hill Res** – a single on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Nocturnal sound recording:

**Skelmanthorpe** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Holme Moss** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Fixby** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> March, 31<sup>st</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> April, and 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> August.

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March and on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September.

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*  
Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

There were three records of singles, all of which appeared during an eight-day period in late August/early September.

**Horbury Wyke** – one was present for most of the day on 28<sup>th</sup> August (MCud, DHP, DT).  
**Langsett Res.** – a single was seen briefly on 1<sup>st</sup> September (RJB).  
**Winscar Res.** – one was heard calling several times as it flew S over the sailing club at 15.45hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup> September (NWM).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*  
Resident breeder, decreased to (1), 0-5 pairs. Numerous passage and winter visitor.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - the only counts involved flocks of 270 on the reservoir on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 420 on 11<sup>th</sup> August, and c.2,300 in the roost on 28<sup>th</sup> December. Birds could still be seen pouring into the roost here from all points of the compass but especially from fields to the W of the res. in near dark conditions on many evenings. A leucistic adult was present in the roost on 24<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February (JB, DMP, SP).

**Meltham** – the fields around **Red Lane** often had gatherings of at least 200 birds before making their way to roost on **Blackmoorfoot Res.** As in previous years, this was especially evident in the first three months of the year.

**Ladywood Lakes** – 300 on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**Langsett Res.** – there were 310 birds on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1450 in the roost on 1<sup>st</sup> September, c.3,000 on 15<sup>th</sup> September, and 1,900 on 12<sup>th</sup> December, but these were the only counts.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – 90 on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 40 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 115 on 15<sup>th</sup> December were the only significant counts.

**Broadstone** – there were c300 in fields here on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 50 on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 100 on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 60 on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**Bretton Park** – 150 on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cowcliffe** – c.100 were observed hawking flying ants here in the early evening on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Fixby** – 180 feeding on flying ants mid-afternoon on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Digley Res.** – an adult seen here on 23<sup>rd</sup> October had been ringed as a nestling at Geitholm Moss, Norway on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013. This is a good pointer to where many of our wintering Black-headed Gulls probably originate from (DMP, SP).

Visible migration was noted at two localities:

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – 34 in February, all W, with a maximum of 21 on 25<sup>th</sup>; 77 in July, all W, with a maximum of 42 on 21<sup>st</sup>; and 20 W on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Then a total of 614 recorded on 19 dates in October, with a maximum of 212 on 31<sup>st</sup>, 122 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 75 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 55 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 614 flew W and SW and 34 E on 16 dates between 21<sup>st</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 134 W on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Rare to scarce visitor.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – there were eight records (2 in 2021) which involved at least seven individuals. An adult roosted on 9<sup>th</sup> (JB, DMP, SP) and 30<sup>th</sup> January (DM, DMP, SP), a different adult roosted on 5<sup>th</sup> February (JB), an adult flew W at 09.30hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup> September (MLD, DM, GBS), a first-winter was present on 17<sup>th</sup> November (GK) and in December different adults roosted on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> (DMP, SP) and a second-winter roosted on 20<sup>th</sup> (NWM, DHP).

**Langsett Res.** – a first-winter roosted on 15<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> October and an adult roosted on 26<sup>th</sup> October (RJB).

**Meltham** – an adult flew SW over **Panna Dam** on 3<sup>rd</sup> December (DMP).

**COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – 50 on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 20 on 15<sup>th</sup> December, and 35 on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

**Lockwood** – six on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Longwood** – 280 on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cheesgate Nab** – 10 on 5<sup>th</sup> March and 30 on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Digley** – at least 50 were in fields here on several dates in March.

**Broadstone Res.** – 45 were off **Windmill Lane** on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Three on two dates in May were the only records anywhere for that month. Then 63 on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 135 on 14<sup>th</sup> November, and 229 on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Langsett Res.** – 40 on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Oldfield** – up to 12 on several dates in December.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – the only significant count from this well watched site was of c.500 birds on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

**Wards End Farm** – a total of 14 birds all W on five dates between 15<sup>th</sup> January and 27<sup>th</sup> March with a maximum of six on the latter date. Thereafter 104 birds flew over mainly to the W between 29<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> December, with a maximum of 31 on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 20 on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 39 flew mainly W on 7 dates between 26<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> October with a maximum of 22 W on the latter date.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

**Mirfield/Ravensthorpe** – at the Biffa waste disposal centre, three adults on 1<sup>st</sup> January, nine (8 adults) on 6<sup>th</sup> January, a single on 7<sup>th</sup> January, and three on 16<sup>th</sup> January. A first-winter was at the nearby weir on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a total of only 18 birds were recorded flying W between 17<sup>th</sup> January and 26<sup>th</sup> May, with a maximum of nine on the first date. Thereafter, a total of 34 flew W on dates between 17<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> December, all in low single figures and with a maximum of five on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - despite the roost being watched on a regular basis during both winter periods, there were no birds seen in the roost. Indeed, the only records were of an adult on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, a first-winter on 17<sup>th</sup> February and, in December, an adult on 5<sup>th</sup> and three adults on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Fixby** – a single flew E on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – an adult flew W on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### **ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucooides*

**Rare to scarce winter visitor.**

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - There was a good showing during the first winter period, all involving roosting juveniles. A single from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January (JB, DMP, SP *et al.*) was a different individual to that which roosted on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020, a different juvenile was present on 31<sup>st</sup> January (JB, NWM, DHP) and was also in the roost on 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> (when it was joined by a second juvenile), and 20<sup>th</sup> February (JB *et al.*), a different juvenile was present from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> February (JB, NWM, DHP), and the same bird roosted from 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March (JB *et al.*). Although the second winter period was much quieter, a second-winter bird was present in December; the bird was in the roost on 22<sup>nd</sup> (NWM, DHP *et al.*) and 28<sup>th</sup> (AL, NWM, DWS). It was then present on the reservoir during the late morning on 31<sup>st</sup> (GBS *et al.*) and was in the roost that same evening (NWM, DMP, SP).

### **HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

**Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.**

**Mirfield/Ravensthorpe** – c.70 were present at the weir on the River Calder and around the Biffa waste disposal centre on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 10 here on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 25 at the weir on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 21 on 21<sup>st</sup> October, with 20 present here and around the Biffa waste disposal centre on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a single overflowed on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Wards End Farm** – in January, a total of 66 flew W on nine dates, with maxima of 24 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also, three flew E on 1<sup>st</sup> and two E on 4<sup>th</sup>. There were 18 W between 9<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> May, with a maximum of four on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Movements between May and August were restricted to a total of 15 birds, all W on 11 dates, with a maximum of three on 9<sup>th</sup> August. From September to the year end, 227 flew W on 22 dates, the bulk of these were a total of 126 birds on 15 dates between 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December, with a maximum of 24 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Oldfield/Honley Moor** – in January, eight on 16<sup>th</sup> and 12 on 18<sup>th</sup>. Later, 12 were present on 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November, followed by at least 20 on several dates in December (maximum 29 on 10<sup>th</sup>). On 31<sup>st</sup> December, an adult with a yellow ring on its left leg, coded Y:K59 in black, had been ringed as a first-winter at Harewood Whin landfill site near York on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017.

**Broadstone Res.** – four on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Longwood** – four were on Oaks Scar Res. on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Fixby** – 50 flew over E on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - the only counts of roosting birds involved 43 on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 51 on 12<sup>th</sup> March and, in December, 108 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 51 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 190 on 28<sup>th</sup>. The only indication of movement concerned the 23 which flew W on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – five flew W on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Ramsden Clough** – four flew S on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**Lockwood Brewery Dam** – five on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – 12 flew W or SW on seven dates between 26<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of five SW on 8<sup>th</sup> October

**Wilshaw** – birds were recorded on four dates in November, with maxima of 10 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

### CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

**Rare visitor.**

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - what is now considered to be the same returning adult was seen in the roost from 12<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> January (JB, DMP, SP) and on the reservoir during the morning on 16<sup>th</sup> February (GBS). A first-winter was present in the roost on 4<sup>th</sup> March (DHP, NWM). Later in the year, the same adult roosted on 23<sup>rd</sup> November (NWM, DHP, DMP), and in December on 3<sup>rd</sup> (NWM, DHP), 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> (DMP, SP), 15<sup>th</sup> (GK), 17<sup>th</sup> (DWS), 20<sup>th</sup> (NWM, DHP), 28<sup>th</sup> (AL, NWM, DWS), and 31<sup>st</sup> (NWM, DMP, SP, DHP).

**Mirfield/Ravensthorpe** – a first-winter was at the weir on the River Calder on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> March (PDk, DHP, TM). What was almost certainly the same bird (identical damage to left primaries) was then photographed in flight NE over Rawmarsh, Rotherham on 25<sup>th</sup> March and at Scorton, N Yorks, on 4<sup>th</sup> April, before it returned to the weir on 10<sup>th</sup> April (PDk).

### YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

**Scarce passage visitor**

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – despite the attention directed at the gull roost, there were only three records (7 in 2020): a first-winter roosted on 23<sup>rd</sup> January (JB, DMP, SP) and 21<sup>st</sup> February (DMP) and the same bird, along with an adult, roosted on 22<sup>nd</sup> February (JB, NWM, DHP). In addition, a first-winter which roosted on 20<sup>th</sup> February was first thought to be a Yellow-legged Gull, but doubt arose, and the possibility of Caspian Gull could not be ruled out (JB, DMP, SP *et al.*).

**Langsett Res.** – a juvenile on 8<sup>th</sup> August (RJB).

**Ingbirchworth** – an adult was with Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 20<sup>th</sup> October (NWM, TM).

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – one, age unspecified, on 4<sup>th</sup> November (CBB).

### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

**Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.**

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – monthly maxima were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
21	6	10	6	8	9	9	11	6	13	7	35

The only counts of roosting birds involved 21 on 9<sup>th</sup> January, ten on 8<sup>th</sup> March and, in December, 35 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 22 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

A roosting second-winter on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January was only the size of nearby Common Gulls (JB, DMP, SP).

**Mirfield/Ravensthorpe** – three were at the Biffa Waste disposal centre on 21<sup>st</sup> January with two here on 25<sup>th</sup> January. Singles were seen at the weir on the River Calder on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – three on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Broadstone Res.** – two on 31<sup>st</sup> March, two on 27<sup>th</sup> April, a single on 30<sup>th</sup> June, six on 28<sup>th</sup> July. There was an impressive 374 in a single field here on 5<sup>th</sup> August. There were 70 here and nearby fields on 15<sup>th</sup> September and 75 counted here on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 70 on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – 13 on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 24 on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 12 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 40 on 20<sup>th</sup> October and seven on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury** – a colour-ringed bird here on 17<sup>th</sup> August had been ringed at Langden Head, Bowland, Lancashire, on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2019, and then resighted in Portugal on 8<sup>th</sup> October of that year. Unfortunately, no age details were provided.

**Langsett Res.** – 250 on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 300 on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 225 on 13<sup>th</sup> October and 40 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Fixby** – 25 were feeding on flying ants mid-afternoon on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

Movement was noted as follows:

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a total of 86 flew over mainly in a westerly direction between 18<sup>th</sup> January and the end of May, always in low single figures with the maximum being seven on 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May. A total of 55 flew over W on 10 dates in June, mostly in single figures with the exceptions of 11 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 13<sup>th</sup>. July saw a total of 63 birds of which 58 flew W with a maximum of 19 on 26<sup>th</sup>, with five E on three dates. A total of 141 birds flew over, mainly in a westerly direction on nine dates in August, mostly in low single figures with the exception of 110 birds very high W on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A further 93 birds flew over, again mostly in a westerly direction between September and mid-December with a maximum of 15 on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 281 flew mostly S on 44 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> November. Maximum day counts were 23 SE on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 15 W in a single flock on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 39 on 11 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> November (37 W and 2 E), with a maximum of nine on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis*  
Rare passage migrant.

**Linthwaite** – one flew S over Lower Clough at 14.05 hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> May (SP).



**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*  
Scarce to uncommon passage migrant.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - there were three records; the individual in March being the earliest ever in the Club area by seven days. A single over the reservoir landed on the north bank before departing W at 11.50hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup> March (GK), an adult departed E at 10.55hrs. on 18<sup>th</sup> June (MLD, DM *et al.*), and an adult flew W at 09.45hrs. on 7<sup>th</sup> July (MLD, GBS).

**Horbury** – two on the canal on 10<sup>th</sup> May (MCud).

**ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*  
Rare to scarce passage visitor.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - A juvenile was present on 17<sup>th</sup> August (MLD) and a juvenile departed W at 09.10hrs. on 1<sup>st</sup> September (MLD, DM, GBS).

**ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus*  
Rare passage visitor.

Two dark phase birds flew NNE into a strong headwind at a distance of *c.*200m past **Wards End Farm, Marsden** at 10.30hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup> April (DWS). This is our first record since a single flew W at Langsett Res. on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009, and the one before that was as long ago as 1998.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer*  
Rare visitor.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> December one was first found in the early afternoon watched as it dived regularly for long periods. It was photographed but only remained until around 14.00hrs.(GK,SP,DMP,NWM,DHP *et al.*)

This is the first in our area since one flew W over Marsden in Feb. 2016.

**CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Common passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Records were received from 30 locations, which is very similar to the previous two years. However, the number of dated records was lower with just 201, whereas last year there were no less than 226. As is the norm, there were a good number of flyover birds, but usually just ones or twos. Again, there were records from all parts of our area including more urban areas such as **Lockwood, Golcar, Crosland Moor, Cowcliffe, Rastrick**, and even close to **Huddersfield** town centre, where once again up to four were seen on the University roof.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - Unlike 2020, when the highest number recorded never exceeded five, there were several records of four or five and nine flew NW at 10.35hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> August; 11 flew S at 10.25hrs. on 10<sup>th</sup> September; and eight (adult present + 7 W at 11.15hrs.) on 6<sup>th</sup> October. There were more records of overflying birds than last year, with birds flying W (11 occasions), NW (5), S (2), and N, SE and SW on single occasions. As can be seen from the table below, birds were recorded on a total of 111 days (121 in 2020 and 140 in 2019) and the total number of bird/days reached 210 (152 in 2020 and 266 in 2019).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
days present	11	6	21	17	2	0	2	13	10	11	13	5
bird/days	17	12	38	26	2	0	4	26	28	28	22	7

**Windy Bank Res.** – one to three seen regularly during the first four months and also in August, September, and November.

**Ladywood Lakes** – in January, 9 on 5<sup>th</sup>, two on 7<sup>th</sup>, and 27 on 18<sup>th</sup>. In February, 15 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Yateholme** – a single on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**Royd Moor Res.** – 13 on 7<sup>th</sup> January, three on 16<sup>th</sup> and four on 17<sup>th</sup> March and 6 on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Horbury** – on the River Calder, seven on 8<sup>th</sup> January and 12 on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

**Horbury SW** – four on 17<sup>th</sup> and five on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Scout Dike Res.** – 11 on 25<sup>th</sup> January, four on 25<sup>th</sup> April, and a maximum of 22 on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**Bretton Park** – 15 on 27<sup>th</sup> January and two on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Dewsbury SW** – 25 on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Broadstone Res.** – a single on 9<sup>th</sup> and three on 31<sup>st</sup> March and singles on 1<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – two on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ramsden Clough** – a single on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Mirfield/Ravensthorpe** – a colour-ringed bird seen at the weir on both 17<sup>th</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> December had been ringed as a nestling on Denny Island in the Bristol Channel on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.

**March Haigh Res.** – one on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> August and two on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ringstone Edge** – a single on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

**Scammonden Water** – three on 7<sup>th</sup> September,

**Huddersfield town centre** – 10 flew over on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

The remaining records indicated movement:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 52 birds flew over in various directions on 23 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 10 W on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a total of seven flew W on four dates in March and April then on seven dates between 15<sup>th</sup> August and 21<sup>st</sup> October 23 flew over mainly W with a maximum of 11 on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 16 flew over on 5 dates between 10<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> October with a maximum of 11 on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia*

**Rare visitor.**

An adult in breeding plumage was present in the **Horbury Wyke** area for most of the afternoon on 28<sup>th</sup> May (NWM, DHP, DT).

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

**Resident breeder, increased to (2), 20-70 pairs.**

Records were received from 35 locations, six fewer than last year, and covered every part of the area in all months of the year. Most of these were of single birds, the exceptions being five at **Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** on 5<sup>th</sup> April and three on the **River Calder at Dewsbury SW** on 1<sup>st</sup> February. Though birds were seen regularly throughout the year at **Windy Bank Res.**, many records were of overflying birds, again, mostly singles with three birds flying W on 9<sup>th</sup> September over **Harden Quarries**, thirteen singles flew over **Wards End Farm** with two on 5<sup>th</sup> August. At **Rastrick** there were 46 records from January until a maximum of 14 in May and these were thought to be birds from **Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)**.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** it was a very similar picture to the two previous years, with birds being recorded throughout the year but being in short supply during both winter periods. Birds were seen on a total of 212 days (171 in 2020 and 182 in 2019) but, with the exceptions of eight on 15<sup>th</sup> June and six (1 present + 5 flew N at 10.40hrs.) on 15<sup>th</sup> September, occurrences never exceeded four (usually only 1 or 2).

Breeding was confirmed at just two sites this year as against the four of last year. 12 pairs bred at **Healey House**, two fewer than last year, and at **Bretton Park** 20 pairs bred, which is six more than last year but way below the 49 of the year before although, as was the case then, the number submitted was based on just one count.

**GREAT WHITE EGRET** *Ardea alba*

**Rare visitor.**

There were two sightings this year. One flew W at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> October (CBB) and another did likewise at **Baifings Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup> November (PG, CBB).

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

**Formerly a rare visitor, but now elevated to scarce visitor.**

Records came from nine locations and spanned most of the year. All referred to single birds.

**Lockwood** – one by the River Holme on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January (SHC).

**Clayton West SW** - one on the River Dearne on 10<sup>th</sup> February (StD).

**Bretton Park** – one on the river below the dam wall on 9<sup>th</sup> March (SC).

**Ossett** – one on River Calder on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April (JH).

**Earlsheaton** – one on the River Calder on the 27<sup>th</sup> April (PDK).

**Langsett Res.** – a single on 25<sup>th</sup> August (RJB).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – there were three records (4 in 2020), a single from the E turned and flew SW at 09.45hrs. on 14<sup>th</sup> October (DM, GBS) and what may have been the same bird flew SW over the Res. at 09.35hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> October (MLD, DM, GBS) with one flying W over the Res. during the late morning on 25<sup>th</sup> November (GS).

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – one was photographed on the shore on 16<sup>th</sup> October (DF, PD, CBB).

**Silkstone Common** - one flew over **Champany Hill** on 24<sup>th</sup> October (CBull).

### **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

**Rare passage visitor, increasing.**

There were eight records, which were equally split between spring and autumn.

**Rastrick** – one flew N over the observer’s house at 14.00hrs. on 11<sup>th</sup> March and another flew E there at 10.25hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> May (both JKP).

**Holme Styes** – one drifted N on 28<sup>th</sup> March (KW, StD).

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – one flew NE at 10.15hrs. on 26<sup>th</sup> April. In August, one flew low S on 15<sup>th</sup> and another high W on 23<sup>rd</sup>. In September, one passed low S and continued up the **Wessenden Valley** at 9.40hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> and one went S at 09.45 on 11<sup>th</sup> (DWS).

Numbers of Ospreys in the Huddersfield area in the last ten years:

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
5	5	8	2	10	5	5	9	10	8

### **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

**Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.**

Birds were recorded from 40 locations, and whilst that is just two down on last year it is a lot below the 53 of 2018 for example. However, dated records numbered 259, which was well up on last year’s 184 and back up to just over the 250 of 2019 and 211 of 2018. Yet again though it’s a pity that records just stating ‘regular’ or ‘present’ make it impossible to produce more accurate figures. The vast majority of course were of single birds, with occasionally two, but four over **Harden Quarries** on 21<sup>st</sup> October and three soaring over **Fixby** on 9<sup>th</sup> April were the exceptions.

The only proof of breeding was a female nest building at **Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	17	25	17	7	5	11	27	30	37	23	22

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the total of 84 bird/days was far higher than the 49 of last year, but this alarmingly low number was considered to have been affected by the lack of observers

brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Good numbers were also recorded at **Rastrick** with 72 bird/days and **Wards End Farm** with 51 bird/days.

There were many sightings of birds pursuing a variety of prey in gardens. Target species which escaped were Goldfinch, Swallow and Jay. Ones that didn't included Goldfinch and Blackbird. In a **Thongsbridge** garden, a feral pigeon was caught and then dragged into the pond and held under the water for five minutes but being then too heavy to carry was abandoned. The observer then put it on the lawn, and it was carried away later unobserved. On the other hand, there was one record of one being chased by four Starlings.

### **GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*

**Sporadic breeder (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce visitor.**

There were 13 records this year although the number of individuals concerned is obviously much lower. Although two birds were seen at one location there was no proof of breeding this year. A positive was that records came from two locations where birds are not usually seen.

### **MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*

**Rare passage visitor.**

Just six records were received, one above last year but nowhere near the exceptional 15 of 2019.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – there were two records: a 'cream-crown' flew N along the east bank at 11.05hrs. on 3<sup>rd</sup> August (MLD, GK, DM, GBS) and a 'cream-crown' circling over Orange Wood drifted S at 10.00hrs. on 30<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, DM, GBS).

**Holme Moss** – a 'cream crown' flew past the mast on 2<sup>nd</sup> September (II).

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – there were two records. On 6<sup>th</sup> September a juvenile 'cream crown' was close to the house at 08.15hrs. and probably the same bird was hawking over the moor in the evening. On the 9<sup>th</sup> September one flew high W at 12.30hrs. (DWS).

**Harden Quarries** – a 'cream crown' was present in the area on 9<sup>th</sup> September (DHP, NWM).

Number of Marsh Harrier records in the Huddersfield area in the last ten years:

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
4	10	10	7	2	16	9	7	15	5	6

### **HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

**Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.**

There were 16 records from just four locations, which was well down on the exceptional total of 2020, although it is impossible to be sure how many individuals were involved.

In the first half of the year there were four records:

**Tinker Hill** – the first of the year was a ‘ringtail’ here on 22<sup>nd</sup> February (T May, MCW).  
**Ramsden Clough** – a ‘ringtail’ showing shot damage flew over on 9<sup>th</sup> March (TM).  
**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – in the first half of the year there was just a ‘ringtail’ hunting over Garside Hey on 30<sup>th</sup> March at 13.05hrs., and perhaps the same bird came from the N then ‘u turned’ at 13.10hrs. on the following day (DWS).  
**Dunford Bridge** – a male was seen at close range on 5<sup>th</sup> April (TW).

The second half of the year brought an unprecedented sequence of records which are impossible to quantify:

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – on 27<sup>th</sup> August a ‘ringtail’ was hunting just behind house at 9.50hrs.

On 13<sup>th</sup> September at 17.45hrs. an adult male flew N just a matter of yards from the house and some primary moult was noted. On 17<sup>th</sup> what must have been the same bird was watched quartering the moor for half an hour and the moult was clearly visible. In October an ‘intact’ adult male flew low W at 09.20hrs. on 18<sup>th</sup> and on 25<sup>th</sup> an adult male and a ‘ringtail’ flew W at 16.30hrs. In November a ‘ringtail’ flew W at 10.45hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> and on 13<sup>th</sup> a ‘ringtail’ was seen at 08.50hrs., 09.30hrs., and SW up **Pule Hill** at 12.55hrs. On 15<sup>th</sup> a ‘ringtail’ was seen briefly on the horizon to the N and on 25<sup>th</sup> an adult male was also seen over the moor to the N. December then brought three records of ‘ringtails’, one low NE at 10.10hrs. on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one briefly at 10.10hrs. on 10<sup>th</sup>, and finally one in fog at 10.12hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup> (DWS).

Number of Hen Harriers seen in the Huddersfield area in last 10 years.

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
5	3	8	7	9	8	9	8	17	21	16

**MONTAGU’S HARRIER** *Circus pygargus*

**Very rare visitor.**

At 10.15hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> June a hunting adult female was watched for around 10 minutes as it slowly approached **Wards End Farm, Marsden** from the E. Rather than continuing over the trees of Head Clough, it then slowly turned N towards Deanhead and continued in that direction. The bird was photographed, and the record was accepted by the YNU Rarities Committee (DWS).

This is the first record for our area since a male was seen in the Deanhead Valley in April 2009, and only the eleventh to be accepted since 1882. Even in the county as a whole, annual records can usually be counted on the fingers of one hand.

**RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

**Formerly a rare to scarce visitor, but now elevated to frequent visitor.**

There were 30 records, well behind the excellent 56 of last year but up on the 27 of 2019. All sightings this year were of just single birds.

**Greenfield Road, Holmfirth** – one flew over **Upper Woodhouse Farm** on 16<sup>th</sup> February (MCK).

**Crossley's Plantation** – one in flight on 28<sup>th</sup> February (TM).

**Thongsbridge** – a single over the observer's garden on 3<sup>rd</sup> March (II). On 19<sup>th</sup> March one was over the High School (HWGF).

**Whitley Airfield** – one flew over **Bird's Nest Lane** at 13.15hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup> March (NWM).

**Wards End Farm** – there were six records. The first one u-turned N at 11.05hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> March. On 25<sup>th</sup> March one flew low W at 10.40hrs. On 24<sup>th</sup> May one went high S at 14.10hrs. On 16<sup>th</sup> June an individual in heavy moult flew S at 18.15hrs. On 15<sup>th</sup> July an adult passed N at 13.00hrs. (all DWS). Finally, a single flew high S past **Pule Hill** at 15.10hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup> October (RS,DWS).

**Bretton Park** – a single on 25<sup>th</sup> March (CDA).

**Cheesgate Nab** – a single on 8<sup>th</sup> April (II).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – there were six records (8 in 2020 and 7 in 2019), a single was circling over Meltham Cop at 15.30hrs. on 10<sup>th</sup> April (NWM) one circling over the east bank at 10.40hrs. departed W at 10.50hrs. On 2<sup>nd</sup> August (MLD, DM, GBS) singles were circling over Meltham Cop at 15.30hrs. on 19<sup>th</sup> August (JL) and at 11.45hrs. on 17<sup>th</sup> September (TD) one from the E landed briefly in Orange Wood before continuing W at 11.15hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> October (MLD, DM) and a single was circling over Meltham Cop at 09.10hrs. on 26<sup>th</sup> October (DW).

**Mount Road, Marsden** – one flew over at 14.00hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> June (JP).

**Millmoor Road, Meltham** – a single in wing moult on 13<sup>th</sup> June (DMP), with probably the same bird seen later in **Linthwaite** (SP).

**Holme Styes** – a single on 8<sup>th</sup> July (TM).

**Shepley** – one over on 20<sup>th</sup> July (TM).

**Silkstone Common** – a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (CBull).

**Langsett** – one W on 29<sup>th</sup> July (RJB).

**Harden Quarries** – one flew E on 12<sup>th</sup> August (NWM, DHP).

**Riding Wood Res.** – one drifted towards **Ramsden Edge** on 16<sup>th</sup> August (CBull).

Numbers of Red Kites reported in the Huddersfield area during the last six years:

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
23	31	54	27	56	30

### **BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

**The most widely distributed raptor of the area, Resident breeder since 2004 (1 pair), now increasing.**

Records came in from 63 locations, up on the 49 of last year and on a par with the 60 of 2019. Dated records were also up, but not quite correspondingly so, with 581 against 506 of last year and 616 of 2019. As usual there were a number of records of 'present', 'seen throughout the year' even 'regularly throughout the year' so the figures below are never as accurate as they could be. Fourteen pairs were proven to have bred, our highest ever number, and others were only suspected of doing so as they can be particularly secretive at breeding sites.

Counts of five and above are listed below.

**Four Lane End, Penistone** – five were together here on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**Brockholes** – six on 28<sup>th</sup> February and five on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Ramsden Clough** – there were five here on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Silkstone** – six flew over the golf course on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**Fixby** – the highest count of the year, nine, were recorded over here at 10.27hrs. on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Five were also seen here on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Royd Moor Hill watch point** – five were viewed from here on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – eight were visible from the dam wall on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – despite the 180 records from this daily watched location there were just four involving five birds, on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**Yateholme** – eight were seen over on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – the total of 62 records was far higher than the 36 of last year, but this alarmingly low number was considered to have been affected by the lack of observers brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Five (1 circling over Edge Moor + 4 drifted W up the Colne Valley) were seen on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Five were circling over Edge Moor on 19<sup>th</sup> August with seven doing likewise on 20<sup>th</sup> August. Seven were circling over Edge Moor/Orange Wood on 17<sup>th</sup> September and five were doing likewise on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – five were present on 10th October.

Records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
52	54	99	74	50	21	37	49	46	42	34	23

### **BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*

**Rare visitor. Occasional breeder, increasing.**

Sightings were recorded over much of the area and throughout the year from 24 locations, well up on the 19 of last year and exactly double that of 2018. Sightings were mainly of single birds but obviously others would have been involved as there were four apparent breeding attempts. All were in nest boxes, with one site producing three young, at another a bird was observed taking food to a box, and another appeared to have an egg in it.

One bird, after having been ringed at **Denby Dale** on 21<sup>st</sup> June was found injured and rescued by the RSPCA on 4<sup>th</sup> October at Moneyash in Derbyshire, a distance of 39km.

### **LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*

**Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs, decreasing.**

Records came in from 23 locations compared to the 26 of last year. Once again, comments were mixed, with breeding successful at some sites but failing at others, and an observer at **Lower Hagg** stating that the species no longer occurs there.

Singles were observed at **Ingbirchworth** at regular intervals up until May and at **Cheesegate Nab** from April through to May, when a breeding territory was suspected. At **Skelmanthorpe** a single bird was seen regularly until the end of May. At **Blackmoorfoot**



**Res.** although in recent years records from the fields to the west of the Res. have been sporadic, this year at least one, occasionally two, were present from late March to the year end. In addition, a single was near the inflow on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Breeding was confirmed at **Helme**, where a pair fledged two young. At **Meltham**, a pair also fledged two young, whilst another pair probably bred at **Brow Grains**. At **Denby Dale** a pair bred, and a juvenile was seen, and at **Cartworth Moor** three pairs attempted to breed. One of these produced two young, an adult of another pair was killed on the road, and the third pair was thought to have been flooded out. Possible breeding pairs were also noted at **Digley Res.** and at a regular site at Horn Lane, **Ingbirchworth**.

#### **LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus*

**Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.**

Two pairs fledged young in a traditional site, with one pair fledging three young and the other at least one. Single adult birds were observed regularly at the usual copse and a single was hunting at dusk at a nearby location on 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September. There was no information from elsewhere apart from a new site where young had been reared last year, but there was no sign of any birds being present this year.

#### **SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

**Partial migrant breeder (1), 0-13 pairs. Scarce passage and winter visitor.**

Birds were observed with varying frequency at 12 localities, which was three more than 2020. Evidence of breeding came from at least five sites, with two pairs raising at least six young at one of them.

#### **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*

**Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.**

There were records from 26 locations, which is three more than last year but below, for example, the 33 of 2016.

Reports of birds present throughout the year came from several sites including **Broadstone Res.**, **Holme Styes Res.**, **Thongsbridge**, **Fixby**, **Wards End Farm**, **Yateholme**, **Meltham**, and **Thurstonland Bank**.

Breeding evidence came from **Brockholes**, where a juvenile was seen, and **Healey House**, where a pair fledged three young. In **Meltham**, one pair produced two young at one site and another pair failed at the young stage, and at **Dean Wood** a bird was seen at a nest, with the outcome unknown. At **Netherthong**, breeding took place in a nest box, also with the outcome unknown, and at **Hepworth** a grey phase adult was seen at the entrance to a nest hole.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, there were three records, all from the east bank. A single was calling during the morning on 16<sup>th</sup> April, one was chased out of a roosting site by a Jay on 6<sup>th</sup> May, and a single was calling during the morning on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*  
**Resident breeder (2), near 30 pairs.**

Broadly in line with other recent years, records were received from 16 locations, five of which were in the **Calder Valley**. Once again, none of the sites produced records throughout the year, but this is perhaps unsurprising given that Kingfisher sightings are so often the result of chance encounters. Most reports were of singles, but two were seen regularly along the catchment in the **Brow Grains** area of **Meltham** during both winter periods, and three were along the River Dearne near **Bretton Lakes** on 21<sup>st</sup> September. During April, pairs were at two sites along the Calder at **Dewsbury** and four more birds were described as ‘very active’ along the same river near **Horbury Wyke** on 4<sup>th</sup>, but no proof of successful breeding was forthcoming.

One of the more unexpected sightings was of one flying W over **Marsden** Railway Station (which lies adjacent to Huddersfield Narrow Canal) on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dryobates minor*  
**Former resident breeder, now very rare. Red listed.**

After blank years in 2017, 2018, and 2020, the records below were more than welcome, although the species does remain in steep national decline.

**Brockholes** – one was heard calling and then located on the edge of **Honley Woods** on 16<sup>th</sup> February (DD).

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – a single was reported on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February (CBB).

**Bretton Lakes** – one was calling and drumming at the upper lake on 8<sup>th</sup> April (StD).

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*  
**Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.**

There were records from 33 sites, two down on last year and six below 2019. The usual increase in sightings in late summer as fledged juveniles become more visible was again noticeable, and they were seen at nine locations.

Drumming was heard at **Longwood Brook, Brockholes, Bretton Park, Fixby and Cheesegate Nab**, with single pairs proved to have bred at **Helme, New Mill, Marsden, Windy Bank Wood, and Thick Hollins, Meltham.**

At **Blackmoorfoot**, although records spanned the whole year, sightings were restricted to never more than seven days per month. Indeed, during the months January to April, September, October and December, birds were seen on no more than three days. All records involved singles, with the exceptions of two on 4<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Movements over the area were recorded as follows:

At **Pule Hill, Marsden** one flew SW on 6<sup>th</sup> September, one flew W on 25<sup>th</sup> September, and two flew high E on 8<sup>th</sup> October. At **Harden Quarries** one flew SSE on 8<sup>th</sup> October, one

flew WSW on 15<sup>th</sup> October, and one flew W on 16<sup>th</sup> October. At **Wards End Farm** one flew high S on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

**GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*  
**Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.**

Records were received from 24 localities, which is two more than last year. The only area which produced records spanning the year was around **Wards End Farm**, with 29 records covering all months apart from February, May and August.

Yaffling was heard at 16 localities, with two birds involved at **Thurstonland Bank, Wards End Farm** and **Cheesegate Nab**, and three in the **Woodsome Valley**. Juveniles were observed at a number of sites, but breeding was confirmed only at **Thurstonland Bank**, where there were thought to be as many as four pairs, and five birds were present on 6<sup>th</sup> March. The many records from **Wards End Farm** were thought to emanate from regular breeding birds at nearby **Hey Green**.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res**, records were restricted to the second half of the year. Most were from the Orange Wood inflow area but, except for two on 20<sup>th</sup> July, this only amounted to singles on three dates in July, one date in August and October, six dates in November, and one date in December.

Singles were noted flying high W at **Wards End Farm** on 24<sup>th</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April. At **Harden Quarries**, one flew S and then turned E on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*  
**Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.**

Records came in from 48 locations, which is three more than last year and one more than 2019. Dated records numbered 341, which was up on both the 300 of last year and the 320 of 2019, but several reports were again rather vague, with comments such as 'seen on every visit' etc. Most records involved singles, occasionally two and rarely three or four, with the exceptions being six at **Holme Moss** on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, five at **Scammdon** on 11<sup>th</sup> August, and at **Wards End Farm** (see below).

Breeding was confirmed at four sites although the true number is likely to be much higher, as 'pairs' were seen at five others and a number of juveniles were seen later.

At **Wards End Farm**, where daily counts of passing birds are carried out, they were noted on 190 days, a little down on the 203 of last year but still well up on the 153 of 2019. The number of bird/days at 406 was well above the 321 of last year and the paltry 191 of 2019 but still not close to the exceptional 492 in 2018. Birds were seen in every month apart from February with the peak in August and September, which suggests an amount of passage over the area. During this period there were many counts of six and above but the only double figure one was the 10 on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one or two were present throughout the year, with four from 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July.

**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

**Partial migrant breeder (1), 0-4 pairs. Scarce visitor.**

Just 37 records came in this year, down on the 43 of last year and continuing a trend when we consider that in 2017 there were 78 records. Birds were recorded in all months except February and June from a total of 14 locations, which is five down on last year. Unfortunately, breeding wasn't proven anywhere, and the bulk of the records came post breeding, which suggests once again that many birds were passing through the area following passerine migration.

**Horbury SW** – the first of the year was a male chasing Pied Wagtails here on 17<sup>th</sup> January. **Wards End Farm** – there were 17 records this year, which is surprisingly only two down on last year despite the overall drop. The first was a female flying W up the valley on 24<sup>th</sup> January. In March one flew up the valley on 22<sup>nd</sup> and the following day a female was over **Garside Hey** at 08.20hrs. April saw one fly E on 3<sup>rd</sup>. and on 16<sup>th</sup> one unsuccessfully chased a Meadow pipit towards **Lower Green Owlers** for quite some time. Another moved W on 20<sup>th</sup> May then no more until a female made a quick dash at some Starlings before disappearing at 09.40hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> July. One was 'buzzing' two Kestrels on 26<sup>th</sup> July. The next were in September with one chasing passerines close to the house before departing at 18.10hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup>, one flying low W on 14<sup>th</sup>. one SW on 26<sup>th</sup> and one chasing Starlings on 28<sup>th</sup> October brought two more chases with one after a Meadow pipit on 11<sup>th</sup> and one chasing Chaffinches through a flock of Woodpigeons on 23<sup>rd</sup>. then what may have been the same bird 'buzzing' a Hen Harrier on 25<sup>th</sup>, a Carrion Crow on 26<sup>th</sup> and a Common Buzzard on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Whitley Airfield** – two were interacting in flight before heading towards Broadstones on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**Law Common Road** – on 28<sup>th</sup> March a female flew along the moorland edge.

**Broadstone/Windmill Lane** – one went through a stubble field in pursuit of 30 Linnets on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ramsden Clough** – a male on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Hartcliff Hill , Penistone** – a male here on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Saddleworth Moor** – a female was chasing Meadow Pipits to and fro across the A635 on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**Harden Quarries** – one flew W on 12<sup>th</sup> August and another S on 28<sup>th</sup> September

**Boshaw Whams** – one was seen briefly in flight before landing on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a female type was here on 6<sup>th</sup> September; one flew W on 20<sup>th</sup> October and another SW on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - there were two records (5 in 2020). One flew N along the east bank at 10.30hrs. on 17<sup>th</sup> September and a single was over Meltham Cop at 12.05hrs. on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Royd Moor Hill watch point** – one was seen in flight on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Maythorn** – the final one of the year was present here on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

Records were thankfully well up this year as can be seen from the table below, with breeding being confirmed again, which is not easy given that this species is notoriously secretive around breeding sites, and it is likely that there were other undiscovered sites.

**Scout Dike Res.** – the first of the year was seen here on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (II).

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – another seen here on 5<sup>th</sup> May with one drifting S on 11<sup>th</sup> and one chasing Swallows at 10.10hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup>. June brought two records with one chasing Swallows at 10.10hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup> and one high W at 10.40hrs. on 10<sup>th</sup>. Just one record in July, this time with two, again chasing Swallows on 9<sup>th</sup>. In August one flew up the valley then ‘u’ turned on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a single passed over at 9.45hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> and an adult flew W at 10.50hrs. on 20<sup>th</sup> then a juvenile went high W at 11.20hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup>. Four more in September rounding off a bumper year with an adult carrying prey low E at 17.40hrs. on 8<sup>th</sup>, an adult W at 08.15hrs. on 11<sup>th</sup>, one high towards Hey Green on 14<sup>th</sup> and finally two flew W on 16<sup>th</sup> (All DWS).

**Ladywood Lakes** – a single flew N on 9<sup>th</sup> May (PDK).

**Boshaw Whams** – one flew SW on 12<sup>th</sup> May (DHP).

**Fulstone** – a single seen here on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – on 21<sup>st</sup> June a single flew W (NWM).

**Honley Wood** – two were mobbing a Buzzard on 23<sup>rd</sup> June (TD).

**Wood Nook** – one unsuccessfully pursued a Swift on 23<sup>rd</sup> June (TD).

**Broadstone Heath** – one on 8<sup>th</sup> July (TM).

**Royd Moor Res.** – a single on 13<sup>th</sup> July (CBull).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were four records, after two in 2020 and four in 2019. An adult was over the east bank at 11.05hrs. on 14<sup>th</sup> July (DM), an adult was over Meltham Cop at 10.30hrs. on 30<sup>th</sup> July (SP), one flew S over the fields to the W at 11.55hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, GBS), and an adult flew W over the reservoir at 09.35hrs. on 31<sup>st</sup> August (MLD, GBS *et al.*).

**Oldfield** – singles on 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July, with the latter seen in pursuit of Swallows (SC).

**Marsh Lane, Shepley** – the observer viewed one from the house on 18<sup>th</sup> July (NWM).

**Holme Moss** – a juvenile was sat on a fence post near to the summit on 2<sup>nd</sup> August (II).

**Dunford Bridge** – one caused havoc amongst hirundines on 26<sup>th</sup> August (DHP).

**Crosland Moor** – one flew NW at 08.30hrs. on 1<sup>st</sup> September (MLD).

**Jos Lane, Shepley** – the final one of the year was a juvenile passing low over the observer’s house on 28<sup>th</sup> September (TM).

Records of Hobby in the Huddersfield area during the last 10 years:

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
28	18	34	29	25	21	29	21	20	34

**PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus*

Resident breeder, increased to (1), 1-6 pairs.

Records were received from 33 locations, which was slightly down on the previous year

but gave no reason to think that the recent upward trend has reversed. Again, successful breeding was confirmed at the two usual urban sites, with three juveniles present at a rural location and at least two other sites thought likely to have hosted breeding.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - there were seven records, 13 in 2020 and 2019), distributed throughout the year as follows: January and February with 2 each and May, August, and October 1 each. Five of the records involved singles for short periods only, but what was probably the same large female was chasing gulls over the reservoir for several minutes on both 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January and an immature male and immature female were chasing gulls over the reservoir for 15 minutes before departing S at 09.45hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> August; the female returned 65 minutes later and continued to chase gulls until it departed E at 10.55hrs.

**Lockwood** – one was seen on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Wessenden** – one was seen on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Linthwaite** – a single flew over on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**Skelmanthorpe** – one flew S over village on 10<sup>th</sup> January and another NE on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Digley Valley** – one over on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**Moselden** – a 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar year was recorded here on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cawthorne** – one chased 80 Lapwings and 50 Golden Plovers on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**Fixby** – singles flew in the direction of **Huddersfield** town centre on 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February and 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – birds were seen on just 16 occasions, which is five down on last year and no less than 19 down on 2018. Again, most were singles and were flying W up the valley, although two individuals were involved on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and again on 8<sup>th</sup> April, with three on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ramsden Clough** – birds were seen on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> July, and 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Winscar Res.** – singles seen on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> April, a juvenile bathing at the water's edge on 8<sup>th</sup> October, and one on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Rastrick** – one flew towards **Brighouse** on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

**Riding Wood Res.** – two were seen on 15<sup>th</sup> March and a single on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Crosland Edge** – one flew over on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Harden** – one flew towards **Hade Edge** on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Crosley's Plantation** – an individual with an orange ring on its left leg flew over on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cheesegate Nab** – two were circling over on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Thick Hollins, Meltham** – one soaring above on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Horbury** – a single circled over the marshalling yard on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a male was over on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Turnbridge** – a single was seen on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a bird seen hunting on 11<sup>th</sup> August was considered by the observers to be a possible Peregrine/Lanner Falcon hybrid and perhaps an escaped bird, although no jesses were visible.

**Longwood** – one on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Harden Quarries** – singles on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October, and two engaged in an aerial dispute on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Scammondan** – a juvenile was chasing Kestrels on 12<sup>th</sup> August and the same or another chasing pigeons on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

**Thongsbridge** – one flew W on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ramsden Res.** – a single was seen on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**Maythorn** – singles on 26<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Boshaw Whams** – an adult was photographed unsuccessfully pursuing an Oystercatcher on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Brighthouse** – one on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Thurstonland Bank** – one on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

### **RING-NECKED PARAKEET** *Psittacula krameri*

**Introduced.**

There were reports from five locations this year; five birds seen on 23<sup>rd</sup> January at **Rectory Park, Thornhill Bank**, two at **Dewsbury Sewage Works** sat in an ash tree on the river embankment on 1<sup>st</sup> February, single birds at **Helme** on 30<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April, one at **Wooldale** on 21<sup>st</sup> September, and singles seen on 11<sup>th</sup> November at **Marsden**, when one was on the golf course and the same or another was on **Pule Hill**.

### **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

**Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.**

Regular observations were made throughout the year in every month from all over the area, with single birds or pairs being normal. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, up to four birds were present throughout with six on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April and seven on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Groups of four birds were also seen at **Fixby** on March 17<sup>th</sup>, **Linthwaite** on March 21<sup>st</sup>, **Scammonden** on 13<sup>th</sup> April, and **Meltham Mills** on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Later in the year eight were at **Marsden Golf Course** on 18<sup>th</sup> September and 15 were in **Holme Styes** plantation 24<sup>th</sup> September. In October, regular double figure counts were seen daily at **Windy Bank Res.** with a maximum of 20 on 8<sup>th</sup>, and finally, a group of four birds was seen in **Holmfirth** on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding evidence was thin on the ground, but a pair bred in a **Lockwood** garden, two juveniles fledged at **Head Clough, Marsden** on 17<sup>th</sup> May, and a pair was seen at a nest on 28<sup>th</sup> June in **Honley**.

Apart from some very good counts throughout the whole area it was also an exceptional year for birds moving over in autumn, and visible migration was in evidence at the following locations:

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a total of 171 birds on eight days flew mainly S or SW between 12<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October, with a maximum of 36 S on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Deer Hill Res.** – 12 birds flew W on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 147 flew in mostly southerly directions on 13 dates between 20<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The maximum count was 32 (of which several flew E) on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Crosland Moor** – eight flew N on 13<sup>th</sup> August. 15 birds seen on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – on 26<sup>th</sup> September nine flew SW and six NE.

**MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

**Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.**

This ubiquitous although much under recorded bird was observed daily in every month throughout the year in all areas, mostly in singles, pairs, or very small groups. The only breeding evidence mentioned was in **Lockwood**, where a pair nested in a Sycamore tree in the observers' garden and at **Butterley Lane, New Mill** where a pair bred in a neighbour's garden with nest material seen being carried in April and young being fed in late May. Two adults were seen with two juveniles in **Linthwaite** on 20<sup>th</sup> June. In **Almondbury**, two or three juveniles were seen in early May.

Larger groups were seen in the following areas:

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – present throughout the year, with the only double figure counts being 14 on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 15 on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 14 on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 15 on 28<sup>th</sup> February and 16 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – present throughout the year, with five flying west on 11<sup>th</sup> October and six seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Fixby** – 30 were seen having emerged from a roost at 07.50hrs. on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 35 similarly on 11<sup>th</sup> of the same month.

**Almondbury** – 14 gathered in a tree in Northgate on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Wooldale** – a group of 12 were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cheesegate Nab** – seven on 9<sup>th</sup> March and six on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Thurstonland Bank** – c.50 roosted on 15<sup>th</sup> March, and c.60 on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Turnbridge** – nine on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Scammonden** – six on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Meltham Mills** – up to seven were seen daily in November.

**Thongsbridge** – 30 roosted in trees surrounding a garden on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**JACKDAW** *Coloeus monedula*

**Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.**

This widespread and common bird was observed almost daily throughout the area in groups of up to 20 or so, although breeding evidence was a little thin on the ground. Birds were observed nesting in the eaves of a house in **Fixby**, rearing at least two young, and in **New Mill** they bred in three chimneys of some neighbouring 18<sup>th</sup>-century cottages, with young present in the garden in May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – present throughout the year, with maxima of 54 on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 39 on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Deanhouse** – groups of between 40 and 70 birds observed daily throughout the year.

**Fixby** – in February, 14 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 32 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Binns Lane, Holmfirth** – 38 birds seen from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**Thurstonland Bank** – a large flock of c.300 circled over late in the afternoon of 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Deer Hill** – a flock of 40 on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Cheesegate Nab** – a group of 30 birds were seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Cartworth Moor** – 100 on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Golcar** – 40 on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – 50 on 26<sup>th</sup> January.



Visible migration was noted as follows (although as noted by the observers at Harden Quarries it is difficult with this species to distinguish active migration from local movements):

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – birds were seen moving W on ten days during March the highest being 31 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 20 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. In Autumn a total of 1,776 birds flew W on 21 dates between 16<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> November W with maxima all in October of 800 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 220 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 160 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 120 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 878 flew mainly NW on 26 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> November, with maximum counts of 128 on 8<sup>th</sup> October and 126 on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** –1456 birds in total moved W between 12<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November with maxima of 293 W on 9<sup>th</sup> October and 544 W on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the same month.

### **ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

**Resident breeder (5), (1,449 pairs in the survey of 2018).**

This species has been declining in our area and beyond for some years with many Rookeries disappearing altogether. Most of these, in common with neighbouring areas, have taken place more around the moorland fringes whilst to the E and SE of our area some sizeable Rookeries can still be found.

Rooks continued to be reported from most areas of the district throughout the year, though there is no doubt they are under-recorded. Rookery records came from **Bretton Park** (8 nests around the upper lake; these appearing since the 2018 survey), **Jackson Bridge** (5 nests on 15<sup>th</sup> February), and near **Cheesegate Nab** (20 nests).

Birds were present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with maximum counts of 36 on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 47 on 17<sup>th</sup> February. Other significant numbers of feeding flocks were seen at **Ingbirchworth**, with 40 birds on 16<sup>th</sup> February. 40+ were also seen near **Bolster Moor** farm shop on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 20 were at **Farnley Tyas** on 9<sup>th</sup> March, and 25 on **Broadstone Heath** on 28<sup>th</sup> July. The highest count however was an impressive c.100 birds feeding in a freshly manured field near **Cheesegate Nab** on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

At **Wards End Farm** where birds are normally rarely seen, this year in May, two flew NW on 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and one NW on 25<sup>th</sup>, with two SE on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Later in the year 10 were present on 16<sup>th</sup> September, seven and six on 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> respectively, one (which flew W with Jackdaws and Carrion Crows) on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and two on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Apart from the above-mentioned, birds seen moving over the area were as follows:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 17 flew W on 9 dates between 12<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> November, with maxima of three on 12<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> October.

### **CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*

**Common resident breeder (4),**

This species continues to be seen throughout the year in all areas, although mostly in singles or pairs. Only two records of breeding were received, these

involving three pairs near **Wards End Farm** and a pair in an oak tree at **New Mill**.

Larger agglomerations included the following:

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – single figures were seen daily with 14 on 27<sup>th</sup> February and 10 on 10<sup>th</sup> August, (though see birds moving over area below) and two birds with a lot of white in their wings were seen on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – present throughout the year, with 44 on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 38 on 9<sup>th</sup> February, and 74 in the fields to the W on 29<sup>th</sup> June being the maxima.

**Lockwood** – up to 14 seen all year.

**Deanhouse** – six seen regularly throughout the year.

**Meltham Mills** – birds seen in small numbers regularly throughout the year with six on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 12 on 6<sup>th</sup> October, and 8 on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Meltham Mills** – birds seen in small numbers regularly throughout the year with six on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 12 on 6<sup>th</sup> October, and 8 on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – eight on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> April, and 13<sup>th</sup> October, with 10 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Golcar** – ten on 5<sup>th</sup> February and 20 on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Riding Wood Res.** – 25 birds seen circling on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Turnbridge** – seven on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cheesegate Nab** – 16 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 10 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Visible migration:

Birds were seen moving over the area from **Wards End Farm**. In March birds moving NW were 27 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 47 on 30<sup>th</sup>. Later in the year a total of 160 flew W on 7 dates between 4<sup>th</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> November, with maxima of 74 (with 800 Jackdaws) on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 30 on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

### **RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

**Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.**

Birds were recorded at 32 locations (37 last year) and were seen in every month of the year, mainly in the moorland and adjacent areas, although occasionally further afield over more urban areas, with a single over **Fixby** on 10<sup>th</sup> April, two over **Upper Heaton** on 27<sup>th</sup> February, and singles at **Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** on 5<sup>th</sup> April and over **Silkstone Common** on 10<sup>th</sup> August. They occurred mainly in singles or pairs, although groups of four to six were not uncommon. Higher counts came from **Wessenden** (11 on 16<sup>th</sup> September and 8 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October) and **Harden Quarries**, where 10 flew mainly SW on 14<sup>th</sup> October and eight flew E on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

As regards evidence of breeding, a pair was photographed nesting in a local mill chimney on 16<sup>th</sup> March, although the outcome remains unknown. At another location, two juveniles which flew over SE with an adult on 12<sup>th</sup> May were thought to have bred just outside our area.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were 16 records (12 in 2020 and 13 in 2019) which, like the two previous years, fell into two distinct periods: three between 9<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> May and 13 between 12<sup>th</sup> August and 21<sup>st</sup> December. With the exception of four which flew S along

the east bank at 12.00hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup> March, all other records involved no more than two individuals.

At **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, not surprisingly at this daily watched moorland site, birds were recorded flying over in every month, amassing a total of 62 records. Four were seen on six occasions with five on 28<sup>th</sup> October and six on 29<sup>th</sup> January. It is always difficult to say whether any movement is taking place but in October there were 10 records. Similarly, birds were seen in small numbers all year at **Deer Hill** and **Ramsden Clough** as well as over or near various moorland reservoirs in the south of our area.

### **COAL TIT** *Periparus ater*

**Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.**

Observations were from 21 locations, a drop from the previous year, although a number of garden observations covered the whole year. The numbers in gardens rarely exceeded three, with the exception of six at **Wards End Farm** on 28<sup>th</sup> June. Records from other sites were somewhat sparse, but included four at **Ingbirchworth** on 6<sup>th</sup> January, two at **Turnbridge** on 27<sup>th</sup> March, three at **Cartworth Moor** on 30<sup>th</sup> March, and two in the Spa Wood area of **Lockwood** up to May. At **Thongsbridge**, birds were present throughout the year, with numbers being higher in the first and last three months, and two pairs bred. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** too one or two birds were present throughout the year and a pair bred in Orange Wood. Breeding was also confirmed at **Wards End Farm**.

The only visible migration records this year were from **Harden Quarries**, where a total of 52 flew mostly SE on six dates between 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October, and the maximum count was 19 on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

### **WILLOW TIT** *Poecile montana*

**Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.**

There were records from 10 locations, one up on last year, but with no proof of breeding. Numbers recorded in the second half of the year were considerably lower than in January to June.

**Silkstone SW** – one nearby on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and one or possibly two on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – one at the feeding station and one in the scrub at the western end on 6<sup>th</sup> January. Two were seen on 16<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Two in song near the NE corner of the Reservoir on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April, with one singing there on 13<sup>th</sup> April. There were a further eight records ranging from one to four birds and spanning the whole year.

**Shelley** – a pair noted on territory on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**Thongsbridge** – one visited the observer's garden in cold weather on 6<sup>th</sup> February and was the first record there. It did not use the feeders, and was not seen subsequently.

**Crow Edge** – a single bird on feeders on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Carlecotes Ponds** – one to three on several dates throughout the first half of the year, with song heard on four dates in April (including two in song on 9<sup>th</sup>), but no proof of successful breeding. Later, singles were heard calling on 27<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**Scout Dike Res.** – the only records received involved two on 7<sup>th</sup> May and four on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**Royd Moor Res.** – the only dated record was of one on 11<sup>th</sup> May, but another observer stated that, as at Scout Dike, birds were occasionally seen and/or heard throughout the year.

**Dunford Bridge** – two birds were together (one of them carrying food) on 13<sup>th</sup> May at **Wogden Foot NR**. This site has now been partially destroyed by engineering work associated with pylon removal.

**Broadstone Res.** – singles were recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> November, and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

**Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.**

This species remains widely distributed and very common. **Ingbirchworth Res.** had up to eight regularly over the last three months, as did **Wards End Farm**. A walk along the canal from **Turnbridge to Cooper Bridge** on 20<sup>th</sup> March produced 10. A **Linthwaite** garden held between four and six throughout. Breeding was widespread in garden nest boxes though one pair was evicted by a colony of Tree Bees while another box held eight eggs which had been abandoned. Groups of six to eight juveniles were seen in gardens.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – present throughout the year with a maximum of 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a maximum of 11 on 6<sup>th</sup> June and 10 in September.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – 23+ on 6<sup>th</sup> January, six on 16<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> April, eight on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Fenay Crescent, Almondbury** – saw birds regularly throughout with a maximum of 10 on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**Turnbridge** – 10 on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Scout Dike Res.** – 10 on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Brockholes** – six on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**Lockwood Brewery Dam** – a monthly average of 12.

**GREAT TIT** *Parus major*

**Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.**

As is usual the majority of records came from gardens and similar locations to its near relative the Blue Tit, although it was noted by some observers that numbers appeared to be down. Several locations held small numbers throughout the year. It was present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, but no flocks were noted. The highest numbers recorded were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** which held 15 at on 17<sup>th</sup> March and 10 on 28<sup>th</sup> June, and at **Wards End Farm**, where up to 10 were noted regularly in November. There were only two records of successful breeding, one of which was in a hole in a barn wall at **Wards End Farm**.



**Great Northern Diver, Blackmoorfoot, December 2021, Dave Pennington**



**Black-necked Grebe, Ringstone Edge Res., March 2021, Dave Pennington**



**Common Scoter, Ingbirchworth Res., July 2021, Nick Mallinson**



**White-fronted Goose, Broadstone Res., Dave Pennington**



**Caspian Gull, Ravensthorpe, March 2021, Paul Disken**



**Iceland Gull, Blackmoorfoot Res., February 2021, Dave Pennington**



**Whooper Swans, Broadstone Res., December 2021, Dave Pennington**



**Dunlin, Ingbirchworth Res., September 2021, Dave Pennington**





**Redshank, Ingbirchworth Res., April 2021, Dave Pennington**



**Long-eared Owl, site withheld, April 2021, Mick Mail**



**Twite, Wards End Farm, May 2021, Dave Sill**



**Black Redstart, Shepley, April 2021, Nick Mallinson**



**Firecrest, Elland GP, February 2021, Mick Sharp**



**Wood Warbler, Binn Green, May 2021, Nick Mallinson**



**Grasshopper Warbler, Meltham, May 2021, Dave Pogson**



**Marsh Harrier, Wards End Farm, June 2021, Dave Sill**



**Redstart, Meltham, May 2021, Dave Pennington**



**Whinchat, Deer Hill, April 2021, Dave Pennington**



**Barn Owl, Location withheld, April 2021, Dave Pogson**



**Hen Harrier, September 2021, Wards End Farm, Dave Sill**

**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

**Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (4), 500-2,500 pairs. Red listed.**

Records were submitted from 25 locations as against the 18 of last year.

Usually there are no January records but this year an early record on 2<sup>nd</sup> was an exception, and involved no less than 30+ individuals feeding in stubble off **Frank Lane, Emley**. February records were more in evidence this year too, with two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> and four on 5<sup>th</sup>, two at **Thurstonland** on 7<sup>th</sup>, and five at **Windmill Lane, Broadstones** on 15<sup>th</sup>, with a similar number at nearby **Dearne Dike Lane** on the following day and 15 feeding in stubble there on 21<sup>st</sup>. The first at **Wards End Farm** were five on 17<sup>th</sup>, with four on 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Singles were noted at **Yateholme** on 21<sup>st</sup>, **Four Lane Ends, Penistone** on 25<sup>th</sup>, and **Crossley's Plantation and Moselden** on 26<sup>th</sup>.

There was no proof of breeding, but singing males were reported from **Wards End Farm** (10), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (7), **Cheesegate Nab** (5), **Dearne Dike Lane and Windmill Lane, Broadstones** (five), **Snape Res.** (2), and **Harden Quarries** (at least one), and birds were reported during the breeding season from at least eight further sites.

Between mid-March and mid-September counts remained low apart from at **Wards End Farm** (above), which yielded regular counts of 10 and a maximum of 25 on 12<sup>th</sup> April, and **Broadstone Heath**, where there were 10 on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Apart from the overflying birds listed below the only record after mid-September was on 21<sup>st</sup> October at **Royd Moor Res.** where amongst a flock of feeding passerines were 10 Yellowhammers and a late c.20 Skylarks.

Visible migration was seen at four watch points:

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – just in spring, eight N on 7<sup>th</sup> March and two W on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - all birds flew W with eight on 17<sup>th</sup> September, six on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, and six on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 19 flew S or SW between 16<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 71 flew S or SW on 14 dates between 7<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Maximum counts were 14 on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 12 on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

It was noted that figures for the latter two locations were very similar to last year's.

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

**Migrant breeder, increased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor.**

The first of the year were five which flew W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 27<sup>th</sup> March. These were followed by four on 29<sup>th</sup> one on 30<sup>th</sup> and two on 31<sup>st</sup>. Six at **Dewsbury SW** and a single past **Wards End Farm** on 30<sup>th</sup> were the only other March records. We then had to wait until April for the next, and what a month it was. A single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> started things off, with six the following day, seven on 5<sup>th</sup>, three on 6<sup>th</sup>, and six on 12<sup>th</sup>. Two were at **Horbury Wyke** on 4<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> then saw 100 at **Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)**, with the same again on 24<sup>th</sup>. At **Dewsbury SW** there were counts of 150 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 55 on

9<sup>th</sup>, 86 on 16<sup>th</sup>, and 100 on 20<sup>th</sup>. **Anchor Pit Lock, Brighouse** then hosted six on 11<sup>th</sup>, a single visited **Broadstone Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup>, more fly-past singles at **Wards End Farm** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and 12 were at **Lockwood** on 25<sup>th</sup>.

The following months brought records from 13 sites, the same as last year, but this time there were none from **Bretton Lakes**. Overall, counts were rather low. **Blackmoorfoot** provided 24 of them, but none exceeded three individuals. Birds were seen throughout at **Lockwood** with a maximum of six on 15<sup>th</sup> May, four were at **Scout Dike** on 20<sup>th</sup> of the same month and in June six and five were present on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June respectively at **Turnbridge**. The high counts at **Dewsbury SW** continued into May, with 150 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 100 (described as 50 pairs) at the colony site on 14<sup>th</sup>. At **Ravensthorpe** at least five pairs bred, and at another site in the same area birds were seen entering and leaving holes in the rusted metal canal wall. On a negative note, on 28<sup>th</sup> May at **Horbury Wyke** the Calder riverbank colony appeared to be defunct after a landslip, although 10 were present there on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

By late August most birds had left the area and the only September records were at **Harden Quarries** on visible migration watches with a single S on 6<sup>th</sup> and two S on 8<sup>th</sup>.

### SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

**Migrant breeder (4), 500-600 pairs. Numerous passage visitor.**

Returning birds were a little earlier arriving than last year and there were six March records. The first was one W over **Fixby** on 30<sup>th</sup> at 06.51hrs. with two W over **Deanhead Clough** at 08.18hrs. The 31<sup>st</sup> brought singles over **Blackmoorfoot Res., Deanhead Clough** again, **Broadstone Heath** and **New Mill**.

Arrivals began to pick up in April and although records came in from 16 locations, counts were disappointing, with none reaching double figures apart from at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (18 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 20+ on three dates, and 45+ on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) and **Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** (100 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 150 on 28<sup>th</sup>). At **Blackmoorfoot**, the observer described the numbers as 'abysmal', and that not even when there was inclement weather were any brought lower to feed. At **Wards End Farm** where birds were seen on 18 dates it was described as very slow.

Counts of double figures or more came from:

**Dewsbury SW** – 150 on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – birds were seen on a daily basis with up to 10 by 13<sup>th</sup> and 14 on 25<sup>th</sup>, with up to 16 by 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Boshaw Whams** – 50 were hawking over the water on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**Meltham Mill SW** – 30 were feeding with other hirundines over the filter beds on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**Scout Dike Res.** – 10 were feeding here on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – 20 were here on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Breeding was confirmed only at the following sites: **Wards End Farm** (8 pairs, only 5 last year), **Cheesegate Nab** (3 pairs), **Brockholes** (1 pair), **Royd Moor Res.** (a pair feeding 5



young), and **Scammonden** (1 pair). There were at least another four localities where pairs were present during the breeding season, but it is not always easy to find the exact location of a single nest, and the above figures are surely an under-recording.

Once again, large autumn gatherings were not in evidence and the only counts in double figures or above were the following:

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – in July 60 were feeding over the valley on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, with 100 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> with no days fewer than 40 even in the worst conditions. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 30 were present, with 50 on 28<sup>th</sup> and in September, 50 also on 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Broadstone Res.** – 12 were feeding here on 28<sup>th</sup> July with 30 on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. In September 40 were over nearby Potter's Gate on 8<sup>th</sup> and 20 were present on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Browns Edge Road, Broadstone** – 35 on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – double figures rarely topped 25, and the maximum was 42 on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – 20 on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Windy Bank Road, Meltham** – 24 on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Royd Moor Res.** – 18 on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Maythorn** – 40 on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Birds had mostly left the area by the end of September, and the only October records (apart from those listed under migration, below) came from **Windy Bank Wood**, where there were two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and **Wards End Farm**, which had two on 1<sup>st</sup>, three on 4<sup>th</sup>, a single on 5<sup>th</sup>, and then a single juvenile which briefly landed on 12<sup>th</sup> and was the last of the year (and the latest ever at this site by a week).

Visible migration was recorded at the following locations:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 2,816 flew mainly S on 39 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 18<sup>th</sup> October. Maximum day counts were 548 on 8<sup>th</sup> September and 427 on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 289 S or SW between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 28<sup>th</sup> August with a maximum of 205 on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Wards End Farm** – a total of 286 between 12<sup>th</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> October flew mainly W with a maximum of 60 on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a total of 204 between 19<sup>th</sup> August when 26 flew W and 8<sup>th</sup> October with the remainder flying S.

**Scammonden** – 100+ flew S on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Maythorn** – 40 flew SW on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Yateholme** – c.70 flew S on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*

Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Common passage visitor.

The evident decline of this species, both nationally and locally, continues to cause concern. Records were received from only 23 localities, which is three fewer than last year and well down on the 31 in 2019, and breeding was reported from just five of these, which is two fewer than last year. Counts were also generally low, albeit with a few exceptions.

The first to return was a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10 days earlier than last year. This was the only early bird though, with the next ones not arriving until 12<sup>th</sup>, when another was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** Records continued to be sparse, and no more were seen until yet another single arrived, this time at **Boshaw Whams** on 25<sup>th</sup> with just two more records and the only ones in double figures this month being 13 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> and 15 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Most gatherings during May and June were of single figures with the only higher counts coming from **Dewsbury SW**, which held 350 on 6<sup>th</sup> May and at least 400 the following day and on 14<sup>th</sup>. At **Meltham Mills SW**, 200 were counted over the filter beds in unseasonal cold weather on 15<sup>th</sup>. The only other notable counts were 15 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 18 at **Brockholes** on 11<sup>th</sup> June. There were also two records in July of 20 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 40 at **Royd Moor Hill** on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**In order to understand the fluctuating fortunes of this species it is essential that members continue to submit all records of breeding locations including negative records from past breeding locations.**

The following were the only breeding sites with data:

**Greenfield Road, Crosland Moor** – two nests.

**Stoney Bank Road, Thongsbridge** – one nest.

**Oakes Avenue, Brockholes** – three nests.

**Slade Lane, Rastrick** – four nests.

**Rastrick (new location)** – two nests.

Autumn gatherings were disappointing too with mainly low double figure counts and the only ones of 20+ were as follows. 20 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> August and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, despite numbers reaching double figures nine times, a maximum of only 36 was reached on 24<sup>th</sup> August. At **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, there were five double figure counts with a maximum of 34 present on 26<sup>th</sup> August, and then in September the only notable count was 40 at **Broadstone Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup>. Apart from the migration counts below there was just one October record, which was a single at **Windy Bank Wood, Meltham** on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – birds passing over the area involved 11 W on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 13 S on 24<sup>th</sup> September and 50+ S on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 755 flew mostly S on 23 dates between 12<sup>th</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> October, with a maximum of 246 on 8<sup>th</sup> September. October records involved 36 S on 4<sup>th</sup> and five S on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Wards End Farm** – a total of 401 birds flew mostly W on seven dates between 13 August and 29<sup>th</sup> September with a maximum of 250 W on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Pule Hill** – a total of 156 flew over W or SW on 3 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 18<sup>th</sup> September with a maximum of 104 SW on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

**Royd Moor Hill watch point** – 92 flew over on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Lower Maythorn** – five flew over on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**LONG TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus*  
**Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs**

Reports were submitted from a wide variety of areas including three moorland locations. Only two gardens, at **Fixby** and **Thongsbridge**, noted that they were regular or present throughout the year, but the latter also considered them more numerous than last year. Over ninety percent of observations were in single figures. Those in double figures were significantly fewer than last year, and are listed below.

**Lockwood** – birds resident in the area, the highest count being 16 in January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – 10 were present on 13<sup>th</sup> January with later in the year 18 on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 16 on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Bretton Park** – 15 feeding in an oak tree on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ingbirchworth** – 12 on 17<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Rastrick** – 15 on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Windy Bank Wood, Meltham Mills** – 10 on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Breeding was confirmed at only two locations:

**Thongsbridge** - one pair bred successfully.

**Linthwaite** – 9 (6 juveniles) on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Movement was noted in three moorland locations as follows:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 25 SW came up Carr Clough in one flock, rose up, and continued on out of sight.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** - on 9<sup>th</sup> October there were at least 30, 20+ of which flew high W over the moor.

Records of groups flying S over open moorland at **Harden Quarries** included seven on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 11 on 16<sup>th</sup> October, and 17 on 25<sup>th</sup> October, but in each case the birds eventually returned to the copse.

**WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

**Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs.**

At **Binn Green, Dove Stone**, a singing male was seen on several occasions between 10<sup>th</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> June (several observers), but no breeding was reported. This is a different site from where last year's two records came.

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

**Vagrant.**

The bird present at **Horbury SW** from 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December of the previous year was seen again on 1<sup>st</sup> (H Milburn) and 4<sup>th</sup> January (MCud). This remains only the fourth record for our area, with the others dating back to 1980, 1985, and 2005.

**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

**Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs, and common passage visitor.**

Records were received from only 33 localities, which was well down on the 41 of last year, and birds were present between 31<sup>st</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> September.

The first returning birds were on 31<sup>st</sup> March, with three at **Broadstone Heath**, a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, and one bathing in a **Thongsbridge** garden pond. The next arrivals were on 2<sup>nd</sup> April but records throughout the month were almost all in ones and twos. The first at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was a singing male on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and this had risen to four by 13<sup>th</sup> and eight by 24<sup>th</sup>. Double figure counts of singing males were fewer than last year and the only ones over four were: seven at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup>., six at **Scout Dike Res.** on the same date, 14 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and 10 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup>. Continuing into May, counts continued to be low, and the 24 on 15<sup>th</sup> at **Tunnel End, Marsden** was by far the highest. However, this was put into perspective by the observer who commented 'the 20-year average here is 34'. Other double figures in May were 12 at **Langsett** on 11<sup>th</sup>, and yet another good count of 17 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 13<sup>th</sup> and into June, 13 at the same location on 15<sup>th</sup> and 10 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Although all the above locations held singing males, definite proof of breeding was not forthcoming. However, juvenile birds were seen at the following sites: three at **Windy Bank Wood, Meltham** on 30<sup>th</sup> June, a single at **Butterley Lane, New Mill** on 13<sup>th</sup> July, four at **Bare Bones Road, Harden** on 17<sup>th</sup> August, and four at **Fixby** on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

From early August records then began to dwindle and numbers lessened somewhat. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one or two birds were still seen on a regular basis with the occasional three. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** seven were present on 11<sup>th</sup>. Ten were at **Scammonden** on 27<sup>th</sup> and at **Wards End Farm** daily counts produced regular counts of ones or twos with 6+ on 28<sup>th</sup>. September produced more records than is the norm, with no less than 17 sent in and the majority from the following two locations. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held three on 3<sup>rd</sup>, two on 5<sup>th</sup> and singles on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. **Wards End Farm** held singles on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>, and two on 6<sup>th</sup>. Further singles were at **Moorlands Close, Linthwaite** on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Deanhead Res., Butterley Lane, New Mill,** and **Linthwaite** on 6<sup>th</sup>, and, the last of the year, at **Wilshaw** on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*

**Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.**

Records this year were received from 57 locations, which is five more than last year and back up to the figure of 2019.

Over-wintering birds were quite numerous this year, following the recent trend. January saw fourteen records from six locations as follows: **Meltham Mills SW** (first seen on 1<sup>st</sup> and up to three present into March), **Silkstone SW** (singles on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> with two seen feeding around the filter beds on 9<sup>th</sup>). **Horbury SW** (seven on 7<sup>th</sup> were all judged to be of the nominate race, as were three on 17<sup>th</sup> and one on 31<sup>st</sup>), **Meltham** (one in a garden on 9<sup>th</sup>), and **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where one was present on on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In March, a male was in song at **Horbury Wyke** on 1<sup>st</sup>, but there were then until singles at **Thurstonland Bank** on 15<sup>th</sup>, **Healey House** and **Thongsbridge** on 16<sup>th</sup>, **Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** on 17<sup>th</sup>, **Brockholes** and **Lockwood** on 18<sup>th</sup>, **Cowcliffe** on 19<sup>th</sup>, and four at **Dewsbury SW** on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Counts were then received from 26 locations and mostly involved one or two (occasionally four) birds. The exceptions were as follows.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – after what was presumed to be the first migrant was a singing male on 24<sup>th</sup> March. The following day two singing males were present, and this had increased to six singing males by the month end, with up to six remaining throughout April. Five males then held territories throughout the breeding season.

**Brockholes** – six on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Scout Dike and Royd Moor Res.** – 20 were singing on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**Trans Pennine Trail Dunford Bridge** – six on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Arkenley Lane, Almondbury** – five on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ramsden Clough** – 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

**Lockwood** – five on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Jackson Bridge** – five on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Langsett** – six on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Thongsbridge** – 12 were in a garden on 15<sup>th</sup> August, with five still present on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Scammonden Water** – in September, four on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 on 6<sup>th</sup>, and six on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Wards End Farm** – five on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Birds remained at 20 locations in September, usually in ones and twos but with three at five sites. In October, one was at **Broadstone Heath** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, two at **Yateholme** on 5<sup>th</sup>, one at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup>, two on 10<sup>th</sup> and one on 11<sup>th</sup> at **Wards End Farm**, a single at **Hade Edge** on 10<sup>th</sup>, and singles on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at **Ingbirchworth Res.**

Singles in November in a **Thongsbridge** garden on 11<sup>th</sup> and at **Ladywood Lakes** on 24<sup>th</sup> were assumed to be wintering birds.

One individual found at **Healey Road, Ossett** on 29<sup>th</sup> March was found to have an unusual song, which began like a Chiffchaff but ended like a Willow Warbler (Pdk).

**SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*  
**Rare passage migrant occasionally overwintering.**

A bird considered to be of this subspecies was feeding on the filter beds at **Silkstone SW** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> January (RJB *et al.*). It was then seen on 4<sup>th</sup> (DHP), 5<sup>th</sup> (NWM), and 9<sup>th</sup> January (GSp), and was often in the same field of view as a presumed nominate race Chiffchaff. The final reported sighting was on 4<sup>th</sup> March (CG, DHP).

This record is subject to acceptance by the **YNU** rarities committee.

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
**Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs).**

There was no improvement in the status of this species. Records were received from three locations as against the four of last year and the two in 2019. There was also no proof of breeding this year, unlike last year. It is interesting that none of this year's sites were the same as last year's.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – in May, one on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a male in song on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Bretton Park & Lakes** – one was singing on 9<sup>th</sup> June and four unaged individuals were seen on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

**Wards End Farm** – a juvenile was found in a bracken bed in a gully nearby on 26<sup>th</sup> July. What was probably the same bird was in the same place on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and again, this time almost in the garden, on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

**REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

**Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.**

Records were received from just three locations; the same as the previous two years. The first wasn't seen until 14<sup>th</sup> May, over two weeks later than last year, but this year there was also an autumn sighting.

**Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR.** – two singing males were present on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – a singing male on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Fixby** – a juvenile seen emerging from dense vegetation by a garden pond on 5<sup>th</sup> September was the observer's first garden record in thirty years of living at the address.

**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

**Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.**

Records were received from eight locations, after only four last year and 11 in 2019. As was the case last year there was no direct evidence of breeding, but at one site in particular it was strongly believed to have taken place. Birds were seen between 20<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Broadstone Res./Heath** – in April reeling males were heard on 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, then again on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and finally on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

**Brown Grains, Meltham** – one was reeling and showing between **Brow Grains** and **Red Lane** on 21<sup>st</sup> April and almost certainly bred here, with agitated birds during May, and reeling resuming in July. A further two reeling birds were heard and seen on several dates from late April and again in July on the moorland edge towards **Deer Hill**.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a male was singing in the SW corner overflow field on 29<sup>th</sup> April and a singing male was present near the inflow on 13<sup>th</sup> May. These are the first records since a single on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – two were reeling on 7<sup>th</sup> May, a juvenile was found in the field adjacent to the house on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, and one was flushed from nettles and rushes close to house on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Deer Hill Res.** – one was reeling below the E dam bank 6<sup>th</sup> July.

**Wessenden Head Road, Meltham** – one was heard reeling below **West Nab** on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

**Wessenden Res.** – on 18<sup>th</sup> July a reeling bird was heard.

**Deanhead Res.** – one was present on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*

**Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.**

Records were received from a total of 31 locations and after three years with no records during the first winter period a wintering male, perhaps the same individual, was seen in a **Fixby** garden on 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The first returning bird then didn't appear until 20<sup>th</sup> March at **Bedding Edge Road, Hepworth**, after which there were just three more March records, all singing males, at **Cooper-Binns Lane, Holmfirth** on 28<sup>th</sup>, **Silkstone** on 30<sup>th</sup> and **Brockholes** on 31<sup>st</sup>. In April birds started arriving in greater numbers and were noted in all parts of our area. Records of course are almost all of singing males and though these were widespread they rarely involved more than four at any location. The exceptions were as follows:

**Horbury Wyke** – seven on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – six on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Lockwood** – five were heard on a regular basis and were noted on 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Skelmanthorpe** – five on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Clough Lea, Marsden** – though this year the annual survey was incomplete, 12 were heard from the start of June and throughout the month. The annual average over a 20-year period is 17.

**Bretton Park** – five on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

It seems that most birds departed early, and after just one July record the only August ones were of singles at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup>, **Moorlands Close, Linthwaite** on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Horbury Wyke** on 24<sup>th</sup>, and **Lockwood** on 27<sup>th</sup>. The exception was two at **Scammonden Water** on 12<sup>th</sup>. September too saw just four records; singles at **Thongsbridge** on 1<sup>st</sup> and **Butterley Lane, New Mill** on 5<sup>th</sup>, two at **Scammonden Water** on 6<sup>th</sup>, and singles at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> and **Old Mount Road, Marsden** on 17<sup>th</sup> being the last.

A male bathing in a **Thongsbridge** garden pond on 30<sup>th</sup> October was considered to be over-wintering

Nocturnal sound-recording:

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal snatches of song were recorded at 01.49hrs. on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 00.47hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> April, and 01.36hrs on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Fixby** – brief burst of calls and song from one at 02.47hrs. on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*  
Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

There were records from just 15 localities this year, seven below last year's figure. The first was on 15<sup>th</sup> April and the last on 5<sup>th</sup> September and, as

last year, breeding was proven at two sites.

The continued low number of localities from which the species was recorded warrants the inclusion of all records:

**Stirley Hill Farm** – the first arrival was here on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a single in the garden here on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a singing male was present between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May, followed by two between 6<sup>th</sup> and the end of the month, but just one in song at the beginning of June.

**Broadstone Res.** – six were seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and three on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Scout Dike Res.** – again in May two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 7<sup>th</sup> and, the highest count of the year, 10 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Silkstone** – a single on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Cheesegate Nab** – one present on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Royd Moor Res.** – one on 5<sup>th</sup> May and three on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Ladywood Lakes** – a single on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Trans Pennine Trail, Dunford Bridge** – a good count of six here on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** – two on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Brockholes** – one on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Bullcliff Wood** – a single on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Carlecotes Ponds** – a single on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

**Honley Wood** – two were seen here on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

Although birds were present throughout the season where breeding was likely to have taken place, it was only proven at two locations. At **Broadstones Res.** two pairs were successful, as was a pair at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

**LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Curruca curruca*  
Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Singles were recorded on one date only at a meagre three locations; an alarming drop from the nine of last year, and below even the five of 2019.

**Cheesegate Nab** – one on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (TAD, AK).

**Denby Delf** – one on 14<sup>th</sup> July (RM).

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – one in the garden on 9<sup>th</sup> September (DWS).

**WHITETHROAT** *Curruca communis*  
Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

Birds were recorded between 15<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> September at just 17 locations, which is a significant drop from the 28 of last year.



It was a slow start, with the first returning birds recorded at just four sites. All were singing males in April, with a single at **Stirley Hill Farm** on 15<sup>th</sup>, one at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup>, four at **Broadstone Res./Heath** on 27<sup>th</sup>, and a single on the same date at **Deanhouse**.

Numbers started to pick up as we entered May then into June but still remained relatively low, with counts normally fewer than four and the following being the only exceptions: **Broadstone Res./Heath** held four on 12<sup>th</sup> May and five on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. At **Royd Moor Res.**, eight were present on 12<sup>th</sup> May and six on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. **Cheesegate Nab** had four on 13<sup>th</sup> May. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** by mid-May a gradual increase had reached five territory-holding males and these are considered to have attracted females and all bred. Although there were several records of males holding territory, breeding wasn't actually proven, although it was considered to have taken place at both **Broadstone Heath** and **Cheesegate Nab**, where adults were seen entering probable nest sites.

Few birds then remained by late July apart from family parties at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and unlike last year there was no noticeable rise in numbers through August with all records involving just singles. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. **Wards End Farm, Marsden** held birds on 8 dates between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and **Scammonden Water** between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, September brought a modest number with singles at **Wards End Farm** on 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and two on 9<sup>th</sup> and the last bird of the year at **Four Lane End, Penistone** on 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla*

**Rare winter visitor.**

One at **Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)**, first seen on 1<sup>st</sup> February, remained until at least 16<sup>th</sup> March (VK, MCS, CBB).

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

**Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.**

Records came in from 20 localities, which is two more than last year, and again sightings were concentrated in the early months and of the 53 records submitted 33 of them were from 13 locations during this period. The majority were of ones, rarely twos and again a garden in **Lockwood** held a major part of them with 11 records of singles and 3 on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Between March and the beginning of October only seven records were received, with males singing at three locations. Breeding was successful in a **Thongsbridge** garden, two birds frequented a **Brockholes** garden throughout, and a male sang in a **Fixby** garden. The second winter period brought just 13 records. Eight were of singles but two were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> October, three at **Thongsbridge** on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> November and, in December, two were at **Lockwood** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and two at **Fixby** on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

**Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.**

A total of 165 records came in from every corner of the area, in every type of habitat from many gardens to moorland gulleys. The species took a hit from the 'Beast from the East' in 2018 but now looks to have recovered well.

The first singing male was noted at **Fixby** on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and though most records were of single birds there were good numbers noted. **Lockwood** held birds throughout, with up to 12 counted in March, April and May. Walks around **Cheesgate Nab** area produced counts of 15 on 20<sup>th</sup> April and 14 on 13<sup>th</sup> May. **Langsett Res.** saw 17 birds on 13<sup>th</sup> April and eight on 11<sup>th</sup> May, and there was a count of six at **Turnbridge** on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Likely breeding was reported from a good number of sites, but the only definite ones were in a **Thongsbridge** garden, at **Butterley Lane, New Mill** (where nest material was being carried), and at **Wards End Farm** where a pair were building in the garden on 12<sup>th</sup> May, feeding young by the 25<sup>th</sup> May and then others fledged on 3<sup>rd</sup> July when up to six birds were around daily.

**NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

**Resident breeder, increased to (2-3), 50-150 pairs.**

Only 156 records came in, which is a significant fall from the 200 last year, and although the number of locations was also down, from 38 to 31, the comparative differences were not consistent. Again, as is the norm, many sightings were of garden birds and involved just one or two apart from at **Thick Hollins, Meltham**, where three were seen regularly in August, with four on 27<sup>th</sup>, and four also on two dates in November. All the other reports were of three or fewer birds with the exception of fours at **Arkenley Lane, Almondbury** on 6<sup>th</sup> April and **Holmfirth** on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Although breeding was suspected at a number of locations it was only proven at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where a pair bred in **Orange Wood**, and although the first breeding attempt failed, a second produced fledged young. At **Helme** a pair bred in the village whilst another bred in nearby **Helme Wood**, both successfully. A pair regularly fed in a **Thongsbridge** garden and bred just outside it. At **Holmroyd Wood, Netherthong** breeding was successful in a nest box and at **Windy Bank Res., Meltham** the observer noted that there were three active nests in the area.

Unusual records included an adult female which was captured and released unharmed after flying into the kitchen at **Wards End Farm** on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, and one which crossed open moorland before landing in the copse at **Harden Quarries** on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

**TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

**Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.**

Records were received from 19 localities, just one more than last year, providing a total of 48 records, exactly a half of which referred to the first winter period. The majority of the

sightings were of singles, with **Lockwood** providing nine of those, and occasionally two birds, with the only exception being five at **Royd Moor Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

There were few reports of breeding, with the principal locality being **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where two pairs were present in **Orange Wood** from early May. However, although nests were located, the outcome of both was unknown. Two were seen entering a nest hole at **TP Woods, Gledholt** in May and one was at a nest hole at **Windy Bank Res., Meltham** on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

There were only seven sightings during the final three months, all of singles and involving one in October, three in November, and three in December.

### **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.**

This remains a widely distributed species, but the numbers contained in the large gatherings were not as high as last year, with barely any three figure counts (and the number of sites involved was well down too). Those of 200 + were as follows:

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – 260 on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 200 on 18<sup>th</sup> February and 250 on 13<sup>th</sup> March. The autumn build up only brought 250 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**Broadstone Heath** – 400 on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1,000 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 250 on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

**Royd Moor Res.** – 1,000 on 17<sup>th</sup> March and 200 on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – 200 on 27<sup>th</sup> May had reached 400 by 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May and 500 by 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Whitley Common** – 300 on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

As is the norm, there were barely any records of breeding other than **Butterly Lane, New Mill** in the roof space of an 18<sup>th</sup> century cottage, and **Brockholes**, in a favoured rooftop nest site. However, the percentage of juveniles to adults in the post breeding flocks would suggest a reasonably good season.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

**Wards End Farm** – between 15<sup>th</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> November birds were recorded passing in mainly a W direction on 37 dates with a total count of 6,237. Maximum days were 1,950 on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 765 on 31<sup>st</sup> October and 570 on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 5,692 flew mostly W or NW on 34 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup> November. Maximum day counts were 942 on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 845 on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – between 6<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> November birds were recorded over flying in mainly a SW direction on 20 dates with a total count of 4,293 with the maximum being 2,626 on 25<sup>th</sup> October. The observers stated that the 11-year average total is 1,423.

It is evident from the above that 25<sup>th</sup> October was a day of notable movement, with c.5,500 birds passing over our area (note that there is no duplication between the two Marsden sites).

**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

**Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.**

There were records from 43 locations (41 last year), several of which were gardens. Overall, numbers appear to have remained fairly consistent over the last few years.

Most records referred to one or two birds, with following exceptions.

**Silkstone SW** – five on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cheesegate Nab** – three on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – four on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Jackson Bridge** – three on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Langsett Res.** – four on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Skelmanthorpe** – three on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Binn Green, Dove Stone** – three on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**Moorlands Close, Linthwaite** – three on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Despite males being recorded singing at 16 sites, breeding was proven at only four of them. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** an influx in spring resulted in three pairs breeding. A **Thongsbridge** garden which held birds regularly had a pair which successfully raised two broods. At **Langsett** a bird was seen carrying food, and at **Wards End Farm** fledged juveniles were seen.

Visible migration was recorded at the following sites:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 33 flew mostly S on 16 dates between 20<sup>th</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup> November. The maximum count was 12 on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – just eight birds, all in October, (1 SW on 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 W on 20<sup>th</sup> and 5 W on 21<sup>st</sup>).

Nocturnal sound recording:

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls presumed to be from migrants were recorded on four nights between 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> March, and then on four nights between 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> October. On the latter night, at least 12 birds were picked up between 21.13hrs. and 23.00hrs.

**Fixby** – in March on five nights between 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> a total of seven were picked up and later in the year on 10 nights between 17<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November a total of 20 birds were recorded, with a maximum of 4 on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

**Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs. Red listed.**

Records were received from 36 locations, which is the same as last year but down from the 41 in 2019 and 51 in 2018, and perhaps indicative of the downward trend of this species nationally over the last few years.

During the first winter period, prior to breeding, records were mainly of just one or two individuals although maximum counts were a little up on last year despite the observer of a **Thongsbridge** garden noting that birds were less numerous this year. Counts were as follows:

**Wards End Farm** – four on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, five on 25<sup>th</sup> January and four on 15<sup>th</sup> February.  
**Scout Dike Res.** – five on 25<sup>th</sup> January.  
**Bretton Park** – five on 9<sup>th</sup> March.  
**Lockwood** – four on 18<sup>th</sup> March.  
**Cartworth Moor** – four on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Breeding was reported from only a small number of locations, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** being the principal one with four pairs recorded. Two pairs bred in the **Wards End** area, a pair at **Birk Lane, Almondbury**, and one at **Langsett**. Territorial males were recorded at a further eight sites.

The post breeding build up was very disappointing and the observer at **Wards End Farm** noted that flocks were small. However, there were double figure counts there with 11 on 25<sup>th</sup> June and 23<sup>rd</sup> July, and in September 15 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 12<sup>th</sup>. On 26<sup>th</sup> June a mixed flock of eight were feeding enthusiastically on Buddleia globulosa flowers, which is a first there. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the autumn build-up wasn't apparent until August, and peaked at a maximum of 19 on 21<sup>st</sup>. The only other number of any note was the seven at **Cartworth Moor** on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Numbers at visible migration sights were more encouraging, as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 148 flew in various directions on 36 dates between 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> November. The maxima were 18 (including a group of 11 SW) on 16<sup>th</sup> September and 15 SE and E on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Marsden, Pule Hill** – a total of 87 (11-year average 39) flew mainly W or SW on 15 dates between 16<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November, with 15 W on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 12 W on 21<sup>st</sup> October being the maxima.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a total of 82 birds flew over between W and S on five dates between 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 42 SW on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

### **REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

**Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed**

During the first winter period records were received from 27 locations (10 more than last year), whereas the second winter period produced records from only 10 sites (6 fewer than last year).

The first winter period brought single figure counts in most locations, rarely double figures, and although birds were present throughout at **Wards End Farm** there wasn't one double figure count, whereas at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were recorded regularly during the first winter period, usually in single figures, but with flocks of up to the 28 (on 25<sup>th</sup> March) occasionally encountered. At **Silkstone Common** at least 30 were foraging in the snow on 14<sup>th</sup> January, with 62 there on 5<sup>th</sup> February, and at the nearby **Sewage Works** 50 were present on 8<sup>th</sup> February. At **Rastrick** 80 were counted on 18<sup>th</sup> January with 70 at **Oldfield** on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, and in the **Almondbury** area 330 were counted on 7<sup>th</sup> February, these being the highest counts of the first period.

There were no reports in September this year, and autumn counts were again low compared to some years. The first to return were flyovers on a visible migration watch at **Pule Hill**

on 6<sup>th</sup> October, with five flying SE at **Harden Quarries** the following day and a single on 8<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where birds were seen thereafter on a total of 32 dates until the last, a flock of 20, on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Although numbers fluctuated widely, double figures were not unusual, and treble figure counts, mainly in October, involved 120 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 250 the following day, 130 on 16<sup>th</sup>, and 190 on 20<sup>th</sup>. Birds were also seen regularly at **Wards End Farm** but unlike the above came in just single figures with the maximum only 21 on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Other notable counts, though in short supply, consisted of an impressive 200 at **Ramsden Clough** on 21<sup>st</sup> October with also in October in a **Fixby** garden up to 20 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26 on 25<sup>th</sup>. **Cheesegate Nab** had 35 on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and **Meltham** also had a couple of good counts with 50 at **Brow Grains** and 90 at **Wood Nook** on 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December respectively.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 7,579 flew in various directions (mainly southerly, but often NW) on 22 dates between 7<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> November. The maximum count was 2,651 on 20<sup>th</sup> October, with none of the others exceeding 775.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a total of 3,988 flew mainly W on 33 dates between 8<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> December with maxima of 1,500 on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1,620 on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 300 NW on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 3,856 birds flew S or SW on 9 dates between 6<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 3,079 on 20<sup>th</sup> October. (11-year average. 2,140).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – 20 flew N on 16<sup>th</sup> February. November, 60 flew W on 4<sup>th</sup>, 310 W on 5<sup>th</sup>, 410 W on 6<sup>th</sup>, and 170 flew W on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

November, 60 flew W on 4<sup>th</sup>, 310 W on 5<sup>th</sup>, 410 W on 6<sup>th</sup>, and 170 flew W on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Denby Dale** – ‘good numbers’ passed over early on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Nocturnal sound recording:

**Thongsbridge** – birds were recorded on several nights up to 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March and again from 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> October. This remains the most commonly recorded species on nocturnal migration here.

**Fixby** – birds were recorded over on 15 dates between 27<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> April. Most were of just ones or twos but in March nine were recorded on 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and five on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

### **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

**Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.**

As is usual many records of this common species were received, with a high percentage of them coming from more garden counts with higher numbers than last year. All the double figure counts were during both winter periods which would suggest an increase in wintering birds this year. A number of observers noted an increase in numbers and the observer from **Thongsbridge** counted more, particularly males, during the winter periods and at **Wards End Farm** in November it was noted that there were more birds about.

The maximum garden count in the first winter period was at **Lockwood**, with 15 regularly through January and double figure counts continuing until May. **Fenay Crescent, Almondbury** produced regular counts of nine, with 10 observed on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Other double figure counts away from gardens during this period were:

**Horbury SW** – 10 on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Silkstone SW** – 15 on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Turnbridge** – 13 on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Breeding was reported at six locations, but juveniles were also seen in numerous other places, often still in the company of adults. At **Thongsbridge** three pairs failed with first clutches due to Magpie predation, but with the arrival of some leaf cover all were eventually successful. At **Rastrick** there were four breeding pairs but only one was successful, but at **Fixby, Brockholes** and **Butterley Lane, New Mill** pairs successfully raised broods. At **Wards End Farm** nest building began on 26<sup>th</sup> March and two pairs successfully raised at least four broods and were still feeding young on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Post breeding counts of 10 at **Wards End Farm** on 1<sup>st</sup> July and 15 at **Broadstone Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> July. were also noted.

During the second winter period the maximum counts were as follows:

**Old Mount Road, Marsden** – 17 were feeding on Hawthorns on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November and 14 on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - eleven on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Overflying birds were noted during visible migration watches as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 22 flew mostly S on 14 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> November, with maxima of three on 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Fixby** – singles over on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – one flew W on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 11 NW on 6<sup>th</sup> November and three SW on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – four flew W on 8<sup>th</sup> November and two W on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Nocturnal sound recording produced the following results:

**Thongsbridge** – six well separated sets of flight calls were recorded during the night of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Fixby** – singles were recorded passing over on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 12<sup>th</sup> March, and 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### **FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

**Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.**

A total of just 100 records were received from 30 locations, (just 18 last year) and as these figures suggest there was a vast increase in larger gatherings this year. These increased as the period progressed towards departure time.

During the first winter period records came from 24 locations with 31 double-figure counts, and triple-figure ones as follows:

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – 100 on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

**Harden Moss** – 100 on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cartworth Moor** – 120 on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**Mollicar Woods, Almondbury** – 112 flew over on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**Pennine Trail, Dunford Bridge** – 110 on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Broadstone area** – in April, 385 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 250 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 300 on 16<sup>th</sup>, and 118 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Bird's Nest Lane** – 400 on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Whitley Common and airfield** – in April, 150 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 300 on 19<sup>th</sup>, and 220 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Cheesegate Nab** – 130 on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Numbers then quickly dwindled as birds departed and the only May records were of 45 at **Red Lane, Meltham** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 90 at **Potters Gate, Broadstone** on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The first returning birds were 15 flying S at **Wards End Farm** on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, and although birds continued over in good numbers (see visible migration below) feeding flocks were much less in evidence than in the first winter period and one observer commented that numbers were low, and birds weren't staying, and the only counts of any note were as follows:

**Langsett Res.** – 550 flew N into the area on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Broadstone Res.** – 120 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – 140 on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Visible Migration:

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a total of 5,598 birds flew in mainly a W direction on 28 days between 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The maximum counts were 1,650 on 4<sup>th</sup> November and 1,320 on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 1,214 flew in various directions on 11 dates between 16<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> November. Maximum counts were 635 on 5<sup>th</sup> November and 342 on 15<sup>th</sup> November, with none of the others exceeding double figures.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of just 112 birds flew over in a W direction on six days between 25<sup>th</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum count of 75 on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a total of 1,023 birds flew over in mainly a W direction on five days between 4<sup>th</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> December. The maximum counts were of 230 on 4<sup>th</sup> November and 490 on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### **RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

**Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), scarce breeder. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.**

Birds were recorded at 17 locations, two more than last year. Most records involved short stay individuals and the first arrivals were on 30<sup>th</sup> March with three at **Deanhead Clough** and one at **Wards End Farm**, followed by singles at the latter site and also at **Whitley Edge** on 31<sup>st</sup>.

The next birds were in April, with one at **Cheesegate Nab** on 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by others on 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> with three on 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. At **Royd Edge, Meltham**, a male and female were present near Colders Dam on 7<sup>th</sup>, joined by a second male on 8<sup>th</sup>, with several sightings from then until mid-month. At **Dove Stone Res.** a good count of nine showed on 15<sup>th</sup> and after a single at **Digley Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup>, 13 were recorded the same day at **Pots and Pans** with 11 there the following day and a single at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 19<sup>th</sup>. At **Red Lane, Meltham** a single was present on 23<sup>rd</sup> as was another at **Hartcliff Hill, Penistone** the day after. At **Wards End Farm** in April, birds were seen on 19 dates with just single figures on nine of them. The highest counts were of 29 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 24 on 20<sup>th</sup>, and



17 on 26<sup>th</sup>. In May just 8 dates were involved with a maximum of seven on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and the last, a single on 9<sup>th</sup>, bringing the total spring number of bird-days to 232, just a few up on last year. The last of the spring were three at **Langsett** on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Breeding was probable though not confirmed at two locations where birds were present throughout the season, with three pairs at one and two at the other.

The first returning birds were over **Pule Hill** on 6<sup>th</sup> September as below and at **Wards End Farm** in October a male on 1<sup>st</sup>. One then dropped in on 4<sup>th</sup>, and two did likewise on 11<sup>th</sup>. The last were three on 20<sup>th</sup> as below.

Visible migration:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – four SW on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Harden Quarries** – one flew W on 11<sup>th</sup> September and two flew E on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – all in October, one SW on 8<sup>th</sup>, four S on 14<sup>th</sup>, six SW on 15<sup>th</sup> and three W on 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

**Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.**

As with many trans-Saharan migrants, this species has been in decline for a number of years. Records came in from just 12 locations (15 in 2020, 21 in 2019, and 16 in 2018) and produced a rather meagre 28 records.

Normally late to arrive, the first wasn't recorded until a single on 16<sup>th</sup> May at **Dove Stone Res.** with the only other May records at **Holme Styes** with two on 23<sup>rd</sup> and singles on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, **Harden Moss** with two on 28<sup>th</sup>, and **Hartcliffe Hill, Penistone** one on 30<sup>th</sup>. June brought just four sightings but only one of these was other than from the locations above. At **Wards End Farm** the first arrival wasn't until 28<sup>th</sup> and the observer stated that they were notable by their absence this year.

Cases of breeding were proven at just three places, two fewer than last year, and consisted of three newly fledged young at **Bretton Park** on 26<sup>th</sup> June, three also recently fledged at **Holme Styes** on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, and at **Wards End Farm** birds were carrying on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and then up to five birds, including juveniles, were present on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

The autumn build up was a bit more productive but only involved eight locations. In August a single was present at **Hartcliffe Hill, Penistone** on 1<sup>st</sup>. At **Wards End Farm** birds were seen on 17 dates, mostly between one to three individuals but there were four on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and a maximum of six on 10<sup>th</sup>. **Scammonden Water** held birds on seven dates with singles on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with two on 23<sup>rd</sup> and three on 20<sup>th</sup>. **Digley** saw a single on 16<sup>th</sup>. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, although there were slightly more records than last year, this only amounted to singles on 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August, two on 25<sup>th</sup> and three on 28<sup>th</sup> with three also at **Hassocks Road, Meltham** on 28<sup>th</sup> which stayed until the month end. Most birds had departed by September apart singles at **Scammonden Water** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and at **Wards End Farm** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, with the last singles both here and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

**Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs.**

No less than 307 records came in from numerous locations and all parts of our area. These were spread out evenly over all months with this mainly sedentary species. A lot of gardens, unsurprisingly, provided many of the records, but as to be expected they didn't supply any of the larger counts. With this early singer usually starting during the winter months they become more noticeable, with the highest January counts being four at **Horbury SW** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, four at **Langsett** on 6<sup>th</sup>, seven at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup>, and five at **Wards End Farm** on 17<sup>th</sup>. Things continued in the same vein until territories became more established, and by 16<sup>th</sup> March there were at least 14 singing at **Royd Moor Res.** and 11 counted at **Turnbridge** on 20<sup>th</sup>. April then brought 12 at along the **Trans-Pennine Trail, Dunford Bridge** on 5<sup>th</sup> and 11 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 20<sup>th</sup>, with 15 there on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Breeding was confirmed at the following 10 locations though no numbers of territories were forthcoming :

**Butterley Lane, New Mill** – a pair bred in an Ivy-covered trellis and reared three young first seen on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Rastrick** – a pair were seen feeding nestlings, but the outcome was uncertain.

**Lockwood** – adults were seen throughout, and juveniles were present regularly.

**Brockholes** – adults were present in garden and a dead Juvenile was found on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**Skelmanthorpe** – three juveniles were being attended by an adult on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wards End Farm** – two pairs had reared a third brood by the end of July.

**Thick Hollins, Meltham** – adults with juveniles in garden.

**Moorland Close, Linthwaite** – adults with one or two juveniles throughout May.

**Fenay Crescent, Almondbury** - three including a juvenile on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Moving into the second winter period, very few birds were reported except for four regularly at **Wards End Farm** and at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, where five were recorded on 13<sup>th</sup> October, six on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

**Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 1-5 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.**

Disappointingly there were records from just two locations and, although breeding was thought likely to have occurred, there was no confirmation of this.

**Cliff Wood, Langsett** – after the first, a singing male on 12<sup>th</sup> April, up to three males were seen and heard singing on five more occasions between 19<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a male was singing from the trees on the south bank on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

**Rare visitor.**

There were spring records of single birds at two locations, which was one fewer than in the previous year.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a female was found on the south embankment on 9<sup>th</sup> April (SP), and what was presumably the same bird was photographed on the rocks on the east bank the following day (MLD, GBS, NWM, DHP *et al.*). This was only the second record for the reservoir, the other being on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2003.

**Marsh Lane, Shepley** – a female was found in the observer's garden on 28<sup>th</sup> April (NWM). It then spent the next three days visiting various neighbouring gardens, the nearby Cricket Club, and the observer's garden pond, until it was finally seen on 1<sup>st</sup> May (NWM, DHP, TM).

**REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

Records were received from 12 locations, which is only one fewer than last year but well down on the 19 of 2019.

Four records were in April with the first, a female, in a **Thongsbridge** garden on 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 days earlier than last year's first. Another female arrived at **Wards End Farm** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and was the earliest ever there. The first singing male was at **Brow Grains, Meltham**, on 24<sup>th</sup>. Birds continued to be found in May with the above **Meltham** bird remaining, and a single at **Langsett** on 11<sup>th</sup>. Breeding was not confirmed but birds were seen at **Dove Stone Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> May, **Holme Styes** (female and juvenile) on 25<sup>th</sup> July, and in **Meltham** between **Red Lane** and **Hassocks Road** up to three, including juveniles, were seen throughout August along the catchment. **Scammonden Water** hosted birds on seven dates in August between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> with two on most days and three on the final day, and also in August there were singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at **Wards End Farm**. There were then just two September records with singles at **Deanhead Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> and, the final one of the year, a male at **Wards End Farm** on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*  
Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

The number of locations was down this year to just 12 from a high of 17 last year but only nine in 2018. Proven breeding only came from one site, as last year, though it was thought likely at another.

April 27<sup>th</sup> was a popular day as the first birds arrived, all single males, at **Broadstone Res.** and **Broadstone Heath, Deer Hill**, and **Hartcliffe Hill, Penistone** and then on 30<sup>th</sup> at **Brow Grains, Meltham**, where four males and one female were seen.

By the first week in May there were two pairs at **Brow Grains** which attempted to breed, although just one of them was successful. Singles were present at **Potter's Gate, Broadstone** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May, **Red Lane, Meltham** on 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May and **Royd Moor Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> May. The only June record was of a pair at **Salters Brook** on 21<sup>st</sup>, which the observer suspected of having bred.

Autumn brought a good number of records but from only three locations. A single was at **Deanhead Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and two at **Harden Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Then after the first of the year at **Wards End Farm**, a juvenile on 21<sup>st</sup> August, the usual flurry began with further

singles on 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and three on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This continued into September with birds on a further six dates with one on 1<sup>st</sup>, three on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 4<sup>th</sup>, and eight on 5<sup>th</sup> and, after a very foggy night, again one on 6<sup>th</sup> and then the last, a single on 15<sup>th</sup>. This brought a total of just 29 bird/days which was way below the 90 of last year. Overall, it was a poor year throughout.

### **STONECHAT** *Saxicola rubicola*

**Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.**

Although records came in from only 30 localities as opposed to the 34 last year and 28 in 2019 there are no signs that this species doesn't continue to flourish. Obviously milder winters are a key factor, and since the 2018 'Beast from the East', conditions have been favourable. Again, many sites only saw one or two individuals for short periods, but the ones below held birds in greater numbers and for longer. Despite the small fall in localities, the number where breeding took place was eight, which is exactly double that of last year. There were also a number of instances of at least second broods taking place.

**Deer Hill** – birds were present throughout the year with at least three pairs breeding successfully between here, **West Nab** and **Brow Grains** with juveniles consequently seen at all three sites.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – during the first winter months just one or two were seen on 12 dates in January, five in February and six in March though three were seen on 18<sup>th</sup> and four on 5<sup>th</sup>. April saw the usual increase with singles seen on three dates and two on a further six. The total of bird/days during this period was 46. As usual there were no records in May. In June birds began to appear again, seen on 14 dates but no juveniles. Numbers rose again in July with many juveniles still being fed. Seen on 14 dates with six on three days, seven and eight on one each and 10 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. August had a maximum of eight on 3<sup>rd</sup>, as did September on 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. A maximum of 5 on 8<sup>th</sup> October and just three November records with five on 26<sup>th</sup> the last of year.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – although the number of records during the first winter period was similar to last year, the number during the second winter period was much reduced. The only records in the first winter period involved a male on **Meltham Cop** on 15<sup>th</sup> January, a female in the SW corner overflow field on 15<sup>th</sup> February with a male and female there on 18<sup>th</sup> February, six (5 males) in the fields to the west of the reservoir on 21<sup>st</sup> February and a male and female there on 28<sup>th</sup> February. A juvenile, of unknown provenance, on **Meltham Cop** on 25<sup>th</sup> July was unusual. Birds were then present on eight dates between 18<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> December. All records involved singles which were only present for the day with the exception of two males which remained in the SW corner overflow field between 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Deanhead Clough Res.** – after just one or two birds during the early part of the year an adult with four juveniles was present on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, with two adults with two juveniles on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and six seen on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Wessenden Valley** – birds were seen regularly, and at least three pairs bred. Three juveniles were seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Ramsden Clough** – six birds were present at an altitude of c.450m on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Later in the year at least one pair bred.

**Dove Stone Res.** five were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Winscar Res.** – present throughout with a pair with one juvenile on 16<sup>th</sup> July and a pair with two juveniles on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Broadstone Res.** - one or two birds seen at regular intervals throughout the year, with five on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.**

A male at **Snape Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> February was the earliest ever for our area by two weeks and the last were on the quite early date of 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Records were received from 42 locations, one more than last year and again there were no reports of breeding having taken place.

The next arrivals weren't until 24<sup>th</sup> March when two males were at **Red Lane, Meltham** with then mainly just singles from a further 15 locations until a flurry of arrivals at the end of the month. Numbers were modest apart from seven at **Boshaw Whams** and **Cheesegate Nab** on 30<sup>th</sup>, eight at **Whitley Edge** on 29<sup>th</sup> with no less than 17 there on 30<sup>th</sup> and 16 on the same date at **Holme Styes**.

Over the next two months records increased and apart from most of the above locations a further 27 were involved but only the following held birds with any regularity. At **Wards End Farm** between 3<sup>rd</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> May although birds were seen on 35 days, which is four more than last year, numbers were massively down with the only count of double figures being 12 on 6<sup>th</sup> May with a total of just 117 bird/days, as opposed to the 238 last year. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the situation was reversed with birds seen on 49 dates until 26<sup>th</sup> May. A total of 262 bird/days was amassed, almost double the 186 of last year. Although most records were of fewer than eight individuals, 11 were present on 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April with 21 on 5<sup>th</sup> May and 27 the following day. Away from the two above locations although not holding birds regularly in any numbers the following counts came from **Whitley Edge** with April records of three on 5<sup>th</sup>, four on 6<sup>th</sup>, and six on 7<sup>th</sup>. **Nether Lane, Digley**, seven on 11<sup>th</sup> and five on 16<sup>th</sup>. **Potter's Gate, Broadstone** nine on 12<sup>th</sup> and five on 16<sup>th</sup> and a maximum of 14 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 24<sup>th</sup>. In May nine were present **Salter's Brook** on 5<sup>th</sup>. As is the norm, June sightings were scarce, with just singles at **Wards End Farm**, males on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and a female on 5<sup>th</sup> and at **Red Brook Res.** two males on 12<sup>th</sup> and one on 15<sup>th</sup>.

The first returning birds were single juveniles on six dates between 6<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July at **Wards End Farm**. August and September brought records from 18 localities and numbers were lower than usual as birds moved through. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was the exception but only amounted to a maximum of seven (usually fewer than 3) on 13 dates between 19<sup>th</sup> August and 21<sup>st</sup> September. At **Wards End Farm** the poor year continued and although birds were seen on 18 dates only one or two birds were involved. The case was the same at all the other sites apart from the striking exception of **Buckstones** car park where on 15<sup>th</sup> September 12 birds were present. The only October records were all on 3<sup>rd</sup>, with singles at **Lower Maythorn** and **Wards End Farm** and two at **Hartcliff Hill, Penistone**.

**GREENLAND WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*  
Uncommon passage migrant.

Birds showing characters of this race were reported as follows:

**Wards End Farm** – two on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May, three on 27<sup>th</sup> May, one on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Later in the year two on 6<sup>th</sup> October (DWS).

**Broadstone Res., Potters Gate** – two on 25<sup>th</sup> April, (NWM), a flock of 19 on 2<sup>nd</sup> May were mainly of this race (GSp, NWM) and three on 5<sup>th</sup> May (NWM).

**Red Lane, Meltham** – up to seven remained between 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May (SP, DMP).

**DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

With records coming from 26 locations this was a healthy increase on the 17 of last year, and even a little up on the 23 of 2019. Breeding was recorded at four locations, with nest building at **Stainland Dean**, young being fed at **Thongsbridge**, a pair were successful close to **Meltham SW** with juveniles seen, and two pairs fledged young on the **River Holme at Lockwood**. Breeding was also suspected at other sites.

Although this species is quite sedentary, and movements are usually limited to the regular waterways, birds can sometimes be found at some of our higher reservoirs and this year was no exception, with individuals frequenting both **Deer Hill** and **March Haigh** on the one hand and down to the **John Smith's Stadium** and **Technical College** on the **Colne** on the other. No location was reported as holding birds throughout the year though they were seen during both winter periods at **Lockwood, Windy Bank Res., Meltham, and Deer Hill Catchment**. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles were seen along the inflow on six dates between 6<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> October. Birds were also seen regularly on the **River Colne** and Canal between **Linthwaite** and **Slaithwaite**.

**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), Red listed.

After many years in decline, numbers have now stabilised and perhaps even increased, but it nevertheless remains on the Red List. Records came in from just 30 localities (mostly gardens), which is only a part of the complete picture. Comments were mainly positive. The nest boxes in a **Thongsbridge** garden are now 'fully let', and there were good numbers around **Meltham**, where the species is breeding not only in the older terrace houses but also under the solar panels of newer ones. After suffering a decline in 2020 the small colony in the village at **Blackmoorfoot**, mainly in the garden of 41 Blackmoorfoot Road, was back up to previous levels. Just a couple of negative comments came from a **Cowcliffe** garden where instead of the regular 20 birds, this year there were only 10. Also, at **Rastrick** the nest boxes which are normally in use were ignored this year.

Breeding would appear to be much under-recorded and records were confined to the sites where the greater numbers lie: **Meltham** (3 sites), **Brockholes, Helme, Linthwaite, New Mill, Thongsbridge, Lockwood, and Golcar**.

Birds were seen most regularly in the following gardens:

**Almondbury** – double figure counts were regular throughout the year with a maximum of 18 on 17<sup>th</sup> January in the first part of the year. These fell to single figures during April and May and then built back up to 18 on 25<sup>th</sup> July and 24 on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

**Linthwaite** – as at the above location double figure counts were a regular occurrence with a maximum of 19 on 4<sup>th</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> February during the first part of the winter. Once again numbers dropped to single figures during April and May before rising again, with counts reaching highs of 24 on 28<sup>th</sup> June and 27 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

**New Mill** – there were always at least 10 present, often in a mixed flock with Tree Sparrows. Numbers then increased to 20, with a maximum of 25 by the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Thongsbridge** – due to the recent increases in this garden up to 10 were seen on a daily basis.

**Golcar** – birds were counted on a daily basis here with regular double figures and a maximum of 17 on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**Lockwood** – up to 30 were counted regularly throughout the year.

**Blackmoorfoot** – in the above-mentioned garden during the first two months there were regular counts of seven birds. Although there were then no records in March, between April and August eight were present daily. Then in the final two months birds were seen daily with up to a maximum of 12 during the second half of December.

Away from the gardens, gatherings were mainly of much smaller numbers apart from the following two exceptions. In **Meltham** the observer commented that the species is doing well in three locations but at one in particular there were up to 50 birds regularly roosting in a dense thorn hedge in both winter periods. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** birds were seen on a regular basis with a maximum of 30 on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 20 on 7<sup>th</sup> April and 16 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

A bird found singing close to **Helme Church** had all the characteristics of a House/Tree Sparrow hybrid (see Tree Sparrow below).

### **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

**Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.**

After years of decline this species is now flourishing in some areas and this year records came in from 21 locations, which is a welcome increase on the nine of last year, 14 in 2019, and 16 in 2018. Breeding records also came from more sites and some good counts were noted across our area. The observer at a **Fixby** garden remarked that the bird seen on 1<sup>st</sup> February was the first there in 30 years. As can be seen below however they are very dependent on nest boxes for breeding and are otherwise difficult to detect.

Birds were reported to have bred at the following three locations, but despite birds being seen, nothing was forthcoming from **Scout Dike Res.** and the **Broadstone** area where breeding was reported last year. At **New Mill** up to 15 were present in a mixed flock with House Sparrows and at least one pair reared three young, and in a neighbour's garden two broods were reared in nest boxes. At **Wilshaw** five pairs bred in the nest boxes erected some years ago, another pair in the gable end of a nearby house and **Wood Nook** had four birds seen carrying nest material on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Although an adult was seen with two juveniles in a **Shepley** garden and juveniles were seen in the garden at **Wards End Farm** the origins of these birds is uncertain.

As well as from the above locations birds were also recorded at the following:

**Cooper Binns Lane, Holmfirth** – over 40 records came in from here with regular double figure counts from 10 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January to 16 on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 20 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Pilling Lane, Skelmanthorpe** – 20 were present on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

**Hartcliff Hill, Penistone** – a flock of 60 were seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

**Broadstone** – as noted above there were no breeding records but birds were seen around the area on six occasions between March and November, all were just one or two birds but eight were present on 13<sup>th</sup> August.

**Wood Nook, Meltham** – apart from the record above, birds were seen on a further five visits up to June with two singles then 5 on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and three on 18<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – birds were recorded on three occasions, two on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, eight on 16<sup>th</sup> May and 10 on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Royd Moor Res.** – one was seen on 25<sup>th</sup> March and four on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Langsett Res.** – a single was present on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Cheesegate Nab** – in April six were seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> and one on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Linthwaite** – in one garden a single was seen on 5<sup>th</sup> March and at a second one a single was present throughout December with the regular flock of 30 House Sparrows.

**Snape Res.** – a single was reported on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

A bird photographed at **Denby Dale** in January was considered to be a Tree Sparrow/House Sparrow hybrid. This was obviously not the **Helme** bird as from comparisons of photographs a number of differences were evident.

### **DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

**Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.**

This common and widely distributed species was recorded in all types of habitats at all altitudes. With this inobtrusive species breeding was mainly proven by the presence of juveniles and in most locations, birds were present throughout the year, even at the higher sites.

Almost all the sightings were of singles, sometimes two and rarely three or four. The exceptions to this were seven at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> February and six at **Cheesegate Nab** on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Singing began at **Thorpes, Skelmanthorpe** at the beginning of February. At **Wards End Farm**, despite standing at over 1,000ft., birds were present throughout and nest building began on 17<sup>th</sup> March, with the first juveniles fledged by May. There were two pairs here and present in all the other gardens on the hillside. Eight were regularly counted and the maximum was 10 by the end of June. Unlike last year, birds were seen regularly in a **Netherthong** garden. Conversely the **Rastrick** observer noted that for the first time in eight years breeding did not occur in his garden.

One flying SSE over **Harden Quarries** on 18<sup>th</sup> September was suspected to be on migration.



**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*

**Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Red listed.**

There were records from 11 locations, the same as last year. Once again birds appeared to be just moving through, and none remained for any length of time.

**Boshaw Whams** – a male flew WNW on 13<sup>th</sup> April. Later, one was present on 26<sup>th</sup> August, and three on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**Hartcliff Hill, Penistone** – one was seen on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**Horbury SW** – two were on the sewage beds together with a White Wagtail on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – males on 4<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September. Two females in the garden on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and one calling over on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Marsden** – one remained on the golf course between 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a male was in the NE corner near the inflow on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a single female was in a field to the west on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**Four Lane End, Penistone** – at least five were feeding in a newly tilled field on 1<sup>st</sup> September, with a single there on 4<sup>th</sup>.

Visible migration was note at the following locations:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 12 flew in southerly directions on eight dates between 19<sup>th</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> September. The maximum count was five S together on 5<sup>th</sup> September, with the rest being singles.

**Royd Moor Hill watch point** – two flew SW on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*

**Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs. Red listed**

A total of 130 records came in from 38 localities, which is six more than last year (43 in 2018).

Most records were of just one or two individuals with the exceptions being at **Windy Bank Res., Meltham** which held birds throughout the year except for February, July and December, with three on 21<sup>st</sup> June, five on 19<sup>th</sup> August and four on 25<sup>th</sup> October being the maxima. As well as one or two being seen regularly four were at **Holmfirth** on both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were present throughout most of the year, though they were only recorded on a limited number of days during most months. Indeed, February drew a complete blank, and the only months with birds on more than six days were September (10) and October (14). Numbers never exceeded two individuals with the exceptions of three on 28<sup>th</sup> August and four on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October. At **Lockwood** up to four were seen on the **Holme** regularly until the end of June, whilst on 7<sup>th</sup> March eight were present at **Meltham Mills** and at **Bretton Park** 12 were around the lower lake on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Although juveniles were noted in a number of places, the only locations where breeding was confirmed was at **Bretton Park**, where a party of two adults and three juveniles were present on 29<sup>th</sup> June, and at **Deanhead Res.**, where again two adults and three juveniles were seen from 3<sup>rd</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 124 flew mostly S on 33 days between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup> October, with maxima of 18 on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 13 on 12<sup>th</sup> September, and 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> September.  
**Pule Hill, Marsden** – on six dates between 20<sup>th</sup> June and 8<sup>th</sup> October a total of eight birds were seen with six SW and two ‘u’ turned from NE.  
**Wards End Farm** – just two singles flew S on 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November.

It is interesting to note the differences at the three locations. Last year, the total count at **Harden Quarries** was an unprecedented 55 birds, but that was under half of this year’s total! On the other hand, **Pule Hill**, with an 11-year average of 13, had 37 last year and just eight this year. Meanwhile, **Wards End Farm**, with just two birds, had the worst year on record there.

### **PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba*

**Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.**

Records came in from 34 locations which once again is probably a case of under recording, but breeding records were unusually sparse. Birds were present throughout the year and were regularly seen in some gardens, with ones or twos the norm. Away from the gardens were some impressive counts, particularly during the early part of the year. As usual, sewage works were popular, with the most productive of these being **Meltham Mills SW**, where counts of up to 150 were regular throughout the first three months. **Silkstone SW** held 20 on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 43 on 8<sup>th</sup> February and 16 on 5<sup>th</sup> March. **Horbury SW** in January had counts of 25 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 20 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 60 on 31<sup>st</sup>. At **Cartworth Moor**, 12 were seen on 30<sup>th</sup> March, whilst the last significant count during this period was of 25 at **Dewsbury SW** on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Breeding was confirmed only at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where two pairs attempted to breed along Potato Lane and at least one of them fledged young. At **Wards End Farm** just one pair, rather than the usual two, bred and was successful. Juveniles were also seen at **Thick Hollins, Meltham** and at **Deanhead Res.**, where there were three on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

During the second half of the year there were signs of numbers building again with 30 at **Boshaw Whams** on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September. On **Marsden** cricket field birds were feeding regularly and on 10 dates between 14<sup>th</sup> August and 22<sup>nd</sup> September a total of 304 bird/days were recorded with a maximum count of 49 on 11<sup>th</sup> September. At **Arkenley Lane, Almondbury**, five were feeding on stubble on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Four were at **Cartworth Moor** on 11<sup>th</sup> November and six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 430 flew mostly S on 48 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 48 on 26<sup>th</sup> September.  
**Pule Hill, Marsden** – 40 flew SW/W on 15 dates between 10<sup>th</sup> September and 23<sup>rd</sup> October with a maximum of seven on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October. The 11-year average here is 61.  
**Wards End Farm** – a total of just six birds flew W or SW between 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October with a maximum of three on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba alba*

**Rare to scarce passage visitor.**

Records came from five locations which makes this a good year as only two sites were involved last year.

**Meltham Mills SW** – a male and female were feeding on the filter beds on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (DMP, SP).

**Horbury SW** – one was feeding on the filter beds with Pied Wagtails on 4<sup>th</sup> April, with one also on 9<sup>th</sup> May (MCud).

**Windmill Lane, Broadstone** – one was feeding in stubble on 14<sup>th</sup> April (DHP).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – singles were present on 19<sup>th</sup> April (KH, NWM) and 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> May (DHP, NWM)

**Wards End Marsden** – one was feeding in a field on 12<sup>th</sup> September (DWS).

**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

**Partial migrant breeder (5), 2,500-4,000 pairs. The commonest bird of open country.**

Once again, birds were present throughout the year, with numbers typically much lower during the winter periods. January saw birds at just four locations, with the first of the year five near the **River Calder** at **Horbury** on 8<sup>th</sup>. A single arrived at **Wards End Farm** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, quickly followed by 25 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup>, and then 18 at **Horbury SW** on 31<sup>st</sup>. February continued in the same vein, with just five sites providing records but with counts becoming more substantial. On 2<sup>nd</sup> at least 40 were feeding on the filter beds at **Meltham Mills SW**. Conversely at **Wards End Farm** just a single on 21<sup>st</sup> was a month after the first there, although weather conditions were not favourable and another two were present on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** up to 40 were feeding to the north on 24<sup>th</sup> and on the same date two were present in the **Broadstone** area, whilst on 27<sup>th</sup> **Blackmoorfoot Res.** saw it's maximum for the first winter period, with 14. Although March saw records from 10 localities there was no great increase in numbers. Singing and displaying was noted at a number of sites but the only double figure counts came from **Ramsden Clough** (15 flew over on 17<sup>th</sup>), **Wards End Farm** (50 on 27<sup>th</sup>), **Cartworth Moor** (20 on 30<sup>th</sup>), and **Broadstone Heath**, where there were 24 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** by early April at least 75 were present, but this had decreased to 40+ by 11<sup>th</sup>. At **Wards End Farm**, double figure counts were regular throughout the month, with a maximum of 55 on 27<sup>th</sup>. On 7<sup>th</sup>, 40 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and 20 at **Deanhead Res.** The only counts in May were at **Wards End Farm** where again birds were present all month, with a maximum of 25 on 4<sup>th</sup>. Few records were received for June, but double-figures were again counted daily at the latter location, with a maximum of 40 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding records were confined to just **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with a maximum of six pairs and **Wards End Farm**, where it was considered to have been a good year. The number of pairs breeding on the in-by land in the immediate area is difficult to count, but c.15 would be on the low side, and the 30 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 40 on 30<sup>th</sup> June contained a high percentage of juveniles.

The usual autumn build-up commenced in July and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a maximum of 45 was present on 11<sup>th</sup> and numbers in August peaked at 60+ on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, but this had reduced to 46 by 19<sup>th</sup> September and only 26 remained by 4<sup>th</sup> October. In July at **Wards End Farm** there was a maximum of 50 on three dates with the same number, containing many juveniles, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, and 40 on 21<sup>st</sup> September. At **Cheesegate Nab**, 30 were present on 31<sup>st</sup> August. The only October record was the one mentioned above, with November ones limited to five at **Broadstone Heath** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a few overflying birds at **Wards End Farm** (which also produced the only December record on 13<sup>th</sup>).

Visible migration was noted at four localities:

**Harden Quarries** - a total of 10,036 flew mainly S on 56 dates between 19<sup>th</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum day count of 1,201 on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 2,553 birds flew mainly SW on 24 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> November with maxima of 630 W on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 277 SW on 26<sup>th</sup> September (11-year average, 1,781).

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – in the first part of the year a total of 524 birds flew NW on 17 dates between 14<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> April with a maximum of 65 on 31<sup>st</sup> March. In autumn a total of 1,432 birds flew SW on 19 dates between 19<sup>th</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 210 on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Royd Moor Hill watch point** – a total of 1,566 birds flew SW with 1,200 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 366 on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

It is interesting to see that 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September were the days of maximum movement at all of these sites.

### **TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis***

**Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), occasional breeder. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.**

This species has declined greatly in recent years, with records from just nine locations this year (well down on the 13 of last year but six up on the year before that). However, with many of the records being of single overflying birds it is reasonable to expect that there can be much variation from year to year.

**Yateholme** – one was calling on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Winscar Res.** – one singing on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**Dove Stone Res.** – one flew over on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – one flew S on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Bare Bones Road, Harden** – one calling flying S on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – one calling flying S on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Visible migration counts were.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 59 flew S or SE on 18 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 8<sup>th</sup> October, with a maximum of 9 mostly SE on 20<sup>th</sup> August. This is a new record total for the site, just beating the equally remarkable 56 of last year (DHP, NWM).

Nocturnal sound recordings were as follows.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – three calls were picked up by a remote sound-recorder at 07.15hrs. on 8<sup>th</sup> October (which was the date of the only October record at Harden Quarries).

**Thongsbridge** – nocturnal flight calls were recorded at 05.06hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a bird in summer plumage was flushed at 08.15hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> April from exactly the same place as the one last year (DWS).

**ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor.

**Harden Quarries** – a single flew S, calling, at 09.54hrs. on 9<sup>th</sup> October (DHP, NWM).

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

As has been the case for the past three years, despite being widely distributed through the area, gatherings were very low and were limited to mainly single figures.

Many gardens held birds, but the only ones reporting them regularly were **Fenay Crescent**, **Almondbury**, which held small numbers throughout the year, **Wards End Farm**, which despite daily counts had only two in double figures (10 on 20<sup>th</sup> September and 12 on 5<sup>th</sup> October), and **Moorlands Close, Linthwaite**, which regularly held up to eight birds throughout the year. At **St. Mary's Crescent**, **Netherthong** saw small numbers were present throughout, although the observer noted that they were not as numerous as previously. At **Butterley Lane, New Mill**, two gardens recorded birds regularly in small numbers. Double-figure flocks away from gardens were rarely reported, with the only ones being 30 feeding in a field of stubble on 15<sup>th</sup> February at **Windmill Lane, Broadstone**, and 10 at **Langsett** on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Once again, confirmation of breeding was hard to come by. Only the following sites recorded definite breeding; **Butterley Lane, New Mill** (one pair) and **Wards End Farm** (one pair, with another pair at nearby **Higher Green Owlers**).

Visible migration was reported from three sites:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 1,159 flew mostly SE on 48 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 136 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 1,614 birds flew SW on 21 dates between 6<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> November with maxima of 387 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 225 on 8<sup>th</sup> October. The 11-year average here is 2,705.

**Wards End Farm** – a total of 495 birds flew W on 18 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October, with a maximum of 138 on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

The number of birds arriving in Britain from Scandinavia can fluctuate greatly from year to year. Unlike the previous year, last year was very disappointing, and this year continued

in the same vein. Records from the first four months came in from just 10 locations, and although this was two up on last year, the numbers of birds were down. Only two gardens recorded the occasional single, and at **Wards End Farm**, which is normally a stronghold, no birds were seen at all. It must be borne in mind that presence and numbers do depend greatly on the Beech mast crop, and birds will move on if it is lacking. Better news was on the visible migration front, where numbers far exceeded those of last year, although they were still low at **Wards End Farm**.

Only 13 records were received for the first winter period and most of these were of singles, with the only ones in double figures coming from **High Hoyland** game crop on 30<sup>th</sup> January when 15 were present, and at **Windmill Lane, Broadstone** with 20 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 11 on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The only other counts of over two were five at **Haddingley Lane, Broadstone** on 20<sup>th</sup> March and six at **Langsett** on 10<sup>th</sup> April, where the two birds on the feeders on 23<sup>rd</sup> March were the first for two years. Birds were present in low numbers until 17<sup>th</sup> April when singing was heard at **Crossley's Plantation**, and two at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 19<sup>th</sup> April were the last.

The first record of the second winter period was a single in a **Hade Edge** garden on 26<sup>th</sup> September, with another there on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Discounting the migrating counts below, the only others were singles at **Broadstone Heath** on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, **Winscar Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> October, and **Butterley Lane, New Mill** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November. A flock of 30 dropped into **Wards End Farm** and then **Hey Green** on 7<sup>th</sup> December but were likely to have been just passing through.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 331 flew mostly SE on 27 dates between 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 41 on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 305 birds flew SW on 14 dates between 7<sup>th</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> November with maxima of 57 on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 70 on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – a total of 98 birds flew W on six dates between 12<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 30 on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – 22 flew W on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and three flew W on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

**Rare to scarce visitor. Former breeder.**

At **Harden Quarries**, singles flew SE at 09.17hrs. on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 09.04hrs. on 20<sup>th</sup> October, and 08.50hrs. on 11<sup>th</sup> November (DHP, NWM).

#### **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

**Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.**

Records came in from 36 locations, exactly the same as last year. A majority of the records were of regular sightings from the 12 gardens which held birds throughout the year. Evidence of breeding was again of just single pairs from only three gardens although 'pairs' or juveniles (which were rarely together), used feeders at another six sites. Breeding evidence came from **Thongsbridge, Linthwaite** and **Thick Hollins, Meltham**. Two

negative comments came from observers from gardens at **Rastrick**, who commented there were none this year, and **Fixby**, where despite the record below, birds were no longer a daily occurrence.

The only counts of more than three were as follows:

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - one or two were present throughout the year with six males being seen on 26<sup>th</sup> January and up to three on a number of dates in February.

**Silkstone SW** – six were feeding close – by on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**Linthwaite** – garden counts were regular with four seen on seven dates, five on two dates with six on 28<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> June and seven on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Fixby** – eight were present on 12<sup>th</sup> January and four on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Netherthong** – four (2 males, 2 females) were seen almost daily throughout with a maximum of six (4 males, 2 females) on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**Cooper-Binns Lane, Holmfirth** – four were seen on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**Thurstonland Bank** – birds were numerous this year and on 7<sup>th</sup> February five distinct flocks of 2, 3, 3, 4 and 14 birds made the highest count of the year of 26.

**Broadstone Heath** – four were present on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Crosland Moor** – four on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

**Winscar Res.** – four on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Holme Styes** – eight were seen on 8<sup>th</sup> November, with birds then being regular until the year end.

**Carlecotes Ponds** – five on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Visible migration was noted at two locations:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 67 flew E or SE on 13 dates between 20<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 12 SE on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 35 birds flew W or SW on 10 dates between 12<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 10 W on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### **GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris*

**Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas).**

The continuing fall in the population of this species, both nationally and internationally, is well documented, so it is hardly surprising that this year records were only received from 23 locations. This is a big fall from the 31 of both last year and the year before.

With the exception of the migrating birds listed below, double figure counts came from just two locations rather than the four of last year and numbers were mostly in low single figures, with those over four as follows:

**Thongsbridge** – up to 10 in a garden, feeding on sunflower seeds.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – it's not unusual to get post-breeding flocks visiting but this year was the best ever, particularly in September. These flocks were comprised almost entirely of juveniles. 14 were seen on 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 16 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 20 juveniles (the maximum ever here) on 8<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 24<sup>th</sup>, and 14 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - one or two were occasionally seen throughout most of the year although up to eight were present in June.

**Linthwaite** – up to six seen regularly on the feeders with a maximum of eight on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Cooper-Binns Lane, Holmfirth** – seen regularly, with five present on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**Butterley Lane, New Mill** – up to six present.

Breeding mainly in the form of newly fledged young was reported from **Thongsbridge, Linthwaite, New Mill, Fixby, Almondbury and Meltham.**

Visible migration was reported from the following:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 125 (11-year average 75) flew SW on 17 dates between 18<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 23 SW on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 98 flew S on 22 dates between 16<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> November, with a maximum of 19 on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – 12 flew SW on 4<sup>th</sup> October and one W on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

### **TWITE** *Linaria flavirostris*

**Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.**

Once again numbers continued to fall, and that includes even at **Wards End Farm**, which has provided regular numbers for the last few years. However, there were unusual records from three other locations this year, which is an improvement on 2020. Two were photographed feeding with Meadow Pipits and Pied Wagtails at **Four Lane End, Penistone** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April, with at least one still present on 3<sup>rd</sup> (DHP, NWM, DMW *et al.*). At **Broadstone Res.**, two were in a field at the western end on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (GSp), and at **Shelley Ozzings** a single was reported feeding with five other finch species on 27<sup>th</sup> June (LR).

At **Wards End Farm** the first arrivals were four on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Birds were then seen, albeit in small numbers, on a further 11 dates during April, with a maximum of six on 26<sup>th</sup>. May then brought one or two birds on 10 dates. The number of bird/days for the Spring was just 55. The next record was of a single on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, followed by another three on three dates during the month. August brought fewer than eight individuals on five dates, and a flock of 20 which dropped in but didn't stay on 30<sup>th</sup>. The last were six on 7<sup>th</sup> September (the number of bird/days for August/September last year was 212) (DWS).

### **LINNET** *Linaria cannabina*

**Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.**

Another species in decline, though this year's figures are a bit healthier than those of last year. Records were received from only 11 locations, although they did cover every month, and more of them than usual were from winter. This is also a species that doesn't habitually visit gardens, so that rules out an otherwise profitable source of records. Visible migration was also up on last year.

The records for the first part of the year were as follows:

**High Hoyland** - a flock of 10 in the game crop on 30<sup>th</sup> January.



**Windmill Lane, Broadstone** – a flock of 100 were first seen on 15<sup>th</sup> February feeding in a field of stubble. By the following day this had risen to 160 and was still there on 22<sup>nd</sup>. The flock, described as mobile by March, had fallen in number to 40 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 14<sup>th</sup>. They were then seen again in April between 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with up to 75 present.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - a single on 19<sup>th</sup> March was the first returning bird and thereafter numbers began to build.

**Ringstone Edge** – a single was present on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Broadstone Heath** – five were present on 31<sup>st</sup> March and four on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Wards End Farm** – a male and female were seen on 22 days in April and 14 dates in May.

**Cheesegate Nab** – in April there were two on 15<sup>th</sup> and six on 22<sup>nd</sup>, with four on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Broadstone Res.** – ten were present on 18<sup>th</sup> April and four on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**Thurstonland Bank** – birds were seen on a regular basis, but the observer noted that they were less numerous this year.

June and July brought few records, though at **Wards End Farm** two were regularly seen throughout these months, with a maximum of six, including juveniles, by the end of the July. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the breeding population consisted of three pairs. **Cheesegate Nab** had two pairs, and juveniles were observed at **Thurstonland Bank**, but these were the only sites where breeding could be confirmed.

The autumn build-up began in August with records of eight at **Broadstone Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> and 40 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> and in September 25 on 24<sup>th</sup>. and 24 on 4<sup>th</sup> October and the last, nine on 26<sup>th</sup>. It was the best ever year on record at **Wards End Farm** with birds seen on 11 dates in September, nine of which had up to 20, with 22 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 40 on 25<sup>th</sup>. October there then had birds on just 4 dates with a maximum of seven on 5<sup>th</sup>. By far the highest count of the autumn was 100 at **Hartcliff Hill, Penistone**, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, but there was only one November sighting, eight at **Broadstone Heath** on 3<sup>rd</sup>. The last of the year, and the only December record, was of three at **Holmfirth** on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Visible migration was witnessed as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 303 flew mostly SE on 33 dates between 7<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> November, with maxima of 40 on 26<sup>th</sup> September and 39 on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 42 (11-year average 43) flew W or SW on 10 dates between 12<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of seven W on 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm** – five SW on 29<sup>th</sup> October and four W on 30<sup>th</sup> October were the only records.

### **LESSER REDPOLL** *Acanthis cabaret*

**Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.**

The number of locations from which records were received was low at 17, albeit two more than last year. Birds were seen in seven gardens and remained longer than last year, but double figure counts were few and far between and unlike last year there was no evidence of breeding at all. Other than visible migration (which was on a par with last year), almost all the records came during the first half of the year.

Once again with records being so few, we can list them all as follows:

**Carlecotes Ponds** – small numbers were seen throughout this period with a maximum of 6 on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Langsett** – two were on the garden feeders on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, and 29<sup>th</sup> March and in April a single on 8<sup>th</sup> and two on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**High Hoyland** game crop – by far the highest count of the year was a flock of 70 feeding here on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**Screamer Wood, Bradley** – six were present on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Shelley** – a flock of up to ten were feeding on roadside Birches on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Fixby** – a single in the garden stayed from 23<sup>rd</sup> February into March, when birds were seen on a further five days with maxima of three on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Linthwaite** – a garden held birds on 29 dates between 25<sup>th</sup> February and 24<sup>th</sup> April. Mainly two or three individuals were involved, with four on three dates, but eight were present on 1<sup>st</sup> March, six on 4<sup>th</sup>, five on 6<sup>th</sup> and seven on 8<sup>th</sup>. In April, the maximum was five on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Cromwell Bottom (Elland GP)** – a flock of 40 was found here on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

**Horbury Wyke** – four on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Ramsden Clough** – six on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

**Thick Hollins, Meltham** – a single on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**Butterley Lane, New Mill** – two on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – six were present on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**Almondbury** – a single on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – the first were five on 15<sup>th</sup> May, with singles the following day and on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Apart from the migration records below, the only sightings in the second half of the year were:

**Wards End Farm** – one on 6<sup>th</sup> July, three on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August, one on 16<sup>th</sup> September, and two on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Yateholme** – three on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – three on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Broadstone Res.** – one on 16<sup>th</sup> October and two which flew E on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Visible migration was reported from two sites:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 458 flew SE on 34 dates between 18<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 66 on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill** – a total of 37 birds flew SW on seven dates between 21<sup>st</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November with maxima of 13 on 16<sup>th</sup> October and 14 on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### **COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

**Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.**

Records came in from just 12 localities, which was well down on the exceptional 17 of 2020 and back to the 12 of the year before that. This species is usually attracted to conifer plantations with the best crop of cones in any particular year, so an annual variation is to be expected. This might partly explain the relatively low number of records from **Yateholme**, a past stronghold, and **Holme Styes**, which last year provided the bulk of the records. This year that fell to **Crossley's Plantation**, where a good year's breeding was also confirmed.

Records from the first part of the year were as follows:

**Holme Styes** – the first were on 1<sup>st</sup> February when an unseen flock was sound-recorded (and again on 22<sup>nd</sup>). On 17<sup>th</sup> of the same month two flew towards **Crossley's Plantation**, and singing was heard on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Yateholme** – 10 were just to the W on 10<sup>th</sup> February and two were heard in flight on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Crossley's Plantation** – up to 60 were first seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and remained until the end of April. Song was regularly heard, and several juveniles were seen, with the observer noting that it had obviously been a very good breeding year. On 1<sup>st</sup> June, c.20 were still present, feeding on the exceptionally good crop of Scots Pinecones.

**Riding Wood Res.** – two pairs were in the plantation to the E on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ramsden Clough** – on 7<sup>th</sup> March 30 flew from **Crossley's Plantation** before returning there.

**Winscar Res.** – 10 were over the S car park on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cartworth Moor** – seven were present on 17<sup>th</sup> March

**Bedding Edge Road, Hepworth** – a male in the plantation on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – four were present on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – one circled over on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Apart from the migrants listed below, the only records during the second half of the year involved three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> October, four at **Crossley's Plantation** on 21<sup>st</sup> October, and one flying W at the latter location on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Visible migration was as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 43 flew SE on 14 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> November, with maximum counts of 13 on 13<sup>th</sup> October and 11 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm** – a flock of six flew S on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

### **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

**Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs (but probably greatly increased since the 1987-92 Atlas).**

This increasingly common species was recorded in all parts of our area from 30 different locations of which at least 13 were gardens. Unlike last year however, breeding evidence was not widely reported, not even from gardens, and again large gatherings were scarce, with the only counts of 15 and over during the first half of the year being those below.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – birds were present throughout the year, but numbers were greatly reduced compared to previous years, with the exceptions being 15 on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 16 on 29<sup>th</sup> January and 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

**Wards End Farm** – birds visited daily with a maximum of 15 on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Thongsbridge** – up to 20 birds throughout the year.

**Fixby** – 32 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Linthwaite** – double figures were a regular occurrence, with the maxima being 28 on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 47 on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 36 on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, and 30 on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**Rastrick** – 15 on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**Wooldale** – 17 on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ingbirchworth** – 20 on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Lockwood** – up to 10 were regularly counted but 32 on 10<sup>th</sup> April was the maximum.

Breeding records came from just five locations, with nest building first noted on 13<sup>th</sup> April and juveniles present on 31<sup>st</sup> May at **Wards End Farm**. Three pairs were observed at **Cheesegate Nab**, and at **New Mill** the observer noted that breeding had taken place in a neighbour's garden. Again, breeding took place at **Thongsbridge** with also a late brood there in August, and adults were noted feeding juveniles in a **Golcar** garden.

The first signs of a post-breeding build-up of numbers began in late July, although they were not as impressive as last year, neither in the number of flocks nor the size of them, and only two counts reached triple-figures. The highest were as follows.

**Wards End Farm** – birds were present throughout the autumn and winter and counts were up on last year, no doubt due to the good thistle crop. Good double-figure counts were recorded daily throughout July with the highest being 50 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 160 on 25<sup>th</sup>. In August, a maximum of 90 were present on 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> whilst in September the maximum was 60 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Numbers began to fall over the last three months and although birds were seen almost daily the monthly maxima were only 20 throughout, until the last on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Broadstone Res.** – 45 were present on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

**Deer Hill Res.** – a flock of 50 feeding on thistles was recorded on 24<sup>th</sup> August and birds continued feeding in the area until 100+ were seen on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**Royd Moor Res.** – 40, again feeding on thistles, were present on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - although an autumnal build-up became apparent from early August and small flocks were then apparent until the year end, this only amounted to a maximum of 25 on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 1,073 flew mostly S or SE on 47 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 117 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Pule Hill** – a total of 354 (11-year average 318) flew W or SW on 19 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> November with maxima of 59 W on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 64 SW on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm** – a total of 109 birds flew W or SW on 7 dates between 26<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> October with a maximum of 22 on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### SISKIN *Spinus spinus*

**Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.**

There were records from 24 localities, five fewer than last year but four more than the previous one. Again, nine gardens attracted birds with usually only low single figures involved but did span most of the year, and apart from **Wards End Farm** (see below), five at **Almondbury** on 17<sup>th</sup> January and six at **Fixby** were the highest counts.

Proof of breeding was again hard to come by and consisted of the presence of juveniles and territorial males. Several singing males were present at **Crossley's Plantation**, where during the early part of the year numbers were described as unusually high. At **Golcar** a pair, then juveniles, were thought to have bred locally, with the same applying to **Thick Hollins, Meltham, Butterley Lane, New Mill** and **Wards End Farm**.

There were no large gatherings and the only ones of 10 or more were as follows:

**Crossley's Plantation** – the maximum count was 15 on 21<sup>st</sup> February though, as stated above, numbers were thought to be much higher.

**Ramsden Clough** – 10 on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Wards End Farm, Marsden** – an autumn build up began in August and though numbers weren't as high as in some years they were well up on last year. Birds were seen occasionally during spring and summer but in August they were present on 25 dates. 10 were seen on 6 dates with 11 (inc. 10 juvs.) on 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 13 on 18<sup>th</sup>. By September, the maximum had dropped to 8 then 6 in October.

These were the only double figure gatherings in the second half of the year.

Visible migration was witnessed at the following sites:

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 1,476 flew mainly SE on 49 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> November, with maxima of 301 on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 143 on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 121 (11-year average 82) flew mainly SW on 14 dates between 16<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 31 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm** – just 6 flew W on 7<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### **YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

**Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.**

The number of locations providing records this year was 22, which is seven more than last year and closer to the 21 of the previous two years. Once again, birds were present throughout around the year at the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs, and **Cheesgate Nab** also provided a good number of sightings.

Breeding evidence, as usual in the form of territory-holding males, was reported from; **Cheesgate Nab** (3), **Thurstonland** (2, including carrying nest material), **Broadstone Heath** (1), **Thurstonland Bank** (1) and **Four Lane End, Penistone** (1).

The main records were as follows:

**Royd Moor Res.** – low single figures seen throughout the year but 10 in a flock of mixed passerines including c20 Skylarks, were feeding on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Thurstonland Bank** – birds were seen throughout the year though in lesser numbers than usual, with a maximum of just three on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Thorpes, Skelmanthorpe** – 10 were in a mixed flock of 40 passerines seen four times between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Scout Dike Res.** – small numbers present throughout the year, with 10 on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – present throughout the year with a maximum of eight on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Pilling Lane, Skelmanthorpe** – 20 were recorded here on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

**Carr Lane, Shepley** – 50 were on the edge of **Yew Tree Wood** on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**Broadstone Res.** – birds were seen on nine dates, usually just ones and twos, but five on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Cheesgate Nab** – between here and **Intake Lane** birds were seen regularly throughout. On 9<sup>th</sup> March four males were singing and by 17<sup>th</sup> eight birds were present with three singing and two obvious pairs. Five were present on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, breeding was strongly suspected with the final count of the year being 6 on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Skelmanthorpe** – five were seen on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Away from the favoured areas there was a single female at **Wards End Farm** on 20<sup>th</sup> March and later in the year **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a single male on Meltham Cop from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August and again on 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September. One at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 9<sup>th</sup> October was the first record for the site. At **Harden Quarries**, singles flew S or SE on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October, and two flew SSE on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

**Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.**

Birds were recorded at 20 locations but were only present regularly, albeit with fewer than four individuals, at five of these. At **Scout Dike Res.** birds were regular but in lower numbers this year. **Ingbirchworth Res.** had just one or two recorded in most months. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a male was occasionally present between late February and early August, but was never seen more than twice per month. It appears that the bird never attracted a female, as the only record of a female was on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The only record thereafter involved a single on 18<sup>th</sup> October. **Broadstone Res.** was the only one of these locations which held more than one or two birds, with four on 20<sup>th</sup> April and three on 28<sup>th</sup> July. At **Royd Moor Res.,** one or two birds were noted regularly throughout the year.

**Wards End Farm** continued as the stronghold for this species with the number of days with birds higher this year, although the maximum counts were much lower. During the first three months birds were seen every day feeding in the garden, with high single and double figures being the norm. The maximum in January was 12 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. In February as conditions worsened the highest counts were 16 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and 17 on 14<sup>th</sup>, whilst March had a maximum of just 11 on 19<sup>th</sup>. The observer commented that this is the only species that flourishes in the garden when the conditions get worse, and bad winters bring by far the highest counts. April, though with a maximum of just 13 on 29<sup>th</sup>, was the month with the most birds, with single-figures on 20 days and double-figures on 10, totalling 262 bird/days. The number of visits then fell, and only low single figures were seen less regularly as just the 'local' birds visited, and in August the majority of birds were juveniles. The final three months saw an increase with up to 10 on 29<sup>th</sup> November and 14 on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

The only evidence of breeding came in the form of pairs being present during the breeding season, with one pair each at the following: **Broadstone Res., Scout Dike Res., Ingbirchworth Res., Ringstone Edge Res., Deanhead Res.,** and **Wards End Farm,** where three pairs were feeding young.

Records came from a further nine locations where just one or two birds were seen on a single occasion, the only exception being at **Old Mount Rd, Marsden** where nine were with finches near the feeders on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Visible migration was witnessed as follows:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 101 (11-year average 63) flew SW on 22 dates between 6<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of nine on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 96 flew mostly S on 36 dates between 6<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of nine on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wards End Farm** – a total of 68 flew W on 10 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 17 on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

The similarity of the results from Pule Hill and Harden Quarries (both of which have been double-checked with the observers) is quite remarkable.

## EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS

	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2021		EVER		2021	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Swift	13/4	2013	15/4	Stirley Hill Farm	8/11	2001	7/9	Wards End Farm
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	20/5	Deer Hill Res.	27/10	1977	16/8	Winscar Res.
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	3/5	Ingbirchworth Res.	29/9	1969	24/6	Wessenden head Res.
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	31/3	Ingbirchworth Res.	21/11	1959	9/9	Blackmoor-foot Res.
Common Tern	24/3	2021	24/3	Blackmoorfoot Res.	16/10	2001	7/7	Blackmoor-foot Res.
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	27/3	Blackmoorfoot Res.	23/10	1971	8/9	Harden Quarries
Swallow	10/3	1959	30/3	Fixby	5/12	1995	18/10	Harden Quarries
House Martin	20/3	2005	1/4	Blackmoorfoot Res.	27/11	1959	3/10	Lower Maythorn
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981	10/5	Dove Stones	4/9	1956	12/6	Dove Stones
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	31/3	ThongsBridge Broadstone Ingbirchworth	27/10	1987	20/9	Wilshaw
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	3/5	Ingbirchworth Res.	26/9	1999	21/8	Wards End Farm
Reed Warbler	20/4	2011	14/5	Kerry's Nature Reserve	29/9	2001	5/9	Fixby
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	20/4	Broadstone Res.	7/9	2021	7/9	Wards End Farm
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	15/4	Stirley Hill Farm	24/11	1984	2/7	Honley Wood
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	22/4	Cheesegate Nab	27/9	1973	9/9	Wards End Farm
Whitethroat	1/4	2011	15/4	Stirley Hill Farm	12/10	1999	15/9	Penistone
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	30/3	Wards End Farm Deanhead Clough	25/12	1855	20/10	Wards End Farm
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	16/5	Dove Stone	16/10	1985	12/9	Wards End Farm Blackmoorfoot Res.
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	12/4	Langsett	19/9	1969	16/5	Ingbirchworth Res.



<b>EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS</b>								
	<b>EARLIEST</b>				<b>LATEST</b>			
	<b>EVER</b>		<b>2021</b>		<b>EVER</b>		<b>2021</b>	
	<b>DATE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCALITY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCALITY</b>
Redstart	21/3	1942	20/4	Thongsbridge	24/10	1976	12/9	Wards End Farm
Whinchat	11/4	1949	27/4	Broadstones Res. Meltham Penistone Deerhill	9/11	1999	15/9	Wards End Farm
Wheatear	13/2	2021	13/2	Wards End Farm	4/12	1997	3/10	Penistone Lower Maythorn Wards End Farm
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	13/4	Boshaw Whams	24/10	1952	26/9	Royd Moor Res.
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	11/5	Yateholme	16/10	2016	8/10	I.o.Sky Quarry Harden Quarries

<b>LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS</b>								
	<b>LATEST</b>				<b>EARLIEST</b>			
	<b>EVER</b>		<b>2021</b>		<b>EVER</b>		<b>2021</b>	
	<b>DATE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCALITY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCALITY</b>
Pink-footed Goose	12/4	2009	27/2	Almondbury	11/9	2007	23/9	River Calder Dewsbury
Whooper Swan	3/5	2006	12/4	Langset	12/9	2015	25/9	Pule Hill Marsden
Redwing	7/5	1975	6/10	Pule Hill	27/8	1941	10/4	Lockwood
Brambling	13/5	1976	19/4	Carlecotes	13/9	1983	26/9	Hade edge

**Notes:**

Blackcap and Chiffchaff dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds.

In view of the fact that Fieldfare previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has also been removed from the table.

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## **Birds in my garden – status changes over the last three decades**

**By Ian Ibbotson**

My garden is situated between Holmfirth High School and New Mill Dike, in a leafy residential road with houses constructed in the mid-1960s – most with generous garden space. My own has a little over half an acre, it is surrounded by similar plots and backs on to an undisturbed open wooded area with a wide variety of native tree species and grass.

Over the past thirty years my garden has evolved from the conventional 60's layout of a large lawn surrounded by roses and a vegetable plot, to its current state where the lawn has been reduced, and a wide range of shrubs and trees have been added with wildlife value being a major factor in new planting. After moving in, our first major task was the construction of two garden ponds – one shallow, and the other relatively deep. The last five years has seen a move towards less tidy gardening and more tolerance of wildflowers, particularly in part of the lawn which is evolving into a more meadow-like area.

Foxes visit regularly late at night, but badgers are much bolder, arriving for food left out by neighbours as dusk falls. Hedgehogs visit occasionally, but they are less numerous than they were in the 1990s. Roe deer now visit, usually early in the morning, but they are occasionally seen in broad daylight. Unidentified bats are long-term residents in my house and garage roofs.

Bird status changes reflect national trends and local habitat modifications, with climate changes also playing a part.

Some species which have reduced nationally have become much less frequent sightings in the garden – Kestrel, Cuckoo and Spotted Flycatcher are now rarities, averaging less than one record per year, and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker has not been seen this century. Other species showing significant reductions include Collared Dove (increased Sparrowhawk predation?), Starling, Swallow, Jackdaw (eviction from neighbours' chimneys), Tawny Owl (removal of nearby mature trees) and Mistle Thrush, which no longer breeds in the garden.

Species which have increased nationally have also increased here, most noticeably Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Magpie, Goldfinch and Wood Pigeon. The last species having changed from a nervous early-morning vegetable plot raider to a confident, ever-present permanent resident which barely takes notice of me in the garden and has forced major changes in my vegetable plot. It's adaption to using bird food in winter, and its ability to breed throughout the year are very striking and clearly successful. Another nationally increasing species is Buzzard. Over the last ten years this has become almost ever-present, singles or pairs soaring overhead throughout the year, with more in the post-breeding season following successful breeding nearby.

Recent mild winters have benefitted some species – over the last three years Green Woodpecker can often be heard calling in the adjacent open woodland, although they are rarely seen. Another effect of climate warming and earlier spring has been earlier breeding, particularly by thrushes and by Blue and Great Tits which now use and vacate their nest-boxes before the invading tree bees take over their nest spaces. The same can't be said for the House Sparrows which were prevented from rearing second broods this year when the tree bees took over their terrace. I suspect that the breeding season for multiple-brooded thrush species has also lengthened, perhaps enabling additional broods to be reared. In the last three years I have noted newly fledged Blackbirds and Song Thrushes in August – breeding late enabling increased leaf cover to hide them from the Magpies which get most

early nests. I have also noted late breeding by Goldfinches and Wrens, with active nests in September in the last five years.

During the winter I feed birds using mainly fatballs and sunflower seeds as do most of my neighbours. This results in a high population of Blue, Great, Coal and Long-tailed Tits. The other principal beneficiary is Goldfinch which has increased year by year. Bramblings are seen in most winters, usually in small numbers, but occasionally in large numbers, with up to 50 having been seen on the lawn on one occasion. Interestingly this flock which was present for an extended period sometimes included a number of ringed birds, but on other days there were no ringed birds – leading me to conclude that there were many more in the area, rotating round suitable food sources. Winter thrushes (mainly Redwings) are regular autumn visitors but are rarely seen after they have consumed the rowan and holly berries. Late winter always brings Siskins and sometimes Redpolls. These usually stay until April and sing before departing. Greenfinches have increased in the last decade, probably because they can't resist the abundant rosehips which were planted a decade ago. Nuthatches first appeared on feeders in the late 90s and increased rapidly to a peak around 2010. They are now stable, but at a lower population level, and at least one pair breeds close to the garden. Construction of two ponds close to the house in the early 90s transformed the garden from the birds' viewpoint. They have been in constant use and have produced many interesting records. After colonisation by amphibians, Herons have become a regular feature in spring, and have occasionally eaten in excess of ten frogs on a single visit, they also attract Tawny Owls in early spring. Sparrowhawks are seen in the garden regularly, and have recently used the pond to subdue Pigeons, holding them underwater for several minutes before dragging them out to pluck. Mallards visit most springs and have bred in neighbouring gardens, using the pond for ducklings for a day or so before leaving. Both Pied and Grey Wagtails visit regularly, but rarely stay long. Some garden records are "pond visits" only – these have included Redstart, Linnets, Tree Sparrow and Willow Tit in the last two years. Maturing bushes and trees now provide suitable habitat for Goldcrest, Blackcap and Chiffchaff all of which are present in the breeding season, with juveniles seen in the last five years. Willow Warblers are also seen regularly by the ponds in summer, and occasional wintering Blackcaps in most years.

2022 has shown a marked increase in local Swift numbers which is very welcome following recent declines. I hope this is the start of an increasing trend.

Many species occur only as fly-overs, these include Gulls, Greylag, Canada and Pink-footed Geese, Whooper Swan, and Ravens. Occasional waders have also been recorded including Oystercatcher, Curlew, Lapwing, Redshank, Common Sandpiper and Golden Plover. Fly-over raptor records include Peregrine, Hobby, Red Kite and Osprey (twice). Woodcock has occurred twice in extreme cold weather, when they have been seen sheltering from snow against the house wall. Waxwings have been recorded twice in irruption years; in February 2017 large numbers were present in the wooded area behind the garden, with 80 putting on a show in the top of lime trees for several days, and others flying around in small mobile groups.

I sometimes speculate on the next new species – perhaps Barn Owl which I have heard for the first time this year, but not yet seen...

# THE BIRDS OF TUNNEL END

By Mike Pinder

## The story so far.

Tunnel End Reservoir has recently been designated as a nature reserve by its owners, the Canal and River Trust. Huddersfield Birdwatchers Club has been asked to carry out a bird survey of the site, which is currently taking place with the help of several club members. The survey will continue through the winter and as can be seen from the list below, some interesting things have been found there, so a visit or two there is well worth considering.

The site has been visited by birdwatchers somewhat sporadically over many years, but with more regularity and frequency in the last twenty or so years.

Tunnel End Reservoir is situated not far to the west of the village of Marsden, close to the entrance to the Standedge canal tunnel and the three railway tunnels. It was designed to supply water to the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and its earth bank dam was raised in 1798. This original dam partially collapsed the following year and had to be rebuilt. The reservoir suffered from heavy silting to the extent that it had to be dredged out completely in 1915. By the 1980s the reservoir was almost completely silted up again.

The reserve area extends westwards for approximately 500m. from the dam to form a rough elongated triangle, finishing just short of the row of cottages at Lower Hey Green. The silting has resulted in a flat, well vegetated area with the Red Brook meandering through it, ending in a small shallow pond adjacent to the dam at the eastern end.

The first impression on coming through the gate from Waters Road is of lush willows, through which the remaining small area of open water can be glimpsed. This is all that remains of what was once a much larger sheet of water. It is surrounded on all sides by lush vegetation. with a dense stand of bullrushes at the northern side, near the gate. The footpath runs parallel to the road on top of a bank beside the old bypass Goyt, and the main area is to the left. There are areas of rough grass backed by more willows, with the stream running through it. About half-way along there is a small wet area next to the path, mostly hidden by rank vegetation including some bullrushes. The habitat becomes increasingly a bushy area as you continue west towards Hey Green. Finally, the path drops down off the bank to run closer to the stream and on to the other gate back onto Waters Road. There are trees lining the whole southern edge of the reserve and a few more along the northern edge at each end. All of this makes for a wide variety of habitats within a compact area. The site benefits from being at the head of the Colne Valley and from being surrounded by pastureland, as well as from the proximity of high ground to the north and south. All these factors help to bring a wider variety of bird species to the site than might be expected.

The list below brings together all known records of interest from the reservoir and its immediate environs. It includes the most recent observations from the current survey up to August 2022.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchucus*

Occasional single birds

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Pairs occasionally visit in spring, but rarely stay long. However, one pair did produce two goslings in 2022.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Three departed west from the pond on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

**Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

A female-type was present on 15<sup>th</sup>. June 2022.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

There have been five records of this scarce duck, one in spring and four in autumn:

2 – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2002

2 - 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006

1 - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006

2 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010

3 males and possibly a female – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022

All were on the pond by the dam, and the secluded nature of the site with the rank vegetation around its edges obviously has appeal for this species.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

This species has become scarcer in recent years. Breeds regularly just beyond the western end of the reserve, and occasionally at the pond by the dam. There is sometimes an increase during the autumn, but 49 birds on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009 was an exceptional count.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Perhaps surprisingly, has only been seen once: a female-type departed south-west on 2<sup>nd</sup>. October 2009.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

A record of breeding from 1984 comes from before the reservoir became as silted-up as it is now. There are no further known records.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

There were three records of 2 - 3 birds in January/February 2011, but none since.

**Swift** *Apus apus*

Small numbers can sometimes be seen feeding overhead.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

A regular summer visitor in quite variable numbers.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oena*

Scarce resident in the adjoining land, and occasionally feeds on the reserve.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Common visitor, nests occasionally,

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia daciaocto*

Often present along Waters Road and occasionally on the reserve.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Birds were heard calling in October and November 2005, October 2008 and March 2009.

It seems very likely that these records represent two over-wintering birds. All the calls came from the dense area of reedmace at the northern end of the pond.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

2 - 4 birds are regularly present during the breeding season with nesting taking place most years, including 2022. One or two sometimes remain through the winter.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

A rarity. Just one record of a single bird from 23<sup>rd</sup>. March to 16<sup>th</sup>. April 2007.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Recorded most years, with occasional pairs and trilling birds. A pair made a determined but ultimately unsuccessful attempt to breed in 2003.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps critatus*

One present on 7<sup>th</sup>. November 2008.

**Oystercatcher** *Haemantops ostralegus*

Birds occasionally fly over, and are often heard calling from the surrounding hills in spring.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Sometimes heard calling from the upland pastures, and one or two birds have occasionally been present in an adjacent field to the south.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Birds occasionally fly over to and from their upland breeding areas and they are frequently heard calling from there in the breeding season.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

One record on 10th. February 2015. It was in the wet patch beside the footpath, which suggests that this inveterate skulker may occasionally winter .

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

A single bird on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 is the only record.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

One record of a single bird on 14th August 2003

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus rhidibundus*

Small groups of up to 20 use the pond for preening and loafing, during the autumn and winter.

**Herring Gull** *Larus Argentatus*

Small numbers pass overhead mainly through the winter

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

Birds are sometimes seen flying over, especially in late summer/autumn.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

An immature was present and attempting to fish on 12th October 2008.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Single birds are often present by the pond.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipter nisus*

Occasional hunting birds

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

One seen flying north on 16th. May 2022.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Seen overhead regularly.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Probably breeds close to the site, and occasionally heard calling.

**Little Owl** *Âthene noctua*

Occasional records: may breed.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

A pair has bred annually for many years including 2022.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus major*

Regularly present and drumming sometimes heard during the spring. No proof of breeding but breeds at Hey Green.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Occasional visitor.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Hunting birds seen occasionally.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Rare sightings.

**Jay** *Garrulus Clandarius*

Frequent visitor.

**Maggie** *Pica pica*

Resident breeder.

**Jackdaw** *Coloceus monedula*

Resident breeder on some of the buildings around the tunnel entrance

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

There was a small rookery from 2002 to 2005, with between 4 and 8 nests annually. Now only an occasional small flock seen flying over.

**Carriion Crow** *Corvus corvus.*

Present throughout the year and regular breeder.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Occasional birds fly over.

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

One bird in a garden on Waters Road on 23rd January 2011.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Breeding resident, but less common than the following two species.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes vaeuleus*

Common breeding resident.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Common breeding resident.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Occasional birds flying over, and sometimes heard singing from the high ground.

**Swallow** *Hirundo ristica*

Breeds locally in decreasing numbers, and frequently feeds over the reservoir

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

Breeds on Waters Road in dwindling numbers, with just one pair breeding in 2022.

Regularly seen feeding overhead.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Frequent visitor and probable breeder.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Regular migrant breeder. Usually, eleven to thirteen territorial males.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Regular migrant breeder and possible winterer, two to four singing males annually. One was with a tit flock on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaena*

Two records of singing males, one of which held territory from 18<sup>th</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Recorded three times as a spring migrant. In addition, a male was present from 18<sup>th</sup>. – 26<sup>th</sup>. May 2014 and another sang briefly on 22<sup>nd</sup>. July the following year.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Regular migrant breeder with two to four territorial males annually.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Near annual spring migrant. Not suspected of breeding.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

One record on 3. May 2009.

**Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

Males have occasionally held territory across Waters Road on the eastern end of the reserve.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Irregular visitor. Males have sung occasionally.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Regular visitor which may breed. Breeds regularly just outside the reserve.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Occasional sightings, but probably regular and may even breed.

**Starling** *Sternus vulgaris*

An occasional pair breed along Waters Road.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder, numbers augmented by winter visitors.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Autumn/winter visitor, mainly in October, usually in small flocks.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Autumn/winter visitor, mainly in October, usually in small flocks.

**Song Thrush** *Turdu philomelos*

Regular breeder.



**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Regular breeder.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striatus*

Scarce summer visitor, now rare.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Singing males on nearby land on 24th April 2004 and from 30th. May to 4th. June 2006.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Rare visitor. A male sang briefly at the western end on 17th. April 2022.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Breeds regularly at Hey Green, and these birds feed along the stream right down to the dam.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

There is an old breeding record of breeding from Lower Hey Green just to the west of the reserve in 1919. More recently, one was found near Ainslie House just to the south on 21st. August 2010.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Regularly feeds along the stream, presumably from the breeding site at Hey Green. A pair were breeding near the Tunnel entrance in 2022.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Frequent but irregular visitor.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Occasional birds fly over during the breeding season, and larger numbers can sometimes be observed migrating up the valley in autumn.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Regular breeder, largely absent in winter. Birds can sometimes be seen moving up the valley on autumn migration

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Occasional spring/autumn migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Regular visitor and probable breeder.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

Resident breeder in small numbers.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

One record. Two flew over on 2nd, May 2006.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

Irregular visitor, usually flying over or in the adjoining fields.

**Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

Autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor in small numbers.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident breeder in increasing numbers.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor in small numbers.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Formerly one, sometimes two pairs bred annually, but not present since 2020.

Obviously, Tunnel End is not high on the list of local hot spots, but as with many small inland sites, persistence pays dividends.

# CROSSBILL VOCAL TYPES IN 2021

## INTRODUCTION

Crossbills *Loxia curvirostra* were sound recorded on several dates in both spring and autumn in 2021. All of the recordings were made at sites along the southern edge of the Holme Valley. As in previous years, the aim was to use sonograms of flight and excitement calls to identify and document the occurrence of various ‘vocal types’, following the ‘Avesrares’ system of classification.<sup>3</sup> Personal highlights included the discovery of two local firsts, but the year was best characterised by an autumn influx of birds from Central Europe which more or less completely replaced the British types which had predominated in spring.

## FEBRUARY TO JUNE

The first recordings were obtained at Holme Styes plantation in early February. Later that month, attention shifted to nearby Crossley’s Plantation, where an unusual abundance of Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* cones provided food for a population which at its peak in early April numbered more than 60 adults and juveniles. These birds were highly vocal and provided ample opportunities for recording. This revealed an overall type composition much the same as that seen on autumn migration in 2020 (details of which can be found in an article in that year’s Huddersfield Report). As then, types N6 and N15 were numerically dominant. Both of these have breeding ranges usually restricted to the British Isles. In a distant third place was type N4, which has a much wider breeding distribution. However, mid April saw the beginning of a gradual dispersal, and no further recordings were made from then until 1<sup>st</sup> June, when a group of 20+ were the last of the ‘spring’.

## AUGUST TO NOVEMBER

Most of the autumn recording took place during visible migration watches at Harden, where a total count of 43 Crossbills flew SE on 14 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> November. Analysis of their flight calls showed that 35 or 36 were Central European in origin and, of the rest, only two or three were unquestionably British.

## THE TYPES IN MORE DETAIL

Mp3 versions of some of the recordings can be found online by adding the given six-digit codes to the end of [www.xeno-canto.org/](http://www.xeno-canto.org/)

### ‘British and Irish’ N6 (623602, 624907, 629526, 667269)

An unseen ‘moderate-sized’ flock at Holme Styes on 1<sup>st</sup> February seemed to be composed entirely of type N6. At Crossley’s, it was recorded during every visit between 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 16<sup>th</sup> April, and again on 1<sup>st</sup> June, and was by far the most numerous type present there. By contrast, there were just two records of this type on autumn migration over Harden, where one or two were among a mixed group of four Crossbills on 9<sup>th</sup> August and another flew through on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**‘Welsh/English’ N15 (738301, 738302)**

Although none were evident at Crossley’s before 9<sup>th</sup> March or after 16<sup>th</sup> April, N15 was recorded on every visit between these dates, and was clearly the second most numerous type present during this period. In autumn though, it reverted to its former status as a rare visitor, with no records at all.

**‘Widespread Eurasian’ N4 (738820, and in background on 629526)**

Small numbers were recorded at Crossley’s on around 50% of visits between 9<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> April, and again on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Later, the sole autumn migration record was of one over Harden on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**‘Widespread Eurasian’ N5 (629526, *Sonogram 1*)**

The first local record of this thinly distributed type involved one at Crossley’s on 15<sup>th</sup> March. In autumn, two flew SE together over Harden on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**‘Widespread Eurasian’ N8 (667269, 682578)**

Autumn migrants were recorded on two dates at Harden, with one or two on 9<sup>th</sup> August and, for the third year running, one on 25<sup>th</sup> October.



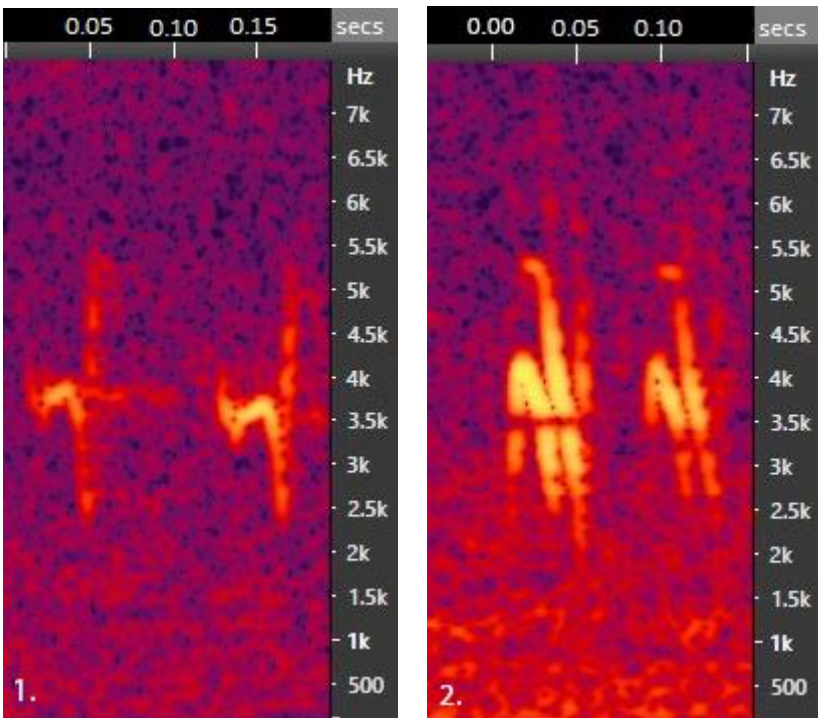
*Male N15 Crossbill at Crossley’s Plantation, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Whilst all identifications were confirmed by sonogram, increasing familiarity did make this type readily separable by ear.*

**‘Central European’ N11** (667269, 670267, 675570, 680148)

One at Crossley’s on 1<sup>st</sup> June could have arrived at the same time as the ones and twos recorded in 2020 but was perhaps more likely a forerunner of what became an obvious irruption of this type. At Harden, N11s accounted for at least 33 of the 43 Crossbills seen on autumn migration, and were recorded on more dates (nine, falling between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> October) than five other types combined. One was also recorded in flight at Crossley’s on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Meanwhile, evidence of an influx of type N11 was seen across western continental Europe, with some reaching as far as southern Portugal (per xeno-canto.org).

**‘Central European’ N7** (734875, *Sonogram 2*)

Following a cone crop failure in its core area in the Black Forest (per J Rochefort), the first local records of this type were of singles over Harden on 28<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> October. As with type N11, these coincided with unusually widespread records from France (J Rochefort, pers. comm.).



*Sonogram 1. Flight calls of type N5, Crossley’s Plantation, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (629526)*

*Sonogram 2. Flight calls of type N7, Harden, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (734875)*

## **SUMMARY**

There was very little type overlap between the locally abundant Crossbills in spring (predominantly British N6 and Welsh/English N15) and those on autumn migration, which were mainly irrupting Central European birds. This was in marked contrast to 2020, when British types made up the vast majority of autumn migrants.

*David Pennington, July 2022*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are due to Julien Rochefort (who confirmed the identifications of types N5 and N7), Nick Mallinson (who recorded type N11 calls at Harden when I was away on 23<sup>rd</sup> October), and Mick Cunningham (who made helpful comments on an earlier draft).

## **REFERENCES**

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2. Newton, I. (2006). Movement patterns of Common Crossbills *Loxia curvirostra* in Europe. *Ibis*, 148: 782-788.
3. Rochefort, J. & Martin, R., (2021). Crossbill call types in the Palearctic – a birders perspective. <https://avesrares.wordpress.com/2021>

## **THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021**

The following is a list of the 277 species of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2021. Fourteen additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species and, secondly, the less common 'additional' race(s).

Following a detailed review by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee in 2017, the BOU announced that it would adopt, from 1st January 2018, the International Ornithological Union's (IOU) IOC World Bird List for all its taxonomic needs, including the British List. In line with that decision, the taxonomic order of Club reports has followed that recommendation.

The most recent IOC World Bird List (v. 10.1), although incorporating a new taxonomic order, which the Club has adopted, makes no scientific name changes.

The 'Description required' column indicates those species and races for which records of sightings must be accompanied by a description and, if possible, photographs, as required by the Club (HBC), the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee (YNU) or British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Consult the YNU and BBRC websites for lists of other species and races for which these organisations require descriptions. Descriptions for the YNU and BBRC should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation. Please send records of all your sightings, including both common and scarce species, to the Recorder (see page 154). Note that for some species distinguishing between races can be problematic at certain times of year and allocation to species only is advised – refer to a quality field guide.

<b>THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Common English name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Description species</b>
1	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	HBC
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla bernicula</i>	HBC
	Pale-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	HBC
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	
3	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	
4	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	
5	Taiga Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	YNU
6	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchos</i>	
7	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>	HBC
8	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	HBC
	European White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>	HBC
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	HBC
9	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	
10	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	
11	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	
12	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
13	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	
14	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	HBC
15	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	
16	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	
17	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	
18	American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	YNU
19	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
20	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
21	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
22	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	HBC
23	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	
24	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	BBRC
25	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	YNU
26	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	
27	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	

<b>THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Common English name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Description species</b>
28	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	YNU
29	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	
30	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	HBC
31	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	
32	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	HBC
33	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
34	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	
35	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	
36	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	
37	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	
38	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	
39	Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	HBC
40	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	
41	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	
42	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
43	Red-Legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	
44	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	
45	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	YNU
46	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
47	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	
48	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	BBRC
49	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (feral)</i>	
50	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	
51	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
52	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	
53	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
54	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	
55	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	HBC
56	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	HBC
57	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
58	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	



<b>THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Common English name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Description species</b>
59	Baillon's Crake	<i>Zapornia pusilla</i>	BBRC
60	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	
61	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
62	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	HBC
63	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	
64	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	HBC
65	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	HBC
66	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicednemus</i>	HBC
67	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	
68	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	HBC
69	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	
70	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	
71	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
72	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
73	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
74	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	HBC
75	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
76	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
77	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
78	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>	HBC
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	HBC
79	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
80	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
81	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	
82	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	HBC
83	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	HBC
84	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
85	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
86	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	HBC
87	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	HBC

<b>THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Common English name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Description species</b>
88	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	YNU
89	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	YNU
90	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	YNU
91	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	
92	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	
93	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	BBRC
94	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
95	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	YNU
96	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	BBRC
97	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	HBC
98	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	HBC
99	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
100	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	BBRC
101	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
102	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
103	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	HBC
104	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	
105	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
106	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	
107	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	HBC
108	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	
109	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	
110	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	HBC
111	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	
112	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	YNU
113	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	
114	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	HBC
115	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	HBC
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>	HBC
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	YNU
	Thayer's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides thayeri</i>	BBRC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021			
No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
116	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>	
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>	HBC
117	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	HBC
118	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	HBC
119	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>	HBC
120	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	HBC
121	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	HBC
122	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
123	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	HBC
124	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	YNU
125	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	HBC
126	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	HBC
127	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	HBC
128	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	HBC
129	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	HBC
130	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	HBC
131	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	HBC
132	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	HBC
133	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	HBC
134	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	HBC
135	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	HBC
136	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	HBC
137	Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	HBC
138	Leach's Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	HBC
139	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	HBC
140	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	HBC
141	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	HBC
142	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	HBC

<b>THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Common English name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Description species</b>
143	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	HBC
144	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
145	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	HBC
146	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	YNU
147	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	HBC
148	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	HBC
149	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	YNU
150	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
151	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	YNU
152	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	HBC
153	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
154	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	HBC
155	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	YNU
156	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	YNU
157	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	
158	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	HBC
159	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	HBC
160	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	HBC
161	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	YNU
162	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	
163	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	YNU
164	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	YNU
165	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	YNU
166	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	
167	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	HBC
168	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	
169	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	
170	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	
171	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix Aluco</i>	
172	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	HBC
173	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	BBRC

<b>THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Common English name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Description species</b>
174	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	
175	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	HBC
176	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	
177	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	
178	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	
179	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	
180	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	YNU
181	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
182	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	
183	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
184	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	
185	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	HBC
186	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	HBC
187	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	HBC
188	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	
189	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	
190	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	
191	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	
192	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
193	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	
194	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
195	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	
196	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	
197	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	HBC
198	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	
199	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	
200	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	
201	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	HBC
202	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	
203	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	HBC
204	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	

<b>THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Common English name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Description species</b>
205	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
206	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	
207	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	YNU
208	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	
209	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	HBC
210	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	HBC
211	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	HBC
212	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	
213	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>	
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	YNU
214	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	BBRC
215	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	
216	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
217	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	
218	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	
219	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	
220	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	
221	Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	
222	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	HBC
223	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	
224	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	
225	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	
226	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	
227	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	YNU
228	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
229	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	
230	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
231	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	
232	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
233	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021			
No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description species
234	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	
235	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	
236	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	
237	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	HBC
238	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	
239	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	HBC
240	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	
241	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	
242	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	
243	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	HBC
244	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	
245	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	
246	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
247	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	
248	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>	
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	HBC
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	HBC
249	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
250	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>	
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	HBC
251	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	
252	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	
253	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	YNU
254	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	HBC
255	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	HBC
	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus petrosus</i>	HBC
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>	HBC

<b>THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2021</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Common English name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Description species</b>
256	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
257	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	
258	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	
259	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	
260	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	
261	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	
262	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	
263	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	HBC
264	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	
265	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	BBRC
266	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	
267	Two-barred Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	BBRC
268	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
269	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	
270	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	HBC
271	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	HBC
272	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	
273	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	
274	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	YNU
275	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	YNU
276	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	BBRC
277	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	



## **REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES**

It is imperative for all Club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the Club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e., ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If, however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the Club forum; to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the Club area then do contact The Recorder or committee member (contact numbers at back of this book)

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place,

then contact the Recorder or a committee member urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from the recorder. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within the Club area. It is by leaving these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

### **Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species**

Black-necked Grebe  
Bittern  
Pintail  
Garganey  
Honey-buzzard  
Red Kite  
All harriers  
Goshawk  
Osprey  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon  
Avocet  
Stone-curlew  
Little Ringed Plover  
Dotterel  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Little Tern  
Barn Owl  
Kingfisher  
Firecrest

### **Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area**

Nightjar  
Raven  
Short-eared Owl  
Long-eared Owl  
Lesser-spotted Woodpecker  
Wood Warbler  
Willow Tit  
Ring Ouzel

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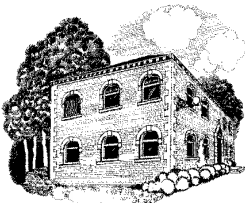
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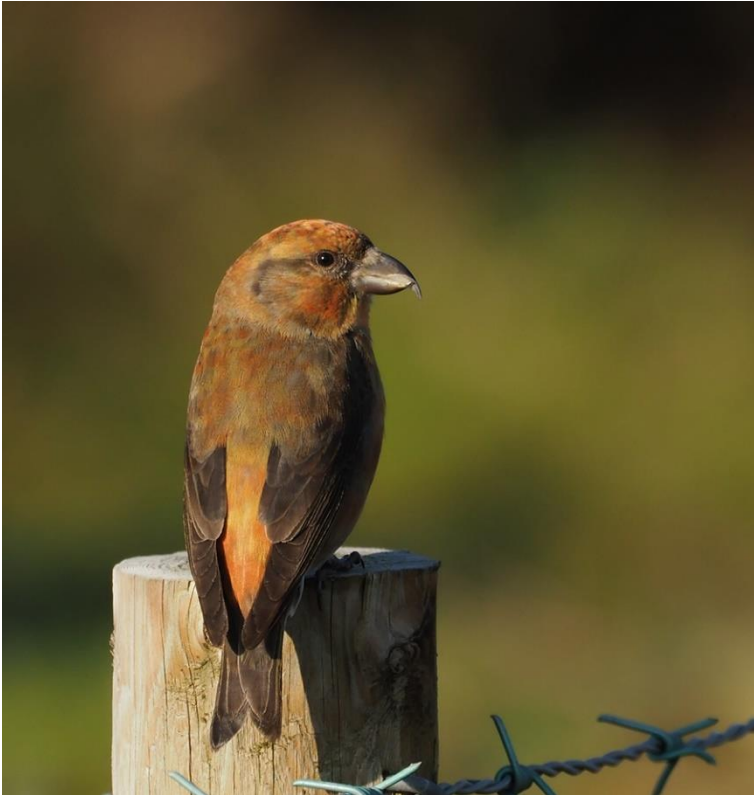
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**A report of all the species of birds recorded  
in the Huddersfield area in 2021**



Male Crossbill



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