

**Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

# **Birds in Huddersfield 2001**



**Annual Report**

**CLUB OFFICIALS 2002 – 2003**

**President**

**MICHAEL RAYNER**

7 Hanson lane, Lockwood, Huddersfield HD4 5HL

Tel: 01484 428400

Email: m.rayner1@ntlworld.com

**Hon. Treasurer**

**MIKE WAINMAN**

2 Bankfield Park Avenue, Taylor Hill, Huddersfield HD4 7QY

Tel: 01484 469232

Email: michaelwainman@care4free.net

**Hon. Secretary**

**DAVID BUTTERFIELD**

15 Dene Road, Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield HD8 9BU

Tel: 01484 862006

Email: dbutt52@hotmail.com

**Recorder**

**BRIAN ARMITAGE**

106 Forest Road, Dalton, Huddersfield HD5 8ET

Tel: 01484 305054

Email: brian.armitage@ntlworld.com

**Indoor Meetings Organiser**

**JOHN WALKER**

68 Brecon Avenue, Lindley, Huddersfield HD3 3QF

Tel: 01484 310875

**Field Meetings Organiser**

**DAVID WOODHOUSE**

8 Maplin Avenue, Salendine Nook, Huddersfield HD4 6QX

Tel (mobile): 07776087368

**Conservation/Liaison Officer**

**MIKE DENTON**

77 Hawthorne Terrace, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield HD4 5RP

Tel: 01484 646990

**AUDITOR**

**Mavis Murphy**

**Committee Members**

David Holloway, Sandra Holloway, Steven Warrilow, Susan Warrilow

# **BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 2001**

## **Report of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

### **CONTENTS**

Inside front cover	Map of the Club area
Page 2	President's Report for 2001
4	The weather in 2001
5	Introduction to the Classified List
6	Notes on the Classified List
7	THE CLASSIFIED LIST
95	List of contributors
96	Early and late dates of summer and winter visitors
97	Visible migration in the Colne Valley
99	Grid References
105	Lists of species requiring description
108	Club Officials for 2002-2003

### **ILLUSTRATIONS**

by Stuart Brocklehurst

Front Cover	Hobby
Page 7	Little Grebe
19	Tufted Duck
23	Red Kite
25	Common Buzzard
37	Curlew
49	Little Owl
52	Kingfisher
53	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
76	Goldcrest
81	Ravens
86	Goldfinch

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2001

I recently went out birding with my younger son, Logan, and thoughts came flooding back to me of days birding with my late father Lester. We would walk along the local country lanes, go through the woods and walk around the bottom-oth-moor. We would hear the Skylarks singing high in the air over the fields and listen to the call of the Yellowhammers as they hopped along the tops of the dry-stone walls that separated the fields, keeping the sheep from the cows and both off the lanes. Dad would point out to me the call of the Red Grouse as we circled the moors, they seem to be saying, ga-back, ga-back, and he would tell the tale of the young boy who, when taking his father's lunch wrapped in a muslin cloth, upon hearing this call shnuted back "I-canna-am-teckin-father-his-puddin-for-his-dinner".

Now, for Logan and me those calls are no more, yes it is true that we hear the occasional grouse but not the sight or calls of the other birds. The once very abundant Starlings and House Sparrows are now but few and the Snipe is only a memory of the days when they used to be heard drumming across the boggy low-lying fields near our home.

To know that House Sparrow and Starling have joined the Tree Sparrow on the endangered list of British birds and the Dartford Warbler has been taken off tells more than anything else of what changes have come about affecting the fortunes of our birds.

It is, however, not all a thing of past losses, for as Logan and I revisit the same haunts we now come across Goldfinches together with large mixed flocks containing Blue, Great, Coal and Long-tailed Tits. We have two species of woodpecker breeding and along the streams Grey Wagtails show off their colourful plumage where before we only had Pied Wagtails. None of these occurred in my boyhood days, the sight of a Blue Tit in the garden was rare indeed and Long-tailed Tits were never seen anywhere in the area.

All year round much has altered. Have birds merely moved on and adapted to their changed environment or is there a need for some form of intervention based upon what is happening? It is very apparent that much research has to be done and quickly.

With changes in mind it was necessary to take a close look at the financial strength of the Club during the season for it had been brought to the Committee's attention by the Treasurer that the free assets of the Club appeared such that we may not have been able to plan a full programme for the future. A questionnaire was carefully and quickly sent out to all members and the resulting responses gave an overwhelming mandate to the Committee allowing them to increase membership subscriptions in time for the start of the next season. A number of other ideas and suggestions came out of the responses and some of these will be adopted and introduced into the Club. They will be discussed at a reinstated Club Evening, which was in itself one of the ideas put forward. To our Treasurer I give special thanks for the duty he carried out in alerting us to this situation and to the members I extend the gratitude of the Committee for the support given, providing us all with a strengthened financial structure.

After quite a lengthy period I was pleased that the Committee was able to appoint a new President-Elect to take up office on my retirement in October 2002, so keeping the traditions of the Club on track.

On top of the above, the Club has had a fulfilling year, providing members with a varied and informative series of lectures and the coming season is set to repeat this with a very well balanced and organized programme in place. I do thank on behalf of the Club our Meetings Organiser for the work that has been put into this demanding task to provide for our enjoyment and pleasure.

I hope that it is evident to you all just how much time and effort is put into the organisation of the Club by all members of the Committee. I thank them all on your behalf for keeping the Club affairs in good order and maintaining its main objectives with the publication of the Annual Report.

For now, from me your President, well I will continue to go birding with Logan and together we will witness the ever-changing world of birds being joined on some days with the other family members, Val and Holly and Heath.

I hope you with your family of Huddersfield Birdwatchers continue to enjoy the Club and the birds we are all about.

Good birding, go nowhere fast and God Bless.

MALCOLM CHARNOCK

## THE WEATHER IN 2001

The snow from December 2000 remained in frosty and foggy conditions at the beginning of **January**. Warmer weather for a few days was replaced by freezing conditions from the 17<sup>th</sup>, with Blackmoorfoot Res. and other waters almost totally covered by ice to 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by a complete thaw by 25<sup>th</sup>. **February** started frosty with ice on local waters on 1<sup>st</sup> but free the following day and from the second week days were clear and warm, but the nights were cold. The first week of **March** was exceptionally cold, with the lowest temperature recorded since 1963. As a result local waters were partially or totally frozen to the 6<sup>th</sup>, but the 7<sup>th</sup> was the warmest day of the year so far in a warm southerly airflow. Towards the end of the month parts of the area experienced heavy snow on 22<sup>nd</sup> and cold easterlies persisted to 29<sup>th</sup>.

Rain and cold winds dominated the early part of **April** and were followed by cold northerlies with associated sleet and snow. Things improved from 22<sup>nd</sup> and southerly winds then dominated. High pressure brought fine days and cold nights with frosts in the first week of **May** and it was not until the second half of the month that temperatures rose in southerly winds. **June** began with northwesterly gales and very high rainfall creating large areas of flash floods particularly in the lower Calder Valley. Later easterly winds persisted and high temperatures were recorded at the month end, but these were associated with some severe thunderstorms.

**July** was unexceptional, generally dry and warm with mainly westerly winds. The wetlands in the Calder Valley dried out. **August** was a mainly calm and warm month, generally dominated by westerly winds with a brief interlude of southeasterlies on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> and a period of northerlies at the very end. Westerly and northerly winds in the early part of **September** were followed by a short period of easterlies, turning to southeasterlies at the end of the month.

In **October** westerly winds predominated and the month was the warmest on record. **November** also began with westerly winds, accompanied by heavy rain and followed by cold northerlies in the second week, but ended on a very mild note. The mild weather of late November continued well into **December**. Snow fell on 19<sup>th</sup> and was followed by a short period of heavy frosts before mild conditions returned in westerly winds. The year ended with more heavy snow on 29<sup>th</sup> and very cold conditions.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST

The main event of the year 2001 was the disastrous outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease and the very necessary measures which were put in place to combat its spread. These had severe repercussions for ornithological recording. Many sites were out of bounds for several months from late February; as a result sites favoured by early returning summer visitors, such as Bretton Park and Royd Moor Reservoir, were not visited in spring and many summer visitors were apparently later in arriving than in most years. The cold northerly winds of much of April and the first half of May also doubtless contributed to these late arrivals. Similarly in the breeding season restrictions were still in place and breeding information submitted for many species was very sparse. On the credit side however, lack of disturbance may have been a contributory factor to breeding success.

Despite these constraints the year proved quite productive with 176 species recorded. No new species were added to the area's avifauna, but a Great White Egret at Bretton in November will, if accepted by the appropriate authorities, be only the second record. A Black-throated Diver at Elland for three days in January was only the 8<sup>th</sup> for the area and the first for nearly twenty years. The Slavonian Grebe remained at Blackmoorfoot from 2000 to 10<sup>th</sup> January enabling all who wished to see it. For the first time since 1995 Dotterel put in a brief appearance for one observer at Whitley Common but disappointed those who turned up the following morning. A good selection of raptors was identified but Osprey failed to oblige for the first time since 1997. Good passages of Pinkfeet occurred at both ends of the year and Smew and Garganey stayed all too briefly for all but the finders to enjoy them.

Two new breeding species were added to the area's list, Hobby and Water Rail, the former long hoped for, the latter long expected, a pair of Redshank was the only success in the whole of the Peak District and there were encouraging signs from Ring Ouzel, Wood Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Twite and Bullfinch, but the demise continued of Grey Partridge, Cuckoo, Skylark, Yellow Wagtail, Willow Warbler and Tree Sparrow amongst others.

For many, the highlight of the year was the Waxwing invasion in the early months, enabling everyone to get excellent views of this delightfully charismatic species. Less conspicuous, but equally welcome, were the large numbers of Stonechats which appeared in October at many sites.

Once again I am indebted to all who submitted records, particularly the local patch workers. My thanks to all and especially to Mike Denton for his monthly summaries of the Blackmoorfoot record sheets, Fristan Guillosson for his account of visible migration in the Colne Valley, Martin Wells of the Barnsley Bird Study Group, Nick Carter and Nick Dawtrey of Halifax Birdwatchers' Club and Judith Smith of the Greater Manchester Ornithological Society for providing records from our areas of overlap.

A final word of thanks to Mike Wainman for arranging, via his son Peter, the printing of this report at a greatly reduced cost and to Peter for giving of his time in this venture.

BRIAN ARMITAGE (Recorder)

## NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

The status of each species occurring within the area has been indicated by one of the following classifications :-

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

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

1.	0-20 pairs per year
2.	21-100 pairs per year
3.	101-500 pairs per year
4.	10-2500 pairs per year
5.	2501 or more pairs per year

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

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.

A complete list of all species recorded in the area up to the end of 1993 appeared in the Annual Report for that year, compiled by the then Recorder, Stephen Hey.

### **Abbreviations**

The following have been used in order to keep the text as short as possible :-

c	- approximately	N	- North
f.	- female	S	- South
m	- male	E	- East
ad.	- adult	W	- West
imm	- immature	CP	- Country Park
juv.	- juvenile	F&M	- Foot and Mouth Disease
1 <sup>st</sup> W.	- first winter	GP	- Gravel Pit
1 <sup>st</sup> S.	- first summer	NR	- Nature Reserve
2 <sup>nd</sup> W.	- second winter	SF	- Sewage Farm
2 <sup>nd</sup> S.	- second summer	SP	- Sludge Plant
3 <sup>rd</sup> W.	- third winter	Res.	- Reservoir
max.	- maximum/maxima	r.h.	- redhead
min.	- minimum	v.m.w.	- visible migration watch/ing



## THE CLASSIFIED LIST

This list mostly follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of Prof. Dr. H.K. Voous (1977. List of Holarctic Bird Species), although in the light of recent findings some previously considered races have been given specific status.

### **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia arctica*

Rare visitor

One on the R.Calder at Brookfoot, Elland from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January (JB et al) was the 8<sup>th</sup> record and the first since 1983.

### **LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Partial migrant breeder (1)

As usual the species was scarce in the first two and last two months of the year. Breeding was attempted at a minimum of five sites.

**Horbury** – single birds were on both the river and canal on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, three on the river on 28<sup>th</sup> January and further singles on 8<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Broadstones Res.** – the only record was one on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – one on 13<sup>th</sup> January, then regularly from early March. At least one pair bred, two young being seen on 24<sup>th</sup> June but reduced to one by 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Post-breeding max. were eight on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September, down to three in October/December, one of these remaining to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Elland GPs** – two were present on the R.Calder on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> February and then regular from early March. Mating was observed on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and one pair raised four young from two broods. Up to eight birds were present later in the year, with the last report on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Dewsbury S.F.** – two were on the R.Calder on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January. No more records then until an adult with a newly hatched chick on the river on 11<sup>th</sup> August, remaining to 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by a single bird on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Tunnel End Res.** – one on 8<sup>th</sup> February, then two regularly from 5<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, but with no evidence to suggest breeding. A single bird present on 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**Langsett Res.** – a pair was present from late February, but their breeding attempt failed due to falling water levels. A single bird present from 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – single adults on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> July, an imm. on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, ad. and imm. on 4<sup>th</sup> August, the imm. remaining to 16<sup>th</sup>. One present from 6<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, with two on 30<sup>th</sup> September, followed by one from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December, joined by a second bird on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Bretton Lakes** – reported on several dates, with three on 1<sup>st</sup> April and two on 6<sup>th</sup> October as max.



**Gunthwaite Dam** -- a calling bird present on 27<sup>th</sup> May but no further reports.

**Boshaw Whams** -- one pair bred, but no further details available. At least four birds still present on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Scout Dike Res.** -- presumed to have bred but could not be confirmed owing to restricted access. Later in the year a max. of 13 counted on 16<sup>th</sup> September and two still present on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Baitings Res.** -- up to three birds present occasionally.

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

Resident breeder (1)

Birds generally return to regular sites from mid-February onwards, being particularly infrequent in January and, except at **Bretton Lakes**, in November and December.

Six pairs attempted to breed at four waters at least but only three young were reared.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** -- four on 1<sup>st</sup> January, then a max. of two until 24<sup>th</sup> February when five were present. Numbers subsequently were variable but there was an increase to eight by 29<sup>th</sup> March and ten on 29<sup>th</sup> April. A minimum of two pairs made six breeding attempts, but all failed due to fluctuating water levels and predation. Numbers increased significantly after mid-June with 18 on 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 20 on 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> and reached a peak of 27 (including just one juv.) from 20<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Thereafter numbers declined steadily from 23 on 11<sup>th</sup> August, with max. of 18 in September, six in October, five in November and December and four remaining to the year end.

**Scammonden Dam** -- two on 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January, one on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Elland GPs** -- up to two present between 4<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> May; display took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> April but there was no further breeding evidence.

**Scout Dike Res.** -- first reported was one on 13<sup>th</sup> February. Two pairs hatched broods of four and one young but only one is thought to have survived and was last seen on 1<sup>st</sup> September. One adult remained to 11<sup>th</sup> November and was later found dead, having been shot!

**Bretton Lakes** -- highest counts in the early months were ten on 14<sup>th</sup>, 11 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 12+ on 18<sup>th</sup> February. One pair bred rearing two young, the two juvs. being still present on 27<sup>th</sup> September. At the end of the year max. were 17 on 24<sup>th</sup> November and 16 on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** -- up to four birds were present from late February. One pair made a breeding attempt which failed. Just a single bird was noted in August and September.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** -- one on 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, then two on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> September and 28<sup>th</sup> October, with four on 28<sup>th</sup> September, then one on 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**Hill Top Res.** -- a pair was present from April to at least 15<sup>th</sup> June but no breeding details were received.

**Baitings Res.** -- in April, two on 8<sup>th</sup> and singles on 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 29<sup>th</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> October.

The following sites had birds on single dates :- **Ryburn Res.** one on 12<sup>th</sup> April, **Bushaw Whams** one on 25<sup>th</sup> May and **Gunthwaite Dam** two on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

## **SLAVONIAN GREBE**

*Podiceps auritus*

Rare visitor

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – the bird from 2000 remained to 10<sup>th</sup> January (M.L.D et al), a stay of 17 days.

## **CORMORANT**

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Passage and winter visitor, increasing

Birds were reported in all months, with most records (100 birds) in December, followed by September (20+ birds) and from 20 localities, the majority of records coming from well watched sites such as **Blackmoorfoot**, the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs and the **Calder Valley**, which had exceptionally high numbers at the end of the year.

**Shepley** – single flyovers on 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**Dewsbury S.F.** – birds were present throughout the year on the nearby R.Calder with a max. in the early months of 12 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and an exceptional count of 63 on 31<sup>st</sup> December, easily the highest total ever recorded in the Club area.

**Horbury Wyke** – in January two on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, one on 19<sup>th</sup> March, two on 14<sup>th</sup> April, three on 30<sup>th</sup> September and one on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, all flying over.

**Elland GPs** – up to three in January, two in February, three in March, with one to 28<sup>th</sup> April and three flying over high on 7<sup>th</sup> May. There were no records then until one on 3<sup>rd</sup> November after which up to three birds were present to the end of the year.

**Bushaw Whams** – singles on 25<sup>th</sup> January and 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**Broadstones Res.** – one flew west on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – after one on 11<sup>th</sup> February the next was a single on 4<sup>th</sup> July, followed by further singles on 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and two on 31<sup>st</sup> July, one on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and one on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**Royd Moor/Scout Dike Res.** – one over on 13<sup>th</sup> February, two on 29<sup>th</sup> July, then one to three on 20 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> December, and a high count of seven on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Ravensthorpe GPs** – one flew upriver on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – singles flew west on 2<sup>nd</sup> and NW on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The next was an imm. on 24<sup>th</sup> July, followed by another imm. roosting on 10<sup>th</sup> August and an adult on 11<sup>th</sup> August. In September singles on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, two adults on 9<sup>th</sup> October and finally an imm. on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**Cowcliffe** – three flew west on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Marsden** – two flew north on 10<sup>th</sup> April and one on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Ryburn Res.** – one on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Brownhill Res.** – one on the water on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

**Meltham** – three flew north on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Riogstone Edge Res.** – singles in October on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Langsett Res.** – an imm. flew south on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Wessenden Valley** – one flyover on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Colnebridge** – one flew upriver on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Bretton Lakes** – in November two on 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and in December three on 2<sup>nd</sup>, singles on 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Castle Dam** – two on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

## **GREY HERON**

*Ardea cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

The situation was very similar to that of recent years, with birds reported from 35 sites and in all types of habitat. Once again the majority of records involved one to three birds, with larger concentrations occurring at **Horbury Wyke** which had a maximum of 15 on 11<sup>th</sup> August, **Scout Dike Res.** six on 6<sup>th</sup> September and at **Elland GPs** six on 14<sup>th</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Restrictions imposed due to the F&M outbreak prevented an accurate nest count at **Bretton Lakes**, but nests seen in the early winter period suggested that numbers were similar to those in 2000 and at least 32 birds were present on the Lower Lake nesting island on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

At **Scammonden**, seven nests had been built by 8<sup>th</sup> April, with six occupied on 15<sup>th</sup> and by 3<sup>rd</sup> June there was evidence of young in five of them, but accurate counts were not possible.

One pair was reported to be nesting at **Ryburn** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and yet again probable breeding was suggested on private land near **Lepton Great Wood**, but confirmation could not be achieved.

Birds were regularly observed flying over **Dalton, Crosland Moor** and **Sbelley**, where in September one was seen to be carrying a large goldfish (SRG).

## **GREAT WHITE EGRET**

*Egretta alba*

Rare visitor

**Bretton Lakes** – on 18<sup>th</sup> November one was reported flying east over the weir at 1235 hrs (CG, via BBSG).

If accepted by the YNU and BB Rarities Committees it will be the second record for the Club area, the first having been at the same site on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1989.

## **WHITE STORK**

*Ciconia ciconia*

Rare visitor

An adult at **Cawthorne Park** on 12<sup>th</sup> May (BBSG) was presumably one of the wanderers from Harewood.

## **MUTE SWAN**

*Cygnus olor*

Resident, occasional breeder

Birds were present in all months with the great majority of records coming from the **Calder Valley**.

**Horbury area** – a high count of seven birds at the Wyke in freezing conditions on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, four (two ads, two imms) on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> February then one or two regularly. A breeding attempt was made, birds sitting on a nest from 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> May at least and a pair with downy young was present on the adjacent R. Calder on 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August.

One of the birds present on 3<sup>rd</sup> January had been ringed as a first year male at Fairburn Ings on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1999.

**Elland GPs** – two adults were present throughout the year.

**Colnebridge SP** – three immes on 18<sup>th</sup> February, an adult on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> April, on five dates in May and two dates in early June before moving on. Nest building took place on 13<sup>th</sup> April but was abandoned. An adult reappeared on 28<sup>th</sup> October and a pair on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ravensthorpe GPs** – two immatures on the canal on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Hepworth, Victoria** – one flew over towards Ingbirchworth on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Mirfield** – one on the R.Calder on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – on 18<sup>th</sup> September one came in from the north and circled the reservoir before returning north.

**Dewsbury SF** – three adults on the R.Calder on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

## **BEWICK'S SWAN**

*Cygnus columbianus*

Scarce winter visitor

The only record was of three adults at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 3<sup>rd</sup> November (DHP).

## **WHOOPEE SWAN**

*Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce winter visitor

There were at least three records.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – 30 in the early evening of 20<sup>th</sup> March left to the north (JB).

This is the largest party seen in the Club area since 1994.

**Langsett Res.** – a party of ten birds, including four adults, present on 4<sup>th</sup> November (via BBSG).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – three flew NW on 23<sup>rd</sup> November (KC via BBSG).

**Elland GPs** – a party of 12/13 swans flying up the Calder Valley were probably this species (HBC).

## **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE**

*Anser brachyrhynchus*

Uncommon to common passage visitor

In the early months passage was noted on 12 dates and involved a total of more than 3600 birds, of which 80% occurred in the periods 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> January, 8<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> February. Interestingly, the timing of the passage (where details were given), with the majority of skeins noted between 0900 and 1100 hrs, is in complete contrast to occurrences in 2000, when only one skein was reported before 1100 hrs, suggesting either that birds were coming from a nearer location than last year or leaving the same location much earlier. With two exceptions all movements were between west and north, most being northwest.

**12<sup>th</sup> January** – 130 NW at 1000hrs over **Bradley Park GC.**

**13<sup>th</sup> January** – 300+ NW at 1015hrs over **Harden**, 80+ W over **Marsh**, 300 W at **Bretton** and 287 W at **Dewsbury SF.**

**30<sup>th</sup> January** – c.200 NW and 200 E over **Blackmoorfoot.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February** – 150 NW at 1030hrs over **Bradley Park GC.**

**8<sup>th</sup> February** – c.60 W at 0915hrs and c.30 S at 1000hrs over **Shelley**, 250 W over **Elland GPs**.

**10<sup>th</sup> February** – skeins of 140 and 93 W over **Brighthouse**.

**13<sup>th</sup> February** – 80 W over **Elland**.

**14<sup>th</sup> February** – a total of 521 birds NW over **Pule Hill** in three skeins of 51 at 0930hrs, 280 at 0945hrs and 190 at 0955hrs; 360 W over **Dewsbury SF**.

**15<sup>th</sup> February** – 20 N at 0800hrs over **Fixby**, 58 W at 1405hrs at **Blackmoorfoot** and 56 NW over **Marsden** at 1415hrs.

**17<sup>th</sup> February** – c.95 W at 1000hrs over **Royd Moor**, c.100 WNW at 1115 over **Lindley Moor** and a flock NW over **Harden** at dusk.

**24<sup>th</sup> February** – c.60 WNW over **Scout Dike** at 1045hrs.

**15<sup>th</sup> March** – 32 W at **Blackmoorfoot** at 1025hrs.

Grounded birds occurred as follows :- at **Horbury Wyke** two on various dates to 22<sup>nd</sup> April, with one to 13<sup>th</sup> May at least, at **Scout Dike** one with Canada Geese on 20<sup>th</sup> January, at **Boshaw Whams** one with Canadas on 27<sup>th</sup> January and 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> February, at **Ringstone Edge** two on 24<sup>th</sup> February and at **Cawthorne** a feral bird on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

The first returning birds of the autumn appeared on 13<sup>th</sup> October, though a small skein of unidentified "grey" geese, probably this species, occurred on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Movement was noted on only five dates in October, two in November and five in December. Of approximately 2800 birds counted, more than 1100 passed on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> October. In contrast to the early months, most timed records related to the late afternoon period and birds were noted moving in all directions, but mainly southeast or east.

**3<sup>rd</sup> October** – 14 "grey" geese S at **Thornton Lodge** at 0815hrs.

**13<sup>th</sup> October** – c.100 SE at **Hinchliffe Mill**, 148 E at **Langsett Res** at 1655hrs., 250 W over **Elland GPs** and 150 SE over **Denby Dale**.

**20<sup>th</sup> October** – 250 E over **Lepton** at 1700hrs.

**27<sup>th</sup> October** – 460 SE at **Hartcliff Hill**, c.100 NW at **Winscar**, a total of 395 in four skeins of 134, 78, 94 and 89 all going east between 1735 and 1750hrs at **Langsett Res**.

**28<sup>th</sup> October** – 150 NW at **Bradley Park GC** at 1100hrs and a flock heard but not seen at 1030hrs moving in a southerly direction at **Scammonden**.

**3<sup>rd</sup> November** – 147 SE at **Wessenden**, c.40 ENE at **Scout Dike** at 0830hrs and 150 W over **Greetland**.

**11<sup>th</sup> November** – four west at **Blackmoorfoot** at 1225hrs.

**1<sup>st</sup> December** – 35 SE at **Dewsbury SF**.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** – 100 W at **Shepley**.

**7<sup>th</sup> December** – 72 W at **Dewsbury SF**.

**15<sup>th</sup> December** – c.45 SW at **Royd Moor**.

**19<sup>th</sup> December** – 17 NE over **Dewsbury SF** and 150 W over **Elland GPs**.

Grounded birds were at **Langsett Res** three on 10<sup>th</sup> November, **Bretton Lakes** one on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 19<sup>th</sup> December and at **Scout Dike** five in fields with Canadas from 8<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> December with four remaining to 31<sup>st</sup>.

## GREYLAG GOOSE

*Anser anser*

Uncommon passage and feral visitor

Reported from ten sites, although the same group of individuals probably accounts for many of the sightings.

**Horbury Wyke** – five on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – three on 28<sup>th</sup> January, seven flew north on 21<sup>st</sup> June and four, possibly wild birds, flew west on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**Langsett Res.** – two on 28<sup>th</sup> January and 18<sup>th</sup> March, seven from 11<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, six on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and seven again on 28<sup>th</sup> December. A party of nine which flew high to the west on 17<sup>th</sup> October were probably wild birds.

**Pule Hill** – one flew NW with Pinkfeet on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Castle Dam, Penistone** – two on 9<sup>th</sup> March and one on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Two adults and four juvs. were present on many dates in July and August and were presumed to be the family party raised on Barnside Moor, c.1.5 km to the south of our area. Six on 25<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December were presumed to be the same as the Langsett Res. birds and were probably the breeding pair and their young.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – three on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – three on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Dewsbury SF** – three flew west on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**Bretton Lakes** – a high count of 15 on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**Scout Dike Res.** – six on 23<sup>rd</sup> December presumed same as Castle Dam and Langsett birds and three on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

## CANADA GOOSE

*Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (2)

In the early months counts were received and again were relatively low as follows :-

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – monthly max. January 54, February 39, March 63 on 2<sup>nd</sup> otherwise no more than three birds present in that month.

**Bretton Lakes** – 100+ on 18<sup>th</sup> January (the only count received for the year).

**Butterley Res.** – 73 on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**Elland GPs** – max.39 in January.

**Horbury Wyke** – max.170 on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**Langsett Res.** – four in January, six in February and eight in March.

**Royd Moor Res.** – max.193 in January, 100 in February.

**Scammonden** – 35 in January, 74 in February.

**Scout Dike Res.** – max.130 in January, 123 in February, 75+ in March, 85 in April.

**West Slaithwaite** – 32 on the canal on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Partly due no doubt to the restrictions imposed by the F&M outbreak, breeding reports were received from only a small number of sites.

**Baitings Res.** – at least one pair bred.

**Blakeley Res.** – eight adults and five young on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Butterley Res.** – ten adults, three young on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 12 adults, 21 young on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 11 adults, 17 young on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Deer Hill Res.** – a pair and six well grown young on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Dewsbury SF** – two pairs bred on the R.Calder rearing ten young.

**Harden Res.** – three sitting birds on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Horbury Wyke** – one sitting on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Langsett Res.** – one pair hatched four young.

**Royd Moor Res.** – adults with young present on 21<sup>st</sup> July, but no count.

**Wessenden Head Res.** – 16 young in a minimum of three broods on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Winscar Res.** – three pairs with young on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Pairs were also present at **Bretton Lakes, Castle Dam, Dovestones Res., March Haigh Res** and the **Yateholme** group of reservoirs.

There were some high counts in the second half of the year, particularly from the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs. Maxima were :-

**Baitings Res.** – 112 on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – 37 in August, 49 in September, 67 in October, 66 in November and 33 in December.

**Booth Wood Res.** – 83 on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Butterley Res.** – 31 on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

**Digley Res.** – 25 on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**Elland GPs** – 30 in December.

**Hartcliff Hill** – 235 on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – c.400 on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 170 in December.

**Langsett Res.** – 32 in July, 35 in August, 21 in September, 236 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 28 in November, 33 in December.

**Oak Scar Res.** – 28 on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – 134 on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 143 on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Royd Moor Res.** – 63 in August, 64 in September, c.370 on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 223 on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**Scammonden** – 75 in September, 44 in October, 134 in November, 129 in December.

**Scout Dike Res.** – 66 in September, 154 on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 235 on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Wessenden Res.** – 29 on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

The only reports of flyover birds were c.40 at **Shelley** on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and 12 east at **Crosland Moor** on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

## **BARNACLE GOOSE** *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor and occasional feral breeder

All records presumably refer to feral birds.

**Bretton Lakes** – three on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> January, one on 28<sup>th</sup> January, one on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Royd Moor Res.** – singles on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**Scout Dike Res.** – singles on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Langsett Res.** – singles with Canadas on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**Hartcliff Hill** – one with Canadas on 6<sup>th</sup> October (same as **Langsett** bird).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – one on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

A single bird could be responsible for all the records away from **Bretton Lakes**.



## SHELDUCK

*Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor

Occurred in all months except January, June and July. Birds were present at three sites on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – in February two on 3<sup>rd</sup>, four on 7<sup>th</sup>, two on 26<sup>th</sup>, three on 11<sup>th</sup> March then none until one on 14<sup>th</sup> September, two juvs on 4<sup>th</sup> October, six on 13<sup>th</sup> October; in November four on 2<sup>nd</sup>, two on 11<sup>th</sup>, four on 12<sup>th</sup>, ten on 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by two on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Royd Moor Res.** – four on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – in April two on 2<sup>nd</sup> and one on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Horbury Wyke** – two from 16<sup>th</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> May, one on 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – two on 21<sup>st</sup> April, a female flew in from the SW on 13<sup>th</sup> May and a juv on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**Dewsbury SF** – two on 31<sup>st</sup> May, a juv on 29<sup>th</sup> August and two on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Scout Dike Res.** – three on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**Langsett Res.** – five on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Baitings Res.** – one on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## MANDARIN DUCK

*Aix galericulata*

Rare feral visitor

The long staying drake at **Elland** was reported from January to 26<sup>th</sup> May and from 19<sup>th</sup> August to the year end from both the canal and the R. Calder. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May it was in the company of a female Mallard with ducklings.

An adult female was at **Dewsbury SF** on 11<sup>th</sup> August (JH) and a female was at **Baitings Res.** on 4<sup>th</sup> November (HBC).

## WIGEON

*Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor

Recorded between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> April and from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 26<sup>th</sup> December in small numbers from 12 sites.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – present January to April and August to December in small numbers with just three double figure counts. Max. were three in January, two in February, three in March, two in April, 11 on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 12 on 24<sup>th</sup> September, four in October, nine in November and 14 on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Castle Dam, Penistone** – eight on 1<sup>st</sup> January, ten on 20<sup>th</sup> February, three on 12<sup>th</sup> October, four on 4<sup>th</sup> and seven on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 11 on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**Scout Dike Res.** – eight on 9<sup>th</sup> January, six on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, four on 18<sup>th</sup> November and a late year max. of 15 on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**Royd Moor Res.** – two on 9<sup>th</sup> January, a male on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 11 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 12 on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 21 on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 19 on 4<sup>th</sup> November and 23 on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – after one in January, the next were five on the unusual date of 26<sup>th</sup> July, followed by two on 31<sup>st</sup> August, a max. of 12 in September and 20 in October.

**Horbury Wyke** – in the early months a max. of 40 on 24<sup>th</sup> March, reducing to 12 on 31<sup>st</sup> April and six on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Boshaw Whams** – nine on 4<sup>th</sup> April, an unusual record at this site.

**Booth Wood Res.** – one on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – in September one on 6<sup>th</sup> and two on 16<sup>th</sup>, three on 21<sup>st</sup> October, two on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Deer Hill Res.** – five on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Dewsbury SF** – four on 27<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 26 on 27<sup>th</sup> October, four from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, then eight from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**Bretton Lakes** – two on 6<sup>th</sup> October, a male on 8<sup>th</sup> November, four on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Langsett Res.** – 33 on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wessenden Valley** – two flew east on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Elland GPs** – one on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> November, three on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

## **GADWALL**

*Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

A much more typical series of reports after last year's improved showing.

**Elland GPs** – one on 20<sup>th</sup> January (JB) and a female type on 29<sup>th</sup> August (HBC).

**Horbury Wyke** – a male and a female on 13<sup>th</sup> April (BA).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – male and female on 15<sup>th</sup> June (TG), two female types on 25<sup>th</sup> July (MLD, TG) and a female on 12<sup>th</sup> December (MLD).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – three on 29<sup>th</sup> August (DHP).

**Gunthwaite Dam** – one on 2<sup>nd</sup> September (SRG).

**Dewsbury SF** – one flew west on 1<sup>st</sup> November (JH).

## **TEAL**

*Anas crecca*

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor

Reported from 17 sites compared with only 13 last year, but unfortunately no records were received from some of the species' important wintering sites in the Calder Valley. Numbers were lower than usual.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – monthly max. were in January one on three dates, none in February, three on 29<sup>th</sup> March, nine on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Present on six dates in August, max. 22 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 12 dates in September, max. 24 on 26<sup>th</sup>, four dates in October, max. five on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a single bird on two November dates, then in December 19 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and five on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Dewsbury SF** – numbers increased from 23 on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 90 on 14<sup>th</sup> January, with a further increase in February to 120 on 7<sup>th</sup> and a peak of 186 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, decreasing rapidly then to 32 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 28<sup>th</sup> April. After two on 24<sup>th</sup> August numbers again began to build up to 42 on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 160 on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 220 on 24<sup>th</sup> November with a peak of 260 on 1<sup>st</sup> December and still 240 remaining on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Royd Moor Res.** – early year max. were 29 on 15<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> February, with 34 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February. At the year end 50 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 42 on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – January max. 18, otherwise only single figures in the early months. Later max. were five in July, eight in August, four in September and three in October.

**Bretton Lakes** – small numbers in both winter periods, with max. of four on 14<sup>th</sup> January, five on 14<sup>th</sup> February and six on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Elland GPs** – max. of eight in January, five in February, six in March, male and female on the R.Calder on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 16 in September, 17 in October, 14 in November and seven in December.

**Horbury area** – c.70 on 18<sup>th</sup> February reducing to 24 on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 14 on 13<sup>th</sup> and just two on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The only count in the second winter period was four on the R.Calder on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – six on 30<sup>th</sup> March, seven on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 22 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and four on 24<sup>th</sup> October, four on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> November, two on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ravensthorpe GPs** – male and female present on three dates in April.

**Langsett Res.** – no reports until three on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, then 12 on 30<sup>th</sup> September; in October one on 17<sup>th</sup> and four on 23<sup>rd</sup> with between 16 and 26 birds present from 10<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November apart from an isolated peak of 38 on 24<sup>th</sup>, then 42 on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Other sites from which birds were reported were **Gunthwaite Dam** a male on 1<sup>st</sup> April,

**Butterley Res.** a pair on 25<sup>th</sup> May, **Little Black Moss** (a potential breeding site) a pair on

26<sup>th</sup> July, **Deanhead Res.** four on 19<sup>th</sup> August, **Deer Hill Res.** one on 26<sup>th</sup> September,

**Oak Scar Res.** one on 15<sup>th</sup> October, **Cupwith Res.** one on 19<sup>th</sup> December and **Baitings**

**Res.** (no details).

## MALLARD

*Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeder (3) and common winter visitor

More reports were received this year and breeding was recorded at the following sites :-

**Boshaw Whams** a brood of five on 17<sup>th</sup> July, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** only eight out of 76 ducklings hatched reached the flying stage, but this is a distinct improvement on recent years (1998 and 1999 four reached the flying stage from 52 hatched and in 2000 only two out of 64), **Bretton Lakes** three broods, 12 young, **Butterley Res.** eight young on 8<sup>th</sup> May, **Castle Dam** a pair with young on 16<sup>th</sup> May, **Colnebridge SP** one pair, five young, **Dewsbury SF** several pairs, 86 young on 12<sup>th</sup> July but down to 56 a week later, **Eastergate** female and seven ducklings on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, **Elland GPs** at least one pair, **Horbury** a female with 13 young on 7<sup>th</sup> May and at least four broods on 13<sup>th</sup> May, **March Haigh Res.** three young on 9<sup>th</sup> August, **Ingbirchworth Res.** four broods totalling 27 young, **Langsett Res.** five broods 29 young, **Oak Scar Res.** four young on 20<sup>th</sup> August, **Ringstone Edge Res.** two broods, **Scout Dike Res.** four broods 23 young and **TP Woods** ten young of which five fledged.

Doubtless breeding went undetected or unreported at many other localities.

At sites where regular counts were made, monthly maxima were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Blackmoorfoot</b>	24	26	14	15	15	16	28	54	47	61	26	34
<b>Dewsbury SF</b>	42	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	48	178	82	120
<b>Elland GPs</b>	80	45	25	22	15	26	22	42	60	21	30	46
<b>Ingbirchworth</b>	87	1	20+	5	5	8	50	109	123	67	30	12
<b>Langsett Res</b>	10	15	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	17	58	81	114	144	59
<b>Royd Moor</b>	62	45	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	71	43	87

Significant maxima at other sites were at **Bretton Lakes** only four counts in the year, all in January, c.140 on 21<sup>st</sup>, **Cupwith Res** (where birds are released for shooting) nine on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 176 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 88 on 28<sup>th</sup> October and 45 on 9<sup>th</sup> December, **Scammonden** 22 on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 18 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 33 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, **Lindley farm pond** 42 on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 20 on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, **Scout Dike Res.** 46 on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 45 on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 13 on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 15 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 22 on 7<sup>th</sup> October, **TP Woods** up to 40 from January to May and up to 20 in the rest of the year, **R.Coine between Slaithwaite and Marsden** 80+ on 7<sup>th</sup> February, **Baitings Res.** nine in February, 80 in October, 51 in November, **Marsden centre** 27 on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 59 on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 97 on 14<sup>th</sup> November, **Denby Dale Mills** 20 all year. Single figures were reported from about a dozen other sites.

## **PINTAIL**

*Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

A fairly typical year with records from five sites, mainly in autumn.

In the early months all the records were from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** which had single males on 18<sup>th</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> March, six birds (two males) flying west on 4<sup>th</sup> April and a male and a female present on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

In the later months a male and a female at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and three there on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, one remaining to 4<sup>th</sup>, a female at **Dewsbury SF** on 1<sup>st</sup> September and an imm male there on 19<sup>th</sup> November, a female at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, when two were also at **Blackmoorfoot**, which had five on 15<sup>th</sup> September, three on 8<sup>th</sup> October and four (two males) on 10<sup>th</sup> November. A party of nine flew west at **Langsett Res.** at 1700hrs on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

## **GARGANEY**

*Anas querquedula*

Rare summer migrant

The only record was of a pair on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> April at **Horbury Wyke** which moved to nearby **Horbury Strands** in the afternoon (DHP,BA).

## **SHOVELER**

*Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

After last year's good showing, 2001 was a much poorer year.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – male and female on 1<sup>st</sup> February (AC via HBC).

**Dewsbury SF** – in February two males on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> and one on 16<sup>th</sup> (JH).

**Baitings Res.** – three males and a female on 28<sup>th</sup> March (AF,NC via HBC).

**Elland GPs** – a male on 9<sup>th</sup> April (AZ via HBC).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – one on 25<sup>th</sup> July, two on 18<sup>th</sup> October and three (one male) on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Scout Dike Res.** – single females on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> December (RJB).

## POCHARD

*Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor

Birds were present in all months except April and May but, away from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, were scarce in the later months. Once again the majority of the records were from **Blackmoorfoot** and **Ingbirchworth Reservoirs**.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – occurred on only single dates in January, February and March, three on 1<sup>st</sup> January, three on 14<sup>th</sup> February and one on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Birds reappeared in July, with three on 19<sup>th</sup> followed by one on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>. In August three on 1<sup>st</sup>, singles on 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, four on 25<sup>th</sup>, one from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September, six on 9<sup>th</sup> and five on 15<sup>th</sup> October, one on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, two on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> November and in December singles on 5<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, two on 24<sup>th</sup> and five on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – present regularly in January and February with max. of 17, mostly males, on 17<sup>th</sup> January and six (five males) on 13<sup>th</sup> February. A male on 7<sup>th</sup> July (RJB) was unseasonal, then late year max. of ten in October, 12 on 11<sup>th</sup> November and six in December.

**Scout Dike Res.** – two on 1<sup>st</sup> and singles on 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January, ten on 20<sup>th</sup> February and two on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Elland GPs** – two males from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> February, one on 3<sup>rd</sup> November joined by a second bird on 11<sup>th</sup>, then in December two on 23<sup>rd</sup> and one on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Scammonden** – in January three males on 1<sup>st</sup> and one male on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Bretton Lakes** – after a single male on 14<sup>th</sup> January up to eight males on several dates in February, with just a single male later in the year on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December.

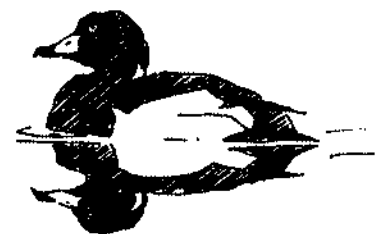
**Royd Moor Res.** – one on 27<sup>th</sup> January, four males on 13<sup>th</sup> February, two on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**Langsett Res.** – a male on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**Boshaw Whams** – a female on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

## TUFTED DUCK

*Aythya fuligula*



Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor

Breeding was confirmed at four sites. At **Castle Dam, Penistone** a pair bred for the second year running, but no other details were received. A pair with three young was at **Royd Moor Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> July. At the remaining two sites the situation was a little confusing. Broods of three, six and seven young were noted at **Scout Dike Res.**, but one pair is reported to have raised eight young; on 7<sup>th</sup> July a

female with seven young in attendance was seen on a pool below the outflow but none were thought to have survived. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** two pairs hatched broods of eight and two ducklings but on 1<sup>st</sup> July a female had six very small young and on 8<sup>th</sup> July a female was accompanied by ten young and a brood of nine was still present on 29<sup>th</sup> July. A total of nine young was reported to have been raised successfully. Birds were reported from over 20 waters but double figure counts were achieved at only seven of them.

Encouragingly there was a significant increase in the number of moulting birds at **Ingbirchworth**.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – max. of only five in January and nine in February then no more than six until mid-June, which had a max. of 14. Max. of 19 in July, 18 in August and September then no more than six to the year end.

**Bretton Lakes** – the only double figure counts were in February with max. of c.30 on 18<sup>th</sup>, otherwise six in January and three in December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – early year max. were 20 in January, 33 in February and 43 in March. After the breeding season the moulting flock reached a total of 64 on 29<sup>th</sup> July increasing to 74 on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Thereafter numbers decreased rapidly with max. of 16 in September, nine in October, seven in November and 11 in December.

**Scout Dike Res.** – monthly max. were January nine, February 22, July 21, August 25, then no more than five to the year end, probably a result of low water levels.

**Elland GPs** – a max. of 19 in January, ten on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 13 in November and 14 in December.

**Seammonden/Deanhead Res.** – max. were six in January, two in June, ten in August, 11 in September, seven in October, two in November and three in December.

**Langsett Res.** – no records before 21<sup>st</sup> July when 17 were present, then max. of 14 in August, 12 in September and three in October and December.

Birds were present most of the year at **Digley/Bilberry** with a max. of five on 9<sup>th</sup> September. The remaining sites, **Booth Wood Dam**, **Bailings Res.**, **Marsden**, **Boshaw Whams**, **Tunnel End Res.**, **Blakeley Res.**, **Wessenden Res.**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Ringstone Edge Res.**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Harden Res.**, **Gnathwaite Dam**, **Dewsbury SF** and **Ryburn Res.**, held a max. of two birds apart from the last which had four birds in August.

#### **SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** was the only site which held birds – two males on 20<sup>th</sup> July (MLD, DHP), a female type on 4<sup>th</sup> August (MC) and a male on 4<sup>th</sup> September (MLD,DHP,KW).

#### **COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Occurred at two sites on typical dates in the summer.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** had single females on 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July, three (two males) on 25<sup>th</sup> July and in August a male on 12<sup>th</sup>, four (two males) on 24<sup>th</sup> and two males on 25<sup>th</sup> (MLD et al).

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – a f./imm. present from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August (JED,DHP,HBC).

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

Regular, but uncommon, winter visitor

Birds were reported from 15 waters, with two double figure counts at **Blackmoorfoot** near the end of the year, when the species was much more numerous than in the previous year at this time. An interesting phenomenon was the presence of at least two different

first year males at two waters between May and July. Ignoring these individuals, extreme dates were 1<sup>st</sup> January to 21<sup>st</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a continuous presence from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 21<sup>st</sup> April apart from 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> January when the water was 99% frozen. Max. were January two, February three, March five, April four. Different 1<sup>st</sup> year males were present in June from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and from 10<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Eight birds (four males) reappeared on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, with just one remaining on 23<sup>rd</sup>, then in November there were three on 1<sup>st</sup>, 13 (seven males) on 7<sup>th</sup>, two on 9<sup>th</sup>, three on 10<sup>th</sup>, one on 13<sup>th</sup>, eight males on 14<sup>th</sup>, one on 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> followed by 13 (ten males) on 24<sup>th</sup>, then one on most days to 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a single bird in January, but none then until a 1<sup>st</sup> year male appeared on 27<sup>th</sup> May, after which further sightings occurred on 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June and two imm. males present on 15<sup>th</sup>. (Note that this last date overlaps the dates of the second individual at Blackmoorfoot, so perhaps as many as three birds were involved at this time). One had returned by 11<sup>th</sup> November and one was present in December.

**Deanhead Res.** – single redheads on 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January and 18<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ravensthorpe** – ten were on the R.Calder in the freezing conditions of early January.

**Dewsbury SF** – good numbers were on the R.Calder in the January freeze, with six on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16 on 13<sup>th</sup>, five on 14<sup>th</sup> then three on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**Horbury Wyke** – a single female was on the R.Calder on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Langsett Res.** – one on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, two from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> February and on 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March. At the year end two on 19<sup>th</sup> November, a male on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, three (one male) on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, subsequently present on and off to 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Scout Dike Res.** – singles on 9<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> December.

**Royd Moor Res.** – singles on 15<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January, two on 17<sup>th</sup> February, one on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Brownhill Res.** – male on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

**Booth Wood Dam** – one in January.

**Elland GPs** – two in January.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – max. of two in February, March and April, one in May, four in October and singles in November/December.

**March Haigh Res.** – one on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Redbrook Res.** – a r.h. on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Winscar Res.** – a female on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**Boshaw Whams** – two imms. on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Harden Res.** – an imm. on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Marsden** – a r.h. on 16<sup>th</sup> December on a mill pond near Sparth Res.

## **SMEW**

### *Mergellus albellus*

Rare visitor

After a blank year in 2000 there was just one record of this delightful little duck, a male and two redheads at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup> February (MC,DHP).

## **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**      *Mergus serrator*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor

Birds were seen at two sites. Apart from a male at **Brownhill Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> April (GBS), all reports came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** as follows:- a male on 21<sup>st</sup> July (MLD), single redheads on 12<sup>th</sup> October (DHP) and 1<sup>st</sup> November (MLD,DHP), a male and a redhead on 9<sup>th</sup> November (MLD,TG) and a redhead on 3<sup>rd</sup> December (CH).

## **GOOSANDER**      *Mergus merganser*

Regular passage and winter visitor

**Dewsbury SF** – three on the R.Calder on 2<sup>nd</sup> January remained through January and February and occasionally into March. Five redheads on 3<sup>rd</sup> April increased to ten on 15<sup>th</sup> with seven (two males) still on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Two females reappeared from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May. A male and a female on 1<sup>st</sup> November stayed to the year end.

**Castle Dam, Penistone** – nine on 3<sup>rd</sup> and five on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – birds were present on 37 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> January and 29<sup>th</sup> April, with max. of seven on 11<sup>th</sup> January, eight on 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> February, seven on 17<sup>th</sup> March and three on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The first birds (four) in the second winter period appeared on 21<sup>st</sup> September, with four also on 30<sup>th</sup> September, then on six dates in October, max. three on 11<sup>th</sup>, two on just one date (11<sup>th</sup>) in November and on 15 dates in December with a max. of four on 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Bretton Lakes** – several counts received for January/February and November/December. Max. were 30 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 35 on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 42 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 36 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 40+ on 18<sup>th</sup> February; at the year end 17 on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and in December 45+ on 19<sup>th</sup>, 50 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 66 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Elland GPs** – present from January to May and September to December, with max. of 83 in January, 32 in February, seven in March, eight in April, three in May, six in September, three in October, 16 in November and 29 in December.

**Scout Dike Res.** – male on 28<sup>th</sup> January and one flew NE on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**McAlpine Stadium** – regular in the first winter period on the R.Colne, max. three on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cooper Bridge/Colnebridge** – two on the R.Colne on 8<sup>th</sup> February, six on 18<sup>th</sup> March and two on 31<sup>st</sup> December and one flying over on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

**Horbury** -- on the R.Calder singles in February on 17<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, with two on 18<sup>th</sup> at the Wyke and in March three on 19<sup>th</sup> and five on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – two on 18<sup>th</sup> February and one, probably a juv. on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Oak Scar Res.** – a male and a redhead on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Magdale Dam** – two on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

**Diggle** – one on the canal on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Harden Res.** – a redhead on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**Birkby** – a pair flying south over Birkby Road on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**Langsett Res.** – a male on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**Baitings Res.** – present from September to November only with max. of ten in September, nine in October and one in November.

**Butterley Res.** – redhead on 28<sup>th</sup> October.



**Wessenden Valley** – a male and a redhead flew SW during a v.m.w. on 31<sup>st</sup> October.  
**Ingbirchworth Res.** – two flew south on 3<sup>rd</sup> November; a male on 15<sup>th</sup> November.  
**Scammonden** – six redheads on 8<sup>th</sup> November.  
**Aspley** – a redhead on the R.Colne near Snow Island on 8<sup>th</sup> November.  
**Deer Hill Res.** – redhead on 9<sup>th</sup> November.  
**Royd Moor Res.** – two males flew east on 17<sup>th</sup> November.  
**Lockwood** – a male associated with Mallards at Brewery Drive Dam on 10<sup>th</sup> December.  
**Chapel Hill** – a male on the river by Sellers' Engineers on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

## **RUDDY DUCK**

*Oxyura jamaicensis*

Irregular breeder (1) and infrequent visitor

Reported from only three sites this year.

**Scout Dike Res.** – one on 6<sup>th</sup> January, a pair on 5<sup>th</sup> June and two on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

**Elland GPs** – a female on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a female on 13<sup>th</sup> February, a male on 11<sup>th</sup> April, five (two males) on 24<sup>th</sup> April with four (two males) on 25<sup>th</sup>, five (three males) on 26<sup>th</sup> May, three (one male) on 12<sup>th</sup> and six (three males) on 15<sup>th</sup> June, two in July and singles on 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September.

## **HONEY BUZZARD**

*Pernis apivorus*

Rare passage visitor

**Elland GPs** – one reported flying over on 5<sup>th</sup> May (DW via WB). Subject to acceptance by YNU Rarities Committee.

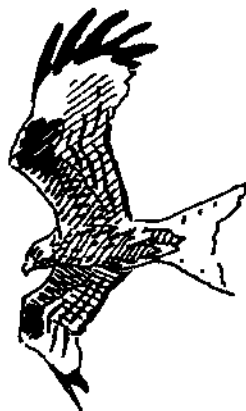
*Amendments to 2000 Report* – The YNU Rarities Committee has accepted the records at **Harden/Winscar** on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, at **Holmbridge** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, at **Silkstone** on 27<sup>th</sup> September and at **Ringstone Edge Res.** and at **Dalton/Almondbury** on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Those at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup> and at **Holme Village** on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September were rejected on the grounds of insufficient detail in the descriptions. The remaining claims were not considered because descriptions were not submitted.

## **RED KITE**

*Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor

On 8<sup>th</sup> August two birds watched from **Dunford Road** moved, gliding with very little wing flapping, down the **Holme Valley**. They were described as being big, reddish-brown in colour, with forked tails and larger than the Carrion Crows which were mobbing them. It seems likely that they were this species (via D.Barrans).



## MARSH HARRIER

*Circus aeruginosus*

Rare visitor

A cream-crown flew NW over **Langsett Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> May (RJB). On 27<sup>th</sup> August at 1045hrs. a male flew east over **Millbank, Thornhill** following the R.Calder. It remained for about 12 minutes and began quartering fields above **Horbury Marshalling Yards** before continuing east (JH). (*What was probably the same bird appeared at Old Moor Wetland an hour later*).

## HEN HARRIER

*Circus cyaneus*

Rare visitor

There was a very welcome increase in records of this species. All came from the west or south of the area and with one exception were in the second half of the year.

**Tinker Hill** – a male was skydancing on the morning of 17<sup>th</sup> April, but could not be relocated in the afternoon (RT).

**Deer Hill** – a female was hunting at 1830hrs. on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (KW).

**Wessenden Valley** – a ringtail flew east over **Butterley Res.** at 1015hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> August (DH,VLP via TG).

**Dovestones** – one on 28<sup>th</sup> August (via JS).

**Scapegoat Hill** – a ringtail flew south at 1500hrs. on 27<sup>th</sup> September (TG).

**Holme Moor** – an immature flew low to the west between **Marsden** and **Deer Hill** at 0920hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup> October (DH,TG).

**Scammonden** – a male flew north at 0940hrs. on 17<sup>th</sup> November (JB).

## GOSHAWK

*Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder and uncommon visitor

Displaying birds were present at three known breeding sites but no evidence of breeding was obtained. At a site near **Langsett** a male was displaying on 15<sup>th</sup> February and a probable male was present on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Singles were seen going to roost on 17<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> November. At a second site a pair displayed on 18<sup>th</sup> April and at a third former breeding site display was observed on 21<sup>st</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Away from breeding areas a female was hunting along hedgerows near **Skelmanthorpe Cricket Club** on 6<sup>th</sup> January (BA), a male was at **Winscar** on 9<sup>th</sup> January (BBSG), a male at **Ringstone Edge** on 11<sup>th</sup> January (AC via HBC), one flew NE over **Greenhead** on 12<sup>th</sup> March (B&RH), one, probably a male, was watched for ten minutes in full view perched in a treetop in a garden at **Laund Road, Salendine Nook** on 17<sup>th</sup> March (MLB via JED), a male was watched briefly at **Scammonden** on 8<sup>th</sup> April (JED), a male was soaring over **Cawthorne Park** on 27<sup>th</sup> April (JED), a “near-adult” with plumage greyer than that of an adult sat on a fence post for two to three minutes at **Harden** on 28<sup>th</sup> April (MC), one was at the northern end of **Winscar Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> May (MC), a female was over **Lindley Moor** on 23<sup>rd</sup> August (JED), an adult flew low SSW at **Harden Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup> November (MC) and a “probable” was at **TP Woods** on 21<sup>st</sup> December (B&RH).

## SPARROWHAWK

*Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2)

There was a significant increase to 70 in the number of localities from which this species was reported, as well as increases in the number of garden sightings and confirmed breeding records.

Breeding occurred at **Beaumont Park** (at least two young reared), **Blacker Beck** (five young reared), **Digley** (four young), **Langsett** (at least three pairs) and near **Waterhall Park, Penistone**. In addition, displaying birds and/or suspected breeding was reported from **Almondbury, Dalton, Dobb Dike, Dovestones, Hagg Wood, Horbury Wyke, Lepton Great Wood, Lower Stones Wood, Penny Spring Wood** and the **Yatcholme** area. Juveniles were observed in July at **Dalton** on 7<sup>th</sup>, **Winscar** on 16<sup>th</sup> and **Harden** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Dated sightings in each month were :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	21	12	24	20	9	15	20	15	15	13	19

Gardens were visited in **Almondbury, Dalton, Denby Dale**, where a ringed female was freed from a rose bush on 26<sup>th</sup> January, **Fixby, Harden, New Mill, Shelley** and **Taylor Hill**.

Birds were reported chasing (unsuccessfully) Blackbird at **Fixby** on 18<sup>th</sup> February, Snipe at **Ringstone Edge** on 5<sup>th</sup> March and Stonechat at **Copthurst Moor** on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Two birds, working together, took a Song Thrush at **Fixby** on 8<sup>th</sup> May (DS) and one took a House Sparrow at **Marsden** on 8<sup>th</sup> November (TG).

Most sightings were of single birds or pairs, but three were soaring together at **West Slaithwaite** on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

V.m.w. produced singles moving south at **Wessenden** on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October and at **Dewsbury SF** three south on 30<sup>th</sup> September and two south on 7<sup>th</sup> October.



## COMMON BUZZARD

*Buteo buteo*

Rare visitor. Becoming increasingly frequent

There was a small increase in sightings compared with the previous year, almost approaching those of the 1999 record year. All records except one occurred in the period March to October.

**Royd Moor Hill** – one drifted high to the ESE on 11<sup>th</sup> March (DB).

**Marsden** – one flew west on 23<sup>rd</sup> March (TG).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – one drifted to the NW circling on 28<sup>th</sup> March (TG).

**Meltham Cop** – one circled before departing east on 7<sup>th</sup> April (TD).

**Stainland** – a “probable” on 25<sup>th</sup> April (HBC).

**Dovestones** – one drifted west on 9<sup>th</sup> May (PDB).

**Harden** – one hunting over **Snailsden Moor/Harden Clough** for most of the afternoon on 12<sup>th</sup> May and

soaring with Peregrine and Raven (MC).

**Meltham** – one flying towards **Wessenden Head** on 13<sup>th</sup> May (NW via TG).

**Yateholme** – one in aerial dispute with Raven, before flying off to the NW, on 10<sup>th</sup> June (HQ).

**Flouch Inn** – one over on 20<sup>th</sup> July (BBSG).

**Margery Wood** – one flying over on 11<sup>th</sup> August (JED).

**Wessenden Valley** – one flew south up the valley on 24<sup>th</sup> August (TG) and one flew SE mobbed by a Merlin on 12<sup>th</sup> September (CH).

**New Mill** – a “probable” flew over on 26<sup>th</sup> August (CDA).

**Cawthorne** – one over on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September (BBSG).

**Deighton** – one over **Leeds Road Playing Fields** on 14<sup>th</sup> September (DWB).

**Heyden Bridge** – one moved SW over **Oakside Clough** and **Ancote Hill** on 8<sup>th</sup> October (DHP).

**Dewsbury SF** – one flew south on 1<sup>st</sup> December (JH).

## **KESTREL**

*Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2)

Birds were reported from 52 localities and there were many fewer registrations compared with Sparrowhawk sightings. The species is considered by several observers to be in decline locally, but the suspicion remains that almost all sightings of Sparrowhawk are submitted, while those of this species are not, so an incomplete picture is being presented. Breeding was confirmed only at **Blackmoorfoot** (2+ young), **Ingbirchworth** (three young), **Lindley Moor**, **Strangstry Wood** (Elland), **Wessenden Valley** and **Winscar**, with probable breeding reported from **Colnebridge**, **New Mill** and **Scammonden**. Doubtless it occurred at many other sites where individuals or pairs of birds were observed in the breeding season.

Nearly all sightings were of one or two birds and included many of birds hunting, but at least eight were in the **Wessenden Valley** on 24<sup>th</sup> August, a minimum of six over **Langsett** on 27<sup>th</sup> August and three at **Dewsbury SF** on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

All reports of this species should be submitted in future.

## **MERLIN**

*Falco columbarius*

Partial migrant breeder (1) and scarce visitor

In January a female was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup>, with possibly the same individual nearby in **Annat Royd Laue** on 16<sup>th</sup> and also on 7<sup>th</sup> February, one flew south at **Dewsbury SF** on 13<sup>th</sup> January and one was at **Horbury Wyke** on 18<sup>th</sup>.

March saw birds at **Hade Edge** and **Winscar** (both males, possibly just one bird involved) and near **Blackmoorfoot** and again at **Ingbirchworth** (both females) on 27<sup>th</sup>. A female was at **Holme Styes** on 1<sup>st</sup> April and a male at **Whitley Common** on the same date and one spent the day at **Dewsbury SF** on 12<sup>th</sup> April. A female was at **Whitley Common** on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Breeding was confirmed at one locality, the male and three fledged juveniles being seen on 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July. At a second traditional site a pair was present in spring and mating observed, but F&M restrictions enabled only very long range viewing and it was not

possible to confirm if breeding took place. A male was hunting in the area on 26<sup>th</sup> August. Birds were seen at another potential breeding site on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July, both male and female being involved in these sightings and both a male and a female were at a fourth site on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

In the post-breeding season birds were in the **Wessenden Valley** on 14<sup>th</sup> August (m. and f.), 29<sup>th</sup> August, 12<sup>th</sup> September (mobbing a Common Buzzard), 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October and on 1<sup>st</sup> November, when a f./imm. harassed a migrant Chaffinch flock. At **Dewsbury SF** a male flew south on 11<sup>th</sup> July and a second male on 21<sup>st</sup> August, whilst two (m. and f.) hunted the works on 6<sup>th</sup> October and a male on 23<sup>rd</sup> December was the last of the year. Additional sightings came from the **Little Don Valley** on 6<sup>th</sup> August, **Ingbirchworth** on 13<sup>th</sup> September, **Blackmoorfoot** on 16<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> October, **Royd Moor** on 25<sup>th</sup> September, **Denby Dale** on 28<sup>th</sup> September, near the **Flouch Inn** and **Digley Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> and **Victoria** on 18<sup>th</sup> October, a male hunting near **Marsden** on 1<sup>st</sup> November, followed by a male at **Elland GPs** on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Apart from those identified as males, the great majority of these birds were described as female/immature.

## **HOBBY**

*Falco subbuteo*

Migrant breeder (1) and passage visitor

A pair bred for the first time in the Club area, three fledged young being seen.

At **Harden Edge** one was catching insects for half an hour on 1<sup>st</sup> July and there was a further sighting on 20<sup>th</sup> July (MC).

Elsewhere single birds were seen on 8<sup>th</sup> July in the **Little Don Valley** (BBSG) and at **Ingbirchworth Res.** (DB), the latter being harassed by Swifts. An immature was over **Thornhill** on 22<sup>nd</sup> August (JRS), an adult hunted over **Dewsbury SF** on 28<sup>th</sup> August (JH), one went south at **Hade Edge** on 24<sup>th</sup> September (CH) and one flew south up the **Wessenden Valley** on the late date of 27<sup>th</sup> October (TG).

## **PEREGRINE FALCON**

*Falco peregrinus*

Rare breeder (1), increasing

Largely as a result of access restrictions put in place during the F&M epidemic, little information could be obtained from some of the species' breeding sites. However, at the traditional site at **Booth Dam Quarry**, the pair had both its first and replacement clutches robbed. At least one pair bred at **Dovestones**, a nearly fledged chick being visible on 21<sup>st</sup> June, and an adult and a juv. were present at a third site on 25<sup>th</sup> August. At a further site, birds were present on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> April (two), but another site where nesting was attempted in 2000 was unoccupied. Some other sites were not visited.

Sightings from other localities were :-

**Heyden Moor** – one on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Dewsbury SF** – one east on 14<sup>th</sup> April and one on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**Wessenden Valley** – singles on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June, an adult south on 31<sup>st</sup> October and one on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**Harden** – one on 21<sup>st</sup> April, a pair on 29<sup>th</sup> April with much display, one flew NE on 6<sup>th</sup> May, one soaring with Common Buzzard and Raven on 12<sup>th</sup> May, one soaring with two Ravens on 28<sup>th</sup> May and singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**Brighouse** – one over on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Ringstone Edge** -- singles on 13<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** -- an imm. female chasing gulls on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and an adult female on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

**Little Don Valley** -- one on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Whitegate Lane** -- two juveniles on 16<sup>th</sup> August, perhaps indicating breeding nearby.

**Marsden** -- a female on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and an imm. on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Langsett Res.** -- two at dusk on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Scout Dike Res.** -- an immature, probably female, flew NNE on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Hartcliff Hill** -- two on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Cupwith Moor** -- one on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

## **RED GROUSE**

*Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3)

More reports were received than in most recent years but only one was of confirmed breeding. Most of the sightings were in winter.

The highest number was a party of 24 flying over **Little Hardron** towards **Little Moor** in the **Little Don Valley** on 28<sup>th</sup> January. At **Marsden Clough** a female was accompanied by two well grown young on 25<sup>th</sup> July, with several other birds seen and heard. At least five were at **Hade Edge** on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Later in the year eight were on **Wessenden Moor** on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 14 near **Deer Hill** on 13<sup>th</sup> October and at least 18 in the **Shooter's Nab** area on 16<sup>th</sup> November. Birds were also reported in small numbers, up to four, from **Black Moss**, **Slaithwaite Moor**, **Wessenden Head**, **Buckstones**, **Dovestones**, **Langsett**, **Winscar**, **Harden**, **Victoria**, **Cupwith** and **Saddleworth Moor**.

A hundred brace were shot in four days on **Meltham Moor**, but only five brace on **Cupwith Moor** (via TG).

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

Resident breeder (1)

The decrease in the number of sightings of this species accelerated this year with reports from only two localities.

At **Deer Hill**, where birds have been released for shooting, an emaciated bird of the year was picked up on the reservoir embankment on 26<sup>th</sup> August (DMP), two adults and two juvs. were present beside the approach road on 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September and three were seen on 18<sup>th</sup> October (TG). On 9<sup>th</sup> November an adult was caught by a falconer's Peregrine (TG).

The only other report was of eight in fields near **Thurgoland** on 1<sup>st</sup> December (SG via BBSG).

## GREY PARTRIDGE

*Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2)

There was a further decline, to 13, in the number of sites from which this species was reported and no breeding records.

**Royd Moor Res.** – a pair on 15<sup>th</sup> February, one on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Shelley** – one at Roydhouse on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Lower Denby** – one near the Dunkirk Inn on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Shepley** – four (one male) on 31<sup>st</sup> March, one on 19<sup>th</sup> May and three on 16<sup>th</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December in fields at Jos Lane.

**Broadstones Lodge** – a pair in gorse on 12<sup>th</sup> April and one on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Ringstone Edge** – a pair flew across the road on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Dovestones** – two on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

**Scout Dike** – two on 1<sup>st</sup> September and 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Denby Dale** – six on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**Deer Hill** – one on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wessenden Valley** – two in Adam's Pasture on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

**Digley** – six in fields off Acres Lane on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Dewsbury SF** – nine on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

## PHEASANT

*Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Reported from about the same number of sites as in 2000 in small numbers, max. c.8 at **Bretton Lakes** on 4<sup>th</sup> January, and described as common in the **Harden** area. No breeding evidence was submitted and this remains a very much under-reported species.

## GOLDEN PHEASANT

*Chrysolophus pictus*

Feral introduction

Two males from the introduction at **Bretton Park** were seen on 9<sup>th</sup> January (AJW).

## WATER RAIL

*Rallus aquaticus*

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

Breeding was confirmed for the first time in the area when an adult was observed feeding two young at **Horbury Wyke** on 16<sup>th</sup> July (JRS). Birds had been heard calling at the site on 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April and two adults were also observed on 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July, with one on 21<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August (DHP,BA et al), but there were no further sightings of the young in what became very dry conditions.

**Bretton Lakes** – singles were observed at the usual site near the old boathouse on 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February and on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December (DB,BA,JED,AA,TCL). One was also seen sunning itself at the edge of the phragmites bed on the lower lake on 31<sup>st</sup> December (DMP,SP).

**Elland GPs** – in February one on 14<sup>th</sup> and two calling on 15<sup>th</sup>, one heard on 27<sup>th</sup> April, singles seen on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> October (HBC).

**Colnebridge SP** – a juvenile was present on 20<sup>th</sup> October (DS).

**Scout Dike Res.** – one was picked up dead about 28<sup>th</sup> December (BBSG).

## MOORHEN

### *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

There was a slight increase in the number of sites from which this species was reported, with attempted breeding recorded at the majority.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – after one on 17<sup>th</sup> February and from 8<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April, a pair was present from 6<sup>th</sup> April, but their nesting attempt was predated on 9<sup>th</sup> May. One bird remained from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May, then one on 1<sup>st</sup> December was the only other record.

**Castle Dam** – at least one pair bred, young present on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – at least one pair bred, adults and young present un 12<sup>th</sup> June. Max. of eight in February and six in December.

**Almondbury** – bred on the garden pond at No.1 Lumb Lane, rearing two broods.

**Colnebridge SP** – three pairs bred. On 17<sup>th</sup> June three young from one of the pairs were killed by a Coot (DS).

**Stockmoor Common** – a pair bred successfully.

**Blacker Beck** – two nests on the same pnnnd, one of which was successful.

**Horbury Wyke** – one nest was successful. c.12 birds were present on 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Horbury Strands** – a bird was sitting on a nest on 14<sup>th</sup> April. A family party was on a small pond nearby on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Gunthwaite Dam** – one on a nest on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Bretton Lakes** – four broods of young, totaling 14 birds, were present on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. 12+ birds on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**Langsett Res.** – two pairs were present.

**Dewsbury SF** – three broods of small chicks only a couple of days old were present on 5<sup>th</sup> September. (*Mink pose a big threat at this site and accounted for earlier broods of this and other species*). Max. count was 42 birds on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Elland GPs** – bred and present throughout the year but in reduced numbers, with double figure counts of ten in March and 13 in December.

Pairs were also present and probably bred at **Shelley, Lepton Great Wood and Tunnel End Res.**, with further records from **Scammdon** – two on 12<sup>th</sup> January, one on 15<sup>th</sup> February, **Hill Top Res.** – singles on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> September, **Clough Lea** – one on 9<sup>th</sup> September, two on 14<sup>th</sup> October, **Boshaw Whams** – one on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and **Oak Scar Res.** – two on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

## COOT

### *Fulica atra*

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding was confirmed at ten sites but counts outside the breeding season remain scarce.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – very few records, the first not until 24<sup>th</sup> July. Occurred on 11 dates in August, max. five on 6<sup>th</sup>, then on only three more dates to the year end.

**Bretton Lakes** – two broods of two young were present on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Max. counts were 30+ on 14<sup>th</sup> January, c.40 on 18<sup>th</sup> February and 90 on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Boshaw Whams** – one pair bred, a brood present on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Ten birds present on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.



**Ingbirchworth Res.** – at least six pairs bred, raising a total of at least 13 young. Max. counts were 15 in February, 23 on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 20+ on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 23 in August and ten on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Scout Dike Res.** – eight broods totalling 24 young on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Horbury area** – at least three pairs bred.

**Colnebridge SP** – at least four pairs raised 11 young.

**Castle Dam** – three pairs bred. Max. count 11 on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Dewsbury SF** – three pairs present on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Gunthwaite Dam** – at least one pair attempted to breed.

**Dovestones Res.** – probably bred.

**Elland GPs** – two pairs bred and reared four young. Monthly max. of 36 in January, 20 in February, 32 in March, but only seven at the year end.

Three birds were at **Oak Scar Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> February and two on 15<sup>th</sup> October, two at **Canon Hall** on 11<sup>th</sup> August and singles at **Scammonden** on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February.

## OYSTERCATCHER

*Haematopus ostralegus*

Rare breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor

Once again a pair returned to breed at **Winscar Res.** First seen on 15<sup>th</sup> March, the birds moved between **Harden Res.** and **Winscar** in April and May with one bird sitting late in the latter month. This attempt presumably failed, but alarm calls were heard from 3<sup>rd</sup> July and three small chicks were visible on 16<sup>th</sup> July but not subsequently. The last report was of one on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. An adult, presumably one of the breeding pair, was feeding on pasture on **Tinker Hill** on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Birds were reported from a further 11 sites, mainly from May to July, those at **Brown's Edge** and **Ingbirchworth** in April/May possibly the Winscar birds.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – singles on 8<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> April, two on 6<sup>th</sup> June, then in July two on 12<sup>th</sup>, two west on 16<sup>th</sup>, one west on 24<sup>th</sup> and one on 27<sup>th</sup>, followed in August by three on 8<sup>th</sup> and singles on 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Baitings Res.** – two on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – two on 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, in May one on 26<sup>th</sup>, two from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> and one on 30<sup>th</sup>, two on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, four on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Mating was observed on 17<sup>th</sup> May and a pair was later on eggs nearby, but the outcome of the breeding attempt is unknown.

**Horbury Wyke** – one on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Brown's Edge Road** – one on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**Castle Dam** – two on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Dewsbury SF** – one on 29<sup>th</sup> April and in May four on 5<sup>th</sup>, singles on 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, one on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Ingbirchworth** – a pair on plough on 5<sup>th</sup> and on the dam wall on 31<sup>st</sup> May. A very high count of nine on 16<sup>th</sup> August (BBSG).

**Scout Dike Res.** – one flew NE on 13<sup>th</sup> May, one on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**Elland GPs** – three on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Scammonden** – one on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Deer Hill Res.** – two on 30<sup>th</sup> July, one on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**      *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and irregular breeder

Pairs bred at two sites with display and mating observed at two further localities but with no other indication of breeding.

**Dewsbury SF** – four on 28<sup>th</sup> March, then none until 3<sup>rd</sup> April when two appeared and remained to the month end. Two from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May, three on 6<sup>th</sup> June, three (one juv.) from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July, five on 19<sup>th</sup> July, then singles regularly to the last, a juvenile, on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Denby Dale** – a pair had arrived by 25<sup>th</sup> April and had young on 18<sup>th</sup> May. This location was only identified as Site 1 in the 2000 Report but can now be revealed as an area of waste ground adjacent to the railway station, which has since been used for a housing development and is no longer suitable habitat.

**Langsett Res.** – a pair bred, fledging at least two young.

**Castle Dam** – singles on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Elland GPs** – one on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – two on 5<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, then four to 30<sup>th</sup> and mating observed on 27<sup>th</sup>. In June one on 3<sup>rd</sup> and an adult on 8<sup>th</sup>. The last record was on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Breeding was strongly suspected.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a pair displaying on 12<sup>th</sup> May, an adult and a juv. on 11<sup>th</sup> June, one on 12<sup>th</sup> June, four (one juv.) on 15<sup>th</sup> and two on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**Horbury Wyke** – two on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ravensthorpe GPs** – at least one on 18<sup>th</sup> May and one on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**RINGED PLOVER**      *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor

Fewer records than last year but reported from five sites between 4<sup>th</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – all records were in May, two on 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, singles on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> (HBC, DHP).

**Dewsbury SF** – five on 16<sup>th</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> June, singles on 14<sup>th</sup> June and in August on 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, followed by one flying west on 8<sup>th</sup> September (JH).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – single adults on 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July, one flying west on 8<sup>th</sup> August and two imms. on 7<sup>th</sup> September (MLD, TG).

**Deer Hill Res.** – an adult on 23<sup>rd</sup> September (BA, DM).

**Royd Moor Res.** – one flew over calling on 18<sup>th</sup> October (RJB).

**DOTTEREL**      *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare passage visitor

Two were found at **Whitley Common** at 2000hrs. on 11<sup>th</sup> May (JMCL) but were not present the following morning.

The first record since 1995.

## GOLDEN PLOVER

### *Pluvialis apricaria*

Migrant breeder (2). Common passage and winter visitor, but in decreasing numbers. After a striking lack of birds in the first three months of the year in 1999 and 2000 there was a definite upward trend this year, particularly at **Blackmoorfoot**.

In January 28 were at **Dewsbury SF** and 26 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18<sup>th</sup>, 25 flew south at **Ingbirchworth** on 28<sup>th</sup> and there was a max. of eight at **Ringstone Edge**.

February saw an increase in records with double figure counts at **Blackmoorfoot** on six dates, max. 136 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 80 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 84 on 24<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere **Ringstone Edge** had a max. of 130, 30 flew over **Shepley** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 250 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 16<sup>th</sup>, 31 at **Broadstones** on 18<sup>th</sup> and singles flew over **Scout Dike** on 13<sup>th</sup>, **Wessenden Head** on 14<sup>th</sup> and **Saddleworth Road** on 18<sup>th</sup>.

In March, birds occurred almost daily from 5<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot**, peaking at 86 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 46 on 29<sup>th</sup>, at **Ringstone Edge** up to 40 and 18 were at **Brown's Edge** on 11<sup>th</sup>, but the highest count of the year was achieved in fields adjacent to **Dewsbury SF** where there were c.800 on 26<sup>th</sup>. At the same time as birds were passing through, others were taking up territory, with one at **West Nab** on 13<sup>th</sup> and the first displaying bird at **Harden** on 15<sup>th</sup>.

There was a conspicuous increase in sightings in April and many "northern" type birds were included in the numbers at **Whitley Common**, where a flock of c.200 on 19<sup>th</sup> peaked at 226 on 22<sup>nd</sup> before reducing gradually to 90 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 21 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Blackmoorfoot** had birds daily from 3<sup>rd</sup> with max. of 68 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 154 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 77 on 24<sup>th</sup>. At **Dewsbury SF** 53 on 3<sup>rd</sup> increased to c.400 by 17<sup>th</sup> before reducing to 280 on 29<sup>th</sup>; 102 were at **Ringstone Edge** on 16<sup>th</sup>.

Few birds passed through in May, when birds were on territory at **Harden**, **Snailsden** and **Tinker Hill** and parties of feeding birds were likely to have been "off duty" local breeders, e.g. eleven at **Law Head** and seven at **Whitley Edge** on 12<sup>th</sup>. At **Blackmoorfoot** there was still an almost daily presence with max. of 16 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 23 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 27 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 42 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 38 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 24 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Birds probably still on the move were singles ENE over **Harden** and north over **Whitley Edge**, both on 12<sup>th</sup>.

In June ten breeding territories were located on **Saddleworth Moor** and 12 at **Black Moss**, with additional birds on territory at **Buckstones** and above **Dovestones**, but F&M precautions prevented access to some other known breeding areas. **Blackmoorfoot** again held birds on many dates, up to nine daily to 9<sup>th</sup> then between 27 and 66 in a ley field near the **Will's o' Nat's** from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Seven were near the **Ford Inn** on 12<sup>th</sup>.

The only July records came from **Tinker Hill**, where birds were still on territory on 15<sup>th</sup>, and **Blackmoorfoot**, which had birds on eight dates with max. of 23 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 27 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Birds were scarce in August with at **Ringstone Edge** 11 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, at **Blackmoorfoot** on seven dates but no more than two birds except for 28 on 7<sup>th</sup> and at **Dewsbury SF** one on 30<sup>th</sup>. In September birds were even scarcer with just one at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15<sup>th</sup> and one flying SE at **Scout Dike** on 30<sup>th</sup>. The situation did not improve significantly in October with records from only five sites, four at **Dewsbury SF** and 12 south over **Wessenden** on 4<sup>th</sup>, four east at **Scout Dike** on 7<sup>th</sup>, one at **Ingbirchworth** on 14<sup>th</sup> and singles on two dates at **Blackmoorfoot** with six there on 15<sup>th</sup>. In November a large flock of 200+ was at **Cranberry** on 4<sup>th</sup> and eight were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16<sup>th</sup>.

December showed a big increase in records with 40 moving east at **Horbury Wyke** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, birds present at **Blackmoorfoot** on ten dates from 10<sup>th</sup> with max. of 92 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 109 on 16<sup>th</sup>, c.50 at **Scout Dike** on 12<sup>th</sup>, 28 at **Ringstone Edge** on 15<sup>th</sup>, 30 near **Holme Moor** on 16<sup>th</sup>, c.70 near **Crosland Moor Airfield** on 25<sup>th</sup> and 180 in fields adjacent to **Dewsbury SF** from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **GREY PLOVER**

*Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare passage visitor

One was with the Golden Plover flock at **Ringstone Edge** on 18<sup>th</sup> April (PGe via HBC).

#### **LAPWING**

*Vanellus vanellus*

Resident breeder (3). Numerous passage and winter visitor

Once again the early winter months produced few flocks of any size, **Dewsbury SF** having the highest total with 350 in February, in which month birds had already appeared on territory at **Hade Edge** on 14<sup>th</sup> and at a slightly higher altitude at **Harden Edge** on 17<sup>th</sup>. No site recorded a count in three figures in March.

A full survey of breeding Lapwings in the Peak District was scheduled for this year but unfortunately was less than comprehensive owing to the outbreak of F&M disease. Nevertheless all sites were visited and those parts viewable from roads surveyed, resulting in a total of 221 pairs being located at eleven sites, the highest totals being 50 near the **Flouch Inn**, 42 at **Tinker Hill**, 34 at **Cubley**, 27 at **Broadstones**, 21 at **Cartworth Moor**, 15 at **Digley**, 12 at **Pob Green**, ten at **Deer Hill** and single figures at the three remaining sites. Elsewhere, outside the survey area, an additional 16 pairs were located. (The survey was repeated in 2002 with no restrictions on access).

After the breeding season, several sites had reasonable numbers of birds and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had its highest October and December counts since 1991.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – max. counts were in January 93 on 31<sup>st</sup>, February 97 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 84 on 25<sup>th</sup>, July 460 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, August 297 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 468 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 262 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 350 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 422 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, October 590 on 18<sup>th</sup>, November 340 on 19<sup>th</sup>, December 600 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Dewsbury SF** – max. were January 166 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, February 300 on 2<sup>nd</sup> increasing to 350 on 16<sup>th</sup>, June 38 on 28<sup>th</sup>, July 115 on 30<sup>th</sup>, August 225 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 185 on 29<sup>th</sup>, October 68 on 6<sup>th</sup>, November 78 on 1<sup>st</sup>, December 130 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – max. were January 60, February 100, March 70, April 40, June 90, July 303, August 250 on 1<sup>st</sup>, September 14, October 140.

**Castle Dam** – c.80 on 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Royd Moor Res.** – c.100 on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 138 on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 106 on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Scout Dike Res.** – c.100 on 15<sup>th</sup> January, c.160 on 11<sup>th</sup> September, c.220 on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 30 on 18<sup>th</sup> October, c.40 on 18<sup>th</sup> November, in December 133 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, c.70 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – max. were January c.100, July 31, August 45.

**Netherton (Wakefield)** – c.200 on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**Broadstones** – 200 on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**High Flatts** – c.250 on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**Horbury Wyke** – 65 on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 60 on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Colnebridge SP** – 102 on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 147 on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 35 in October, 76 in November.

**Hartcliff Hill** – c.250 on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

A further dozen sites reported smaller numbers of up to 50 birds.

Little evidence of movement was submitted, except for 26 south at **Scammonden** on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 20 west and 30 north at **Bretton** on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 70 SE at **Nont Sarah's** on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 20 east at **Cupwith** on 9<sup>th</sup> December and 25 west at **Lindley Moor** on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

A leucistic bird was in a flock of 26 birds at **Law** on 13<sup>th</sup> February (MC).

## **KNOT**

### *Calidris canutus*

Rare visitor

The only record was of an adult at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November (MC,RJB).

Others occurred at several inland sites in Yorkshire at this time.

## **SANDERLING**

### *Calidris alba*

Rare visitor

Reported from two sites.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – a good series of records in May, with three on 15<sup>th</sup> (JB, AC via HBC), one on 19<sup>th</sup> (JB), one on 26<sup>th</sup> (JB,PGe), one on 27<sup>th</sup> from 1030 to 1115hrs. but not later (DHP) and one on 18<sup>th</sup> July (AC via HBC).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – two, one in 90% summer plumage and the second c.50%, on 28<sup>th</sup> May (MLD) and a bird in full summer plumage remained from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June (MLD,CH, TG).

## **DUNLIN**

### *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1-2). Uncommon passage visitor

Owing to F&M restrictions only one report was received from regular breeding areas, with three territories occupied on **Saddleworth Moor** on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Passage birds were noted at four sites.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – one on 28<sup>th</sup> March, then in May two on 5<sup>th</sup>, four on 14<sup>th</sup>, 17 on 15<sup>th</sup>, five on 18<sup>th</sup>, six on 19<sup>th</sup>, four on 20<sup>th</sup>, singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. In autumn two on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, with later birds on 21<sup>st</sup> October (one), 18<sup>th</sup> November (two) and 23<sup>rd</sup> December (one).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – three on 3<sup>rd</sup> and one west on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, singles on 13<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> August, three on 10<sup>th</sup> September, one on 30<sup>th</sup> September. In October two west on 5<sup>th</sup> and one west on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a high count of 12 (10 +1+1) all west on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**Dewsbury SF** – singles on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> August, two on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and one on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – one on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

## RUFF

*Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor

A poor year, **Dewsbury SF** being the only site recording the species – a juvenile on 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August, three (two males, one female) on 31<sup>st</sup> August, two juvs. on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and a further juv. from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September (JH,DHP,BA,DM).

## JACK SNIBE

*Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

There were five records from three locations.

**Elland GPs** – one on 13<sup>th</sup> and four on 24<sup>th</sup> February (MS,JB).

**Deer Hill** – one in a rushy pasture on 21<sup>st</sup> February (BA).

**Featherbed Moss** – singles flushed from beside the Pennine Way on 4<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November (TG).

## COMMON SNIBE

*Gallinago gallinago*

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

Only three sites achieved double figure counts in the early months, **Deer Hill** having 40+ near the firing range in late January, **Dewsbury SF** had a gradual increase from eight on 14<sup>th</sup> January to 25 on 28<sup>th</sup> March, after which numbers reduced to 22 on 30<sup>th</sup> and to eight on 11<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, while in the **Horbury** area 12+ was the maximum count on single dates in January, February and March.

Elsewhere two were at **Colnebridge SP** on 13<sup>th</sup> January, eight at **Cubley** on 21<sup>st</sup> January, a max. of six in a damp field at **Golcar** on 27<sup>th</sup> January, two at **March Haigh** on 8<sup>th</sup> February and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles were present on 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> January, with three from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March.

In the breeding season the first displaying bird was reported from **Tinker Hill**, where two pairs were on territory, on 21<sup>st</sup> April, with breeding behaviour/territorial activity observed later at **Burn Moss**, **Harden Edge**, **Flight Hill**, **Sandridge Moss**, **Nont Sarah's**, **Bradshaw** (three pairs), **Lower Green Owlers**, **Holme Moss**, **Broadstones** (two pairs), **Cupwith** (two pairs), **Far Wain Stones**, **Law**, **Winscar** (2+ pairs), **March Haigh** (two pairs), **Deer Hill**, **Digley**, near the **Flouch Inn** and **Ringstone Edge Res.**

After the breeding season few birds were reported from only a small number of sites. At **Dewsbury SF** the first of the autumn occurred on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and numbers increased gradually to 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 16 from 6<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October, then down to six on 19<sup>th</sup> November. The only other sites where double figures were achieved were **Shepley**, where there were 17 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December and **Ringstone Edge**, which had six on 21<sup>st</sup> and ten on 29<sup>th</sup> October and seven on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Eight were at **Scammonden** on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Singles were present in November at **Colnebridge SP** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and at **Annat Royd Lane** on 24<sup>th</sup> and max. of nine at **Golcar** on 1<sup>st</sup> December and eight at **Horbury Wyke** on 3<sup>rd</sup> December were recorded.

## WOODCOCK

*Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2) and uncommon winter visitor

In the early months birds were noted, usually singly, at **Shepley** on 1<sup>st</sup> January, **Bretton Park** on 8<sup>th</sup> February, **Upper Stones Wood** and **Matthewman Wood** (three) on 11<sup>th</sup> February and **Golcar Tip** on 7<sup>th</sup> March. One flushed from the same spot at **New Hall Wood** on 17<sup>th</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April could have been wintering or could be suggestive of nesting.

A nest with eggs was located in **Stoneycliffe Wood** on 12<sup>th</sup> May and hatching had occurred by 15<sup>th</sup>. Roding birds were reported in May and June from **Yateholme**, **Dalton Bank** and the **Little Don Valley**, with at least eleven territories at the last site.

At the end of the year single birds were reported at **Fixby** on 26<sup>th</sup> November, **Horbury Wyke** on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and from the **Deer Hill/West Nab** area where during a shoot on 1<sup>st</sup> December, nine were "bagged" and many others missed (via TD). This last report is probably a good indication of how under-recorded this species is in the winter months.

## BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

*Limosa limosa*

Rare passage visitor

A spring passage bird was reported from **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> April (JB) and there was an autumn record of a single bird at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> August (KC via BBSG).

## WHIMBREL

*Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

All reports related to birds passing over the area with none grounded.

The first of spring was one which flew north over **Cubley** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (BBSG), followed by singles north over **Ringstone Edge** on 24<sup>th</sup> May (DJS via HBC) and over **Lindley Moor** on 25<sup>th</sup> May (JED).

In autumn one over **Ringstone Edge** on 19<sup>th</sup> July (HBC), two flying west over **Blackmoorfoot** on 25<sup>th</sup> July (TG), one west over **Crosland Moor** on 2<sup>nd</sup> August (MLD), one south calling over **Shepley** on 22<sup>nd</sup> August (TM) and three south over **Almondbury** calling on 25<sup>th</sup> August (BA).

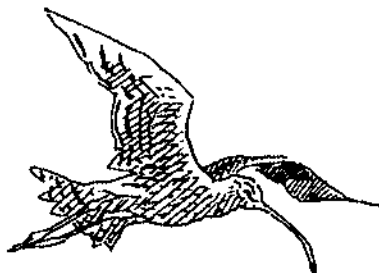
## CURLEW

*Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (2) and common passage visitor

Spring birds normally begin arriving/passing through from early March, so one at **Butterley Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> January and three birds roosting at **Dewsbury SF** on 23<sup>rd</sup> January were exceptionally early, as were singles in February at **Harden** flying NW on 13<sup>th</sup> and north on 15<sup>th</sup> and at **Redbrook Res.** on 14<sup>th</sup> and **Blackmoorfoot** on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

By 11<sup>th</sup> March birds were on territory and displaying on the **Ingbirchworth** plateau and at



**Harden** by 13<sup>th</sup>, where birds were also still passing through including a flock of 19 west in the evening and a further flock of 30 moving west there on the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> March. Birds also appeared in March at **Broadstones** (seven) and **Bretton/Midgley** on 8<sup>th</sup>, **Ringstone Edge** (two) and **Marsden** on 10<sup>th</sup>, **Flouch** on 14<sup>th</sup>, **Digley** on 18<sup>th</sup>, **Dewsbury SF** on 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and over **Lindley Moor** on 24<sup>th</sup>. A single flock of 52 birds passed over **Langsett Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup>, c.20 were roosting in fields at **Victoria** on 27<sup>th</sup> March and 18 were at **Baitings** on 28<sup>th</sup>. Small numbers continued to pass through **Blackmoorfoot** into April.

Breeding was only proven at **Wessenden Head** and **Good Bent** but many areas supported territorial pairs in the season and breeding doubtless took place at many of them. The following sites had pairs in the breeding season – **Saddleworth Moor** (2), **Digley** (2), **Tinker Hill/Winscar/Harden** (several), **Broadstones** (7+), **Flouch** (2), **Royd Moor** (1), **Ingbirchworth** (2), **Slaithwaite Moor** (3), **Marsden Moor** (3), **Dovestones**, **Deer Hill**, **Buckstones** (1), **Scammonden** and **Emley Moor** (1), with further birds at lowland sites at **Litherop Lane**, **Stockmoor Common** and **Midgley**. Two were at **Denby Dale** on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Most birds had deserted the moorlands by late July, the only later records coming from **Drop Clough** on 9<sup>th</sup> August, **Blackmoorfoot** on 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> (2) and 27<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> October, **Dewsbury SF** on 20<sup>th</sup> (3) and 28<sup>th</sup> August, **Baitings** on 25<sup>th</sup> August, **Royd Moor** on 27<sup>th</sup> August, **Lindley** flying north on 6<sup>th</sup> September, **Marsden** flying south on 25<sup>th</sup> September and lastly at **Deer Hill** on the late date of 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## REDSHANK

*Tringa totanus*

Migrant breeder (1)

One on the R. Calder at **Ravensthorpe** on 28<sup>th</sup> January was extremely early, the next not appearing until 14<sup>th</sup> March at **Winscar Res.**, followed by one at **Horbury Wyke** on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Further spring passage birds occurred at **Horbury** on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> (2), 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April (2) and at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> April, with one at **Boshaw Whams** on the former date.

In the breeding season four pairs were present in the **Winscar/Harden/Flight Hill** area and at least one pair was confirmed as having bred, a minimum of two young being hatched. Interestingly and alarmingly these were the only Redshank located in a survey of breeding waders covering the whole of the Peak District. An additional pair was harassing Lesser Black-backed Gulls at **Swellands** on 14<sup>th</sup> June and presumably were breeding in the vicinity. One was nearby at **Little Black Moss** on the same date.

Apart from two at **Ringstone Edge** on 14<sup>th</sup> and one there on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, all other records were from June onwards, as follows :-

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – singles on 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June, in July two on 1<sup>st</sup>, one on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>, three on 13<sup>th</sup> and singles on 16<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, singles on 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August and a very late bird on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Boshaw Whams** – one on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

**Oldfield, Honley** – one over on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – two on 10<sup>th</sup> July.

**Deer Hill Res.** – one on 15<sup>th</sup> July.



**Winscar Res.** – one on 17<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Scout Dike Res.** – one on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.  
**Dewsbury SF** – two on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage visitor

Occurred at eight sites and there was just one spring record, as in 2000. Three sites had birds on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – singles on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> September (MLD,TG,DHP).

**Deer Hill Res.** – one on 6<sup>th</sup> July (CH) and three on 19<sup>th</sup> August (DMP).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – two on 10<sup>th</sup> and one on 11<sup>th</sup> July, singles on 19<sup>th</sup> August and 24<sup>th</sup> September (DHP,NEP,BBSG).

**Horbury Wyke** – one on 19<sup>th</sup> July (DHP).

**Dewsbury SF** – singles on 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> August (JH).

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – in August four on 8<sup>th</sup>, one on 20<sup>th</sup> (HBC).

**Baitings Res.** – three on 25<sup>th</sup> August (HBC).

**Butterley Res.** – one on 2<sup>nd</sup> September (JMP).

**GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Another poor year for this species with the exception of the records from **Dewsbury SF**. In complete contrast to last year there was just one spring record, the remainder occurring in autumn, mainly from August onwards.

**Whitegate Lane** (above Holmbridge) – on 9<sup>th</sup> May one flew in from the direction of Yatcholme and landed on a small rain pool in a field before being flushed and returning, calling, in the direction from which it had appeared (MC).

**Dewsbury SF** – one from 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July, then in August two from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, three on 11<sup>th</sup>, four on 12<sup>th</sup> remaining to 26<sup>th</sup>, three on 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> and four again on 31<sup>st</sup>. In September two appeared on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> and in October singles on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> with two on 17<sup>th</sup>. One present on 1<sup>st</sup> November was seen regularly until 1<sup>st</sup> December (JH). Probably at least a dozen birds were involved in these sightings.

**Marsden** – one which flew over on 21<sup>st</sup> August continued north up the Wessenden Valley (TG).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – one on 28<sup>th</sup> August (RD&SEH).

**Scout Dike Res.** – one on 28<sup>th</sup> August (RJB), probably same as above.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage visitor

The only record of the year was again at **Dewsbury SF**, a single bird on 28<sup>th</sup> April (JH).

## COMMON SANDPIPER

## *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2)

Reports were received from 17 sites, breeding being confirmed at four of them and probably occurring at at least four others. No reports were received from the Digley/Bilberry area. Birds were late in arriving, the first not until 21<sup>st</sup> April and only seven sites had birds by the end of the month. In the autumn one bird remained to the very late date of 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Winscar Res.** – one on 21<sup>st</sup> and a pair by 28<sup>th</sup> April; one small chick was visible on 9<sup>th</sup> June and a pair had two young on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – in April one from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, two on 28<sup>th</sup> and one on 29<sup>th</sup>. Singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – two on 25<sup>th</sup> April, one on 1<sup>st</sup> May, singles on four dates in July with four on 10<sup>th</sup> and two on 21<sup>st</sup>; in August singles also on four dates with two on 30<sup>th</sup> and the last on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Dewsbury SF** – singles on 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April were the only spring records. In autumn present almost daily from 9<sup>th</sup> July to early September with max. of six from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July and four on a further eight dates in July, in August three on 28<sup>th</sup> and four on 31<sup>st</sup> and in September two on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, singles on 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>.

**Elland GPs** – one on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

**Harden Res.** – a pair on territory by 29<sup>th</sup> April but no further breeding evidence and the last on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Butterley Res.** – a pair displaying on 29<sup>th</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> May and two very agitated adults on 14<sup>th</sup> June indicate probable breeding.

**Castle Dam** – one on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Langsett Res.** – two on 8<sup>th</sup> and two pairs on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Four pairs bred hatching a total of ten young in broods of 2, 2, 3 and 3. A max. of 14 adults and three chicks was observed on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Three were still present on 14<sup>th</sup> July, one remaining to 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Wessenden Res.** – two were harassing a Fox on the shoreline on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Scout Dike Res.** – three on 13<sup>th</sup> May were presumably still on passage. In autumn one on 15<sup>th</sup> July, two on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, one from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September and from 17<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ravensthorpe GPs** – at least one bird present on 18<sup>th</sup> May. (*Breeding has occurred in recent years at this lowland site*).

**Blakeley Res.** – one on 25<sup>th</sup> May and an adult with a chick nearby on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Wessenden Head Res.** – a pair with at least one young on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Dovestones Res.** – present in the breeding season.

**Deer Hill Res.** – two on 30<sup>th</sup> June, one on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**Marsden** – one over calling on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**Scammonden** – singles on 30<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> August.

## MEDITERRANEAN GULL

## *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

At least seven birds occurred at five sites.

**Royd Moor Res.** – an adult was in fields to the NE on 13<sup>th</sup> January (MC).

**Langsett Res.** – a 2ndW bird was in the roost on 13<sup>th</sup> January and an adult there on 11<sup>th</sup> November (MCW).

**Digley** – a 1stW was in fields near Issues Road on 14<sup>th</sup> January (MC).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – an adult in full summer plumage present on 1<sup>st</sup> April (DB).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – in October a 1stW on 2<sup>nd</sup> (KW) and an adult on 19<sup>th</sup> (TG).

## **LITTLE GULL**

*Larus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor

Reported from two sites.

An adult was briefly at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** before leaving to the west on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (JKP, KW) and two birds, an adult and a 2<sup>nd</sup> year, were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup> October (JED,JB).

## **BLACK-HEADED GULL**

*Larus ridibundus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor and former breeder (1)

Birds continue to roost in significant numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Langsett Reservoirs**, although there was a reduction in numbers at the former site compared with last year. Large numbers also occur at **Dewsbury SF** in the early morning as they disperse from the roost at Pugney's CP. Once again there were no specific counts from **Blackmoorfoot** during the winter months, figures referring to combined totals for this species and Common Gull.

**Langsett Res.** – roost counts in January of c.1200 on 6<sup>th</sup>, c.900 on 14<sup>th</sup> rising to c.1400 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 1500+ on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. No further details then until the first of autumn appeared on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Eleven roosted on 30<sup>th</sup> September, increasing through October with 20 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 63 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 108 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 204 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 322 on 27<sup>th</sup>. In November 1115 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 635 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 950 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 1323 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Numbers decreased through December from c.1300 on 1<sup>st</sup> to 1161 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 451 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 60 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – no specific counts from January to June and in November/December. Max. in July 270 on 25<sup>th</sup>, August 176 on 22<sup>nd</sup> increasing to 380 on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 530 on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 2500+ on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Combined counts with Common Gull, this species predominating, gave 4700 on 29<sup>th</sup> January and 4300 on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Dewsbury SF** – in January, after 850 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1200 on 10<sup>th</sup>, numbers peaked at 5500 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 5300 moving west on 26<sup>th</sup>. Autumn build-up began in September, with 220 moving west in the first two hours on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A sharp increase in November, with Pugney's roost birds again moving west in the early mornings, produced 1100 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 2300 on 21<sup>st</sup> and in December 3500 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 3750 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Elland GPs** – max. were January 300, February 250, March 43, July 18, September 13, October 18, November 300, December 70.

**Royd Moor Res.** – c.160 on 15<sup>th</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 47 on 25<sup>th</sup> September increasing to c.200 on 27<sup>th</sup> October and c.250 on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Bretton Lakes** – 140+ on the ice on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 86 on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**Scont Dike Res.** – 155 on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 145 on 17<sup>th</sup> February, c.130 on 11<sup>th</sup> March, then 45 on 1<sup>st</sup> September, c.170 on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November and c.500 on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – max. were January c.200, February c.400, October 84, November c.140, December c.150. The first juvenile appeared on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

**Tunnel End Res.** – 87 on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Brown's Edge** – c.300 in fields on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Lindley Rec.** – two on 30<sup>th</sup> June were the first since 30<sup>th</sup> March. 55 on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Shepley Common** – 350 feeding in fields on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Harden** – small numbers were moving west from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – the only count was 450 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Up to 50 birds were reported from a further five sites.

## COMMON GULL

### *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor

There was a small but welcome increase in the number of sites from which the species was reported. Only six sites had double figure counts.

**Langsett Res.** – in January c.140 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 196 on 28<sup>th</sup>, then c.400 on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. No further counts then until October with just one on 17<sup>th</sup> increasing to 24 by 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a gradual increase in November to a max. of 119 on 25<sup>th</sup> and a max. in December of 223 on 15<sup>th</sup>, reducing to c.30 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – 500 on 10<sup>th</sup> March, one on 13<sup>th</sup> May, up to two on four dates in June and a max. of three on nine dates in July. More frequent in August with up to eight on 19 dates and 18 in September. A substantial increase in October, peaking at 400 on 24<sup>th</sup> and in December a count of 850 on 30<sup>th</sup>. There were no counts in January, February or March except in combination with Black-headed Gull, producing totals of 4700 on 29<sup>th</sup> January and 4300 on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Kirkheaton** – on the cricket field c.20 on 7<sup>th</sup> January, ten on 26<sup>th</sup> March, an adult on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 16 on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Dewsbury SF** – 55 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 65 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 60 on 26<sup>th</sup> January. At the year end 1250 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 250 on 31<sup>st</sup> December. All birds were dispersing to the west from the roost at Pugney's. A 1<sup>st</sup> year bird on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**Elland GPs** – 25 on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 43 on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 50 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 18 on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – c.70 on 15<sup>th</sup> January, max. of 43 in February, 52 in March and single figures only from August to December. The first of the autumn were two adults flying NW on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Blackley Tip** – 50 on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – two on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 50 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Royd Moor Res.** – 33 on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Single figures were reported from another ten sites and included a subadult at Milnsbridge on 1<sup>st</sup> June, three at Booth Wood Dam on 11<sup>th</sup> June and an adult at Castle Hill on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

## LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor

Remains scarce in the winter months, becoming more frequent from March onwards until late November/early December. Considerable numbers continue to roost at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Langsett Reservoirs** and **Royd Moor Res.** holds good numbers of moulting/loafing birds in late autumn.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – one on 1<sup>st</sup> and seven on 29<sup>th</sup> January, increasing through February with 39 on 14<sup>th</sup> and through March with 87 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 97 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 359 on 17<sup>th</sup> to a peak of 536 on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Max. in May was 127 on 19<sup>th</sup> and in June 196 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, with an adult of the race *L.f.intermedius* on 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Numbers thereafter increased to monthly max. of 360 on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 431 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 453 on 26<sup>th</sup> September and 559 on 5<sup>th</sup> October. There were no counts in November and only three birds in December on 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>.

**Langsett Res.** – birds roosted on three dates in January, max. just two on 6<sup>th</sup> followed by seven on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. 16 flew west on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Numbers in the daytime roost from July to September were low with max. of 66 on 29<sup>th</sup> and 64 on 30<sup>th</sup> July and 73 on 11<sup>th</sup> August. From September onwards monthly max. at the evening roost were 627 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 502 on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 281 on 11<sup>th</sup> November and 232 on 1<sup>st</sup> December, decreasing to six on 26<sup>th</sup> December. At least 50% of those roosting from 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> October were not typical *graellsii* and were probably the Scandinavian subspecies *L.f.intermedius*. There were fewer *graellsii* before and after these dates (BBSG).

**Royd Moor Res.** – the autumn build-up was later than usual this year, with no significant numbers until late September, after which numbers were much reduced compared with several recent years; 182 on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 200 on 18<sup>th</sup> October, in November c.230 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 200 on 17<sup>th</sup>, c.120 on 8<sup>th</sup> December down to four on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Elland GPs** – one on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 30 on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Blackley Tip** – one on 27<sup>th</sup> January; an unseasonal high count of 45 on 15<sup>th</sup> December soon reduced to just one on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Harden** – a westerly movement of at least 400 birds took place throughout the day on 3<sup>rd</sup> March in drizzle and heavy showers in a strong SW wind. Further passage on a much smaller scale occurred between 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April, followed by a flock of 20 on 29<sup>th</sup> April. 350+ flew low to the east between 1800 and 1900hrs. in a light S/SE wind on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and small numbers moved west between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July, with a trickle of passage birds on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – 83 on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 30 on 30<sup>th</sup> July increasing to a max. of 200 on 29<sup>th</sup> August, then a rapid decrease in numbers.

**Dewsbury SF** – 22 on the works on 12<sup>th</sup> August as well as birds moving SW.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – c.50 in a nearby field on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**Scout Dike Res.** – c.50 passed south on 28<sup>th</sup> August, c.100 in fields to the SE on 1<sup>st</sup> September and 56 moved east on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**Hartcliffe Hill** – 80 in fields on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

**Wessenden Valley** – 108 moved S/SW on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Single figures were recorded at six other sites.

## HERRING GULL

*Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor

Almost all the records of this species came from the roosts at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Langsett Reservoirs**. The species is scarce in the area between April and October and particularly so from May to September.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – roost counts of 657 on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 409 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 369 on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 42 on 21<sup>st</sup> April and 23 on 13<sup>th</sup> May. There was a max. of two on four dates in June and July and birds were present on eleven dates in August, max. five on 28<sup>th</sup>, five dates in September and seven dates in October with a max. of only three birds, then a build-up in November from 11 on 1<sup>st</sup> to 143 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 313 on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**Langsett Res.** – fluctuating numbers in the roost in January, with c.600 on 6<sup>th</sup> down to c.25 on 14<sup>th</sup> and c.70 on 28<sup>th</sup>, c.650 on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. At the year end, after the first on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, a build-up in November from eight on 11<sup>th</sup> to 318 on 25<sup>th</sup> and in December numbers again fluctuated with c.50 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 46 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 131 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 101 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, only ten on 24<sup>th</sup> and c.180 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

In the second winter period over 80% were assigned to the Scandinavian race *L.a. argentatus* (BBSG).

**Scout Dike Res.** – a count of 15 in fields on 1<sup>st</sup> January was the highest of the year.

**Elland GPs** – 15 on 14<sup>th</sup> January down to two on 27<sup>th</sup>; ten on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**Dewsbury SF** – c.100 moved west on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ingbirchworth/Broadstones area** – max. of 30 in January, 29 in March, 14 in November and four in December.

**Blackley Tip** – max. of 130 on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 75% of which were of the Scandinavian race *L.a. argentatus* (HBC).

In addition birds were noted in small numbers flying over **Dalton**, **Greetland**, **Shelley** and **Wessenden** and at **Bretton Lakes** and **Ringstone Edge Res.**

## YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus (cachinnans) michahellis*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

There was an increase to nine in the number of localities from which this species was reported but the number of individuals at some of the principal sites showed a significant decrease. Once again the majority of sightings were in the late summer/autumn period and with one exception all involved adults.

**Elland GPs** – an adult at Brookfoot on 2<sup>nd</sup> March (JED).

**Blackley Tip** – an adult on 18<sup>th</sup> March (JED), possibly same as above and an adult on 12<sup>th</sup> December (JB).

**Whitley Edge** – a 1<sup>st</sup> S. bird in fields on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (MC, JNW).

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – a 1<sup>st</sup> S. on 20<sup>th</sup> May (AF), adult on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> July (PGe,PG), two adults on 13<sup>th</sup> July and one on 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> July (PGe,AC,DJP,PG,NCD), an adult on 2<sup>nd</sup> August with two on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, one on 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August (PGe,NCD,PG,AZ,JED).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – one on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> August, three on 17<sup>th</sup> August, one in nearby fields on 19<sup>th</sup> August, one on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August and on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

October and 5<sup>th</sup> November (JKP,TG,MLD,SP). All were adults and how many different individuals were involved is open to conjecture.

**Scout Dike Res.** – an adult on 1<sup>st</sup> September (RJB).

**Langsett Res.** – single adults on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> October and 24<sup>th</sup> November (MCW, BBSG).

**Royd Moor Res.** – two adults on 28<sup>th</sup> September, single adults on 6<sup>th</sup> October (probably same as Langsett bird) and 3<sup>rd</sup> November (RJB).

**Harcliff Hill** – an adult flew SW towards Langsett Res. on 29<sup>th</sup> September (BBSG).

## ICELAND GULL

*Larus glaucooides*

Scarce winter visitor

The only records were from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, which had a 3<sup>rd</sup> W. on 1<sup>st</sup> February, an adult on 8<sup>th</sup> March and another 3<sup>rd</sup> W. on the late date of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> April (MLD,DHP).

## GLAUCOUS GULL

*Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** provided all the records, the same 1<sup>st</sup> W. on 8<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February (MLD,DHP,JKP et al) and another 1<sup>st</sup> W. at the year end on 31<sup>st</sup> December (DHP).

## GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

*Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor

Perhaps a re-appraisal of this species is in order. At the regular roost at **Blackmoorfoot** numbers were much reduced, with no three figure counts achieved. The species was scarce throughout the area.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – 91 on 29<sup>th</sup> January, in February 67 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 43 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 23 on 14<sup>th</sup>, eight on 15<sup>th</sup> and seven on 16<sup>th</sup>. Six counts in March produced a max. of 23 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and in April and May max. were three and four respectively. A max. of two were present on three dates in June, none from July to September, a single adult in October on 3<sup>rd</sup>. November had birds on four dates, max. 14 on 13<sup>th</sup>, but numbers increased in December to 87 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Langsett Res.** – monthly max. roost counts were 20 on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 16 on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, two on 11<sup>th</sup> November and nine on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**Elland GPs** – six on 14<sup>th</sup> and two on 27<sup>th</sup> January, five on 14<sup>th</sup> November and in December 25 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 13 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Dewsbury SF** – 150 birds flew west on 26<sup>th</sup> January after leaving the roost at Pugney's.

**Blackley Tip** – two on 27<sup>th</sup> January, eleven on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Elsewhere birds were reported from **Ringstone Edge Res.**, where there was an adult, possibly injured, from at least 27<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June and again on 17<sup>th</sup> June, **Bradshaw** four west on 6<sup>th</sup> June, **Inghirchworth Res.** two 3<sup>rd</sup> years on 1<sup>st</sup> July and a juv. on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, **Marsden** an adult west on 21<sup>st</sup> September, **Taylor Hill** one over on 19<sup>th</sup> December and **Shelley** four adults over on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

## KITTIWAKE

*Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce passage visitor

A good year for this species, with a particularly impressive series of records from **Blackmoorfoot**.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – an adult on 22<sup>nd</sup> February (KW), 28 (26 ads. and two 1<sup>st</sup> years) on 13<sup>th</sup> March which departed to the NW at 1730hrs.(TG), three ads. on 30<sup>th</sup> and one ad. on 31<sup>st</sup> March (TG), an adult on 16<sup>th</sup> May (MLD), an adult on 6<sup>th</sup> November (DHP) and two ads. and a juv. on 7<sup>th</sup> November (TG).

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – an adult on 18<sup>th</sup> May (JB).

**Elland GPs** – adult on 3<sup>rd</sup> November (JB et al).

**Langsett Res.** – an adult on 24<sup>th</sup> November (RDH) and an adult in the gull roost on 1<sup>st</sup> December (MCW).

## SANDWICH TERN

*Sterna sandvicensis*

Scarce passage migrant

Three which passed through **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (BBSG) were the earliest ever recorded in the Club area, the previous record being on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1993 at Elland GPs.

## COMMON TERN

*Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage and summer visitor, increasing

This species breeds just outside our area at Pugney's CP and is now regularly seen in the **Calder Valley**. Recorded between 12<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Elland GPs** – four on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April were the first of the year, followed by three on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Up to four were present on eleven dates in May, in June one on 9<sup>th</sup> and two on 11<sup>th</sup>, on nine dates in July, max. three on 21<sup>st</sup> and the last were two on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**Horbury Wyke** – one on 21<sup>st</sup> April followed by two on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, singles in May on 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, two on 19<sup>th</sup> and up to four on 21<sup>st</sup> July and one on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Dewshury SF** – two on 25<sup>th</sup>, then three on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April. Two flew west up the R.Calder on 4<sup>th</sup> May and four on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Two birds displayed relentlessly on the works on 21<sup>st</sup> May (JH). One on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – in May two on 12<sup>th</sup> and one on 18<sup>th</sup>, in June two on 14<sup>th</sup> and singles on 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, two ads. on 25<sup>th</sup> July, single ads. on 19<sup>th</sup> August and the late date of 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ravensthorpe** – one along the canal on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**Scout Dike Res.** – two on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – in July two on 6<sup>th</sup>, five on 13<sup>th</sup> and four on 18<sup>th</sup>.

## ARCTIC TERN

*Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon passage visitor

Two flew over **Thurgoland** about 25<sup>th</sup> April (NEP), one at **Colnebridge SP** on 6<sup>th</sup> May (DS), one at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup> July (AC via HBC) and an adult at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> August (MC).



## **BLACK TERN**

*Chlidonias niger*

Uncommon passage visitor

The only spring record was of one which spent most of the day at Elland GPs on 14<sup>th</sup> May (JB).

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** two adults with two juvs. arrived at 1540hrs. on 19<sup>th</sup> August, but were not seen after 1550hrs.(MLD,DMO) and two adults were present on 29<sup>th</sup> September (DMO).

## **FERAL PIGEON**

*Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3)

No counts were received from the **Town Centre**, but 12-15 occurred daily in the **Taylor Hill** area and 60 were on plough at **Spicer House Lane** on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

## **STOCK DOVE**

*Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Reported from almost 30 sites, but with breeding confirmed at only three of them. Fewer and smaller flocks were recorded than in most recent years, perhaps representing a decline or just under-recording.

Breeding was confirmed at **Orange Wood**, **Winscar** and **Cartworth Moor** and probably occurred at **Elland GPs**, **Grimescar**, **Bretton Park**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Penny Spring**, **Lumb Lane**, **Emley Moor**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Bartin** and **Horbury Wyke**.

**Blackmoorfoot** -- a definite improvement on the previous year, but still far less common than in earlier years. Birds were present on 64 dates (compared with only 15 in 2000) in every month except December. Apart from an exceptional count of 21 on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, max. were six on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 19<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April and five on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, otherwise usually only one or two. A pair bred in a building in the adjacent **Orange Wood**.

**Royd Moor Res.** -- a flock of up to 150 from 3<sup>rd</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Castle Dam** -- a max. of seven on 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Annat Royd Lane** -- good numbers present in January/early February with a count of 43 on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**Deer Hill** -- four on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 13 feeding on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**Emley Moor** -- c.50 on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

**Dearne Dike Lane** -- nine at the northern end on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**Dewsbury SF** -- 13 on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 35 on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 58 on 27<sup>th</sup> October and 60+ on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Numbers at a further ten sites did not exceed four birds.

On v.m.ws. in the **Wessenden Valley** in October, five flew S/SW on 16<sup>th</sup> and four on 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **WOOD PIGEON**

*Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4) and numerous winter visitor

This remains an under-reported species, with very few observers submitting records; breeding data were particularly sparse.

**Salendine Nook** – in January 80 flew south on 7<sup>th</sup> and 200 south on 15<sup>th</sup>. A pair which nested in a garden provided the first local breeding record and a few pairs also bred in the grounds of the YMCA sports complex.

**Holme Styes** – c.500 on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**Bretton Park** – 500+ on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Helme** – c.200 on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**Dewsbury SF** – 140 on 6<sup>th</sup> February was the highest count of the year.

**Denby Dale** – 200+ roosted in Toby Wood on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ingbirchworth area** – several parties of up to 30 birds present on 4<sup>th</sup> March. A dead squab was found in the reservoir surrounds on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Colnebridge SP** – max. were at least 60 moving west on 28<sup>th</sup> October and 43 on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**Shelley** – a regular winter flock of up to 100 birds; a pair bred in the observer's garden.

**Storthes Hall Woods** – “hundreds” again in both winter periods at this traditional roost site.

**New Mill** – described as common in the fields.

**TP Wood** – up to 30 birds present regularly and bred.

V.m.w. at **Wessenden** in October produced 16 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 850 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 637 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 19 on 31<sup>st</sup>; in November 201 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 182 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 103 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 112 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 235 on 5<sup>th</sup>, with smaller numbers thereafter, all moving S and SW.

## **COLLARED DOVE**

*Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3)

Once again very few records received from only nine localities and breeding confirmed at only three sites.

**Shelley Woodhouse Lane** – two on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Shelley** – a pair bred and up to ten birds around the observer's garden.

**New Mill** – a regular garden visitor to the end of August, mainly two birds, but three on 13<sup>th</sup> January, then none until three on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Cannon Hall** – 14 on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Dalton** – regular sightings and display observed.

**Taylor Hill** – at least one pair daily in the observer's garden and additional birds in the area.

**Golcar** – 18 in trees near garden feeders on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Gledholt** – a resident breeder, with juvs. in June and a max. of 12 birds.

**Langsett** – two pairs bred in the village.

**Colnebridge SP** – one pair present on a regular basis.

## **TURTLE DOVE**

*Streptopelia turtur*

Rare passage visitor and former breeder

The only record was of one flying north on 10<sup>th</sup> May at **Pob Green** during a breeding Lapwing survey (JED).

## RING-NECKED PARAKEET

*Psittacula krameri*

Rare feral visitor

One flew south at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> July; presumed to be an escape.

## CUCKOO

*Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (1)

This species continues to decline alarmingly with sightings from only 12 localities and once again no breeding evidence. F&M restrictions meant that several traditional sites could not be visited, so the situation may not be as drastic as at first appears. The first bird was not heard until the late date of 28<sup>th</sup> April and the last report was on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Up to two were present around **Langsett** from 28<sup>th</sup> April until the last on 24<sup>th</sup> June and a hepatic female was at **Langsett Banks** on 10<sup>th</sup> June. The only other April report came from **Horbury Wyke** on 29<sup>th</sup>. A male was in song in the **Harden/Winscar** area on 1<sup>st</sup> May and was heard intermittently to 24<sup>th</sup> May, whilst at nearby **Snailsden/Ellen Tree Brow** a pair was mobbed by Meadow Pipits on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Further individuals were reported in May at **Bulcliff Wood** on 15<sup>th</sup>, **Bradshaw** on 21<sup>st</sup> and **Near Bank, Shelley**, the last remaining to 21<sup>st</sup> July. Singles were heard in June at **Bilberry Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup> and **Shelley Park** on 16<sup>th</sup>, one was at **Dewsbury SF** on 12<sup>th</sup> July and present at **Dovestones**, though no dates were given. Several visits to **Royd Edge Clough**, a former stronghold of the species, provided nil returns.

## BARN OWL

*Tyto alba*

Rare visitor, formerly resident breeder

Birds were reported by members of the public at **Denby Dale**, where two birds were described as circling **Hartcliff Mills Dam** before dawn sometime in mid-January (via DB) and at **Cawthorne** "early in the year" (via RDH).

Such reports should be treated with scepticism and, even if correct, could refer to birds which have been released or escaped.

## LITTLE OWL

*Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2)

In spite of access restrictions, birds were reported from 50 sites, mainly as pairs in the breeding season.

Breeding was confirmed at **Miry Laue (Oldfield)**, **Castle Dam**, **Wooldale**, **Cranberry**, **Hazlehead Hall**, **Wessenden Valley** and north of **Ingbirchworth Res.** Additional pairs, many of which probably bred, were present at **Holme Styes**, **Shelley Woodhouse**, **Tinker Hill**, **Whitegate Lane**, **Lumb Lane**, **Castle Hill**, **Bartin**, **Digley**, **Elland GPs**, **Marsden**, **Whitley Common**,



**Upper Heaton, Cubley/Roughbitchworth (4+ pairs), Linthwaite, Thurgoland, Royd Moor (2), Emley Moor, Farnley Tyas, Highburton, Broadstones and Fullshaw.** Sightings of single birds in the breeding season were also made at **Blackmoorfoot, New Mill, Molly Carr Wood, Issues Road, Windmill Lane, Rishworth, Hepworth, Spicer House Lane, Barkisland, Ringstone Edge, Clockface Quarry, Pike Law and Wessenden Head Road.**

Sightings outside the breeding season came from further locations at **Helme, Banks Hall, Law, Choppards, Bretton Park, Lindley Moor, Dewsbury SF, Jagger Green, Scammonden, Crosland Road and Annat Royd Lane.**

This all adds up to a healthy looking situation for the species.

#### **TAWNY OWL**

*Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Reported from about the same number of sites as in 2000, several reports relating to calling birds.

Breeding was confirmed near **Horbury Wyke, New House Wood, Almondbury, Denby Dale and TP Wood** and strongly suspected at **Storthes Hall Woods, Molly Carr Wood, Farnley Tyas, Gunthwaite Dam, Cliff Wood, Holme Styes, Crossley's Plantation** and around **Langsett Res.**, where at least six birds were calling on 25<sup>th</sup> March. A pair prospecting a newly erected owl box in a **Shelley** garden but did not breed.

#### **LONG-EARED OWL**

*Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1)

Breeding occurred at two sites. At the first, young were calling on 28<sup>th</sup> July and at least one, probably two, large mobile juveniles were present from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August. Nearby an adult was hunting newly cut fields in good light on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and at the roadside at 2150hrs. on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

At the second site a juvenile was being mobbed by Blackbirds on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **SHORT-EARED OWL**

*Asio flammeus*

Resident/migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage visitor

A very poor year for this species with no breeding evidence being obtained. The only spring sightings were in the **Harden/Winscar** area where single birds were seen on eight dates between 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> May (MC,SRG).

In the autumn one was hunting over fields at **Spicer House Lane** on 27<sup>th</sup> August (JKP), two were reported from **Upper Heaton** at 2200hrs. on 30<sup>th</sup> August (DW) and in the **Marsden/Blackmoorfoot** area two were reported along the **Blackmoorfoot conduit** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, one to the west of **Deer Hill** on 26<sup>th</sup> September and one again along the **Meltham Road Blackmoorfoot conduit** about one mile out of **Marsden** on 8<sup>th</sup> November (TG); these last sightings probably involve the same individual. The only other reports were singles at **Cupwith Hill** on 18<sup>th</sup> September (JMD) and at **Harden**, possibly a migrant after hard weather, on 26<sup>th</sup> November (MC).

## SWIFT

### *Apus apus*

#### Migrant breeder (2-3)

There was an unprecedented early arrival in the last week of April at no less than ten sites. After the first (two) at **Elland GPs** on 25<sup>th</sup>, birds were seen on 26<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and **Waterloo** (3+) and again at **Elland**, on 27<sup>th</sup> again at **Blackmoorfoot** (7), **Honley** (2) and **Dewsbury SF**, on 28<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot** (7) again, **Ingbirchworth** (20) and **Crosland Moor**, on 29<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot** (11), **Stainland**, **Shelley**, **Elland**, **Horbury Wyke** (c.15) and **Dewsbury SF** again and on 30<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot** (9) and **Ingbirchworth** (c.20). Further sightings were made during the first week of May at breeding sites at **Meltham** and **Folly Hall** on 1<sup>st</sup>, **Lockwood** and **Denby Dale** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Milnsbridge** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a large count of 60 at **Denby Dale** on 4<sup>th</sup>, followed by two at **Holmfirth** on 8<sup>th</sup>.

After these early arrivals, large concentrations were reported from mid-May onwards and significant numbers passed through the Calder Valley at **Dewsbury SF** from late June.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – max. in May were 35+ on 17<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 25<sup>th</sup>; in June 50 to 80 daily to 7<sup>th</sup>, then 250+ on 8<sup>th</sup>, 160+ from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, then up to 50 later in the month but the post-breeding max. was only 44 on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – 50+ on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 150+ on 19<sup>th</sup> July, up to 200 on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

**Harden** – 25+ on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 60+ north on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Tinker Hill** – 80+ on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**Dewsbury SF** – 52 on 16<sup>th</sup> May. No further significant counts then until late June when, on 27<sup>th</sup>, 404 moved east between 0700 and 0900hrs. and in the same period 420 moved east on 28<sup>th</sup>. In July movement was recorded on 11<sup>th</sup> (144 west), 17<sup>th</sup> (99 east), 19<sup>th</sup> (70 east), 29<sup>th</sup> (150 west in 1.5hrs.) and in August 520 west in two hours on 11<sup>th</sup>, 1210 west in three hours on 12<sup>th</sup> and finally 296 east on 14<sup>th</sup>.

Other late season high counts were 50+ at **Horbury Wyke** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August, c.30 at **Oldfield** on 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August and 60+ at **Crosland Moor** on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

As usual after the breeding season, dispersal was rapid and birds were reported at only eight sites after the middle of August, with three in September and one amazing record in November. In August three at **Upper Hopton** and one at **Shelley** on 16<sup>th</sup>, one at **Elland** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, three at **Dalton** and one at **Blackmoorfoot** on 25<sup>th</sup>, with one at the latter site on 30<sup>th</sup>. In September singles at **Dewsbury SF** and **Blackmoorfoot** on 10<sup>th</sup>, one flew NW over **Coweliffe** on 18<sup>th</sup> and finally one over **Hagg Wood**, **Thongsbridge** on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> November (CH), the latest ever in the Club area.

## KINGFISHER

*Alcedo atthis*

Resident breeder (1)

There was a welcome increase compared with 2000 in the number of sites from which reports were received, back almost to the level of 1999. Present on most waters in the area apart from the R.Holme above Lockwood.

Although breeding doubtless took place at several sites, F&M restrictions prevented access to many and confirmation was only obtained from the R.Don at Oxspring, Huthwaite and near Waterhall Park, on the Fenay Beck at Dogley and the R.Calder at Elland. Additional breeding season records came from Colnebridge, the Fenay Beck at Waterloo, R.Calder at Dewsbury SF and Tunnel End Res.

Outside the breeding season birds were present at Blackmoorfoot Res. on just three dates (compared with 78 in 2000), in the Colne Valley at Marsden, Slaithwaite, Linthwaite, near the McAlpine Stadium and Colnebridge, in the Calder Valley at Healey Mills, at Bretton Park regularly with up to four in December, at Ingbirchworth Res. on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Denby Dale on 27<sup>th</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> October, Gunthwaite Dam two on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, regularly at Castle Dam, and at Lockwood Bar in January and July.

An interesting sighting was a bird at Birkby perched overlooking the remnants of an old mill pond which was being built on (DHP).



## GREEN WOODPECKER

*Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (1-2)

Reported from almost 40 sites, but the only confirmation of breeding came from near Elland GPs. Juveniles at Scout Dike Res. on 15<sup>th</sup> July and at Ingbirchworth Res. on 4<sup>th</sup> August had presumably been reared locally.

Birds were also present in the breeding season near Sparth Res., Horbury Wyke, Grimescar Valley, Woodsome, New House Wood, Joy Wood, Jenkiuson Wood, Wessenden, Bretton Lakes, New Mill, Dean Wood, Gunthwaite, Kirkheaton, Waterloo, Digley (where it is described as common), Gledholt, Shelley and Langsett Res.

Outside the breeding season additional sites from which birds were reported were Dovestones, Dewsbury SF, Crosland Moor, Scammonden, Hagg Wood, Upper Midhope, Deer Hill, Lockwood (a regular garden visitor in the second half of August), Blackmoorfoot Res., Penny Spring Wood, Ringstone Edge (three on 28<sup>th</sup> September), Stoneycliffe Wood and Bullcliff Wood. Many of the reports referred only to calling birds.

## **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Records were received from nearly 70 localities.

Breeding took place in gardens at **Hinchliffe Mill** and at **Edgerton** in a Whitebeam, young leaving the nesthole on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> June and at **Woodsome, Stocksmoor, Magdale Dam, Cliff Wood, Helme, North Dean Wood, TP Wood** and **Bretton Park** (three pairs), whilst the presence of juveniles at **Oldfield, Lockwood, Ingbirchworth, New Mill, Denby Dale** and in the **Longwood Valley** indicated breeding in close proximity.

Drumming birds were heard at other sites where breeding probably occurred at **Gunthwaite, Hagg Wood, Marsden, Stoneycliffe Wood, New Hall Wood, Deffer Wood, Penny Spring Wood, Lepton Great Wood, Molly Carr Wood, Royd House Wood, Healey Greave Wood** and **Lower Stones Wood** and other breeding season records came from **Horbury Wyke, Wellhouse, Wessenden, Park Gate Clough, Tunnel End, Beaumont Park, Dean Wood, Cannon Hall, Healey House, Fixby, Ravensthorpe, Kirkheaton, Grimescar Valley, Digley Bottom, Dalton, Windybank Wood, Jagger Green, Shelley and Waterloo**; a further 20 sites had birds outside the breeding season.

Birds visited feeding stations in gardens at **Edgerton, Lockwood** (2 sites), **Lindley Moor, New Mill, Fixby, Hinchliffe Mill, Shelley** and **Taylor Hill**.

## **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1)

Birds were recorded at 15 sites, breeding proved at one, very probable at a second and possibly at a third. Once again records between April and August were very scarce away from breeding sites.



**Bretton Lakes** – remains the most reliable site for encountering the species. In the early months singles were seen on 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February. At least one pair probably bred, a pair and a probable juv. being seen on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, then singles on 1<sup>st</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> November.

**Spring Wood, Netherton** – a female on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**Shepley** – a male on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**Elland** – on 3<sup>rd</sup> March singles in **Park Wood** and at **Cromwell Bottom**.

**Gunthwaite Dam** – a male on 24<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> April; possibly bred.

**Banks Hall** – one pair bred, young observed being fed at the nest hole.

**Anchor Wood** – one drumming on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Magdale, Honley** – one drumming on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Denby Dale** – one in **Clough House Lane** on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – one in the willow copse at the western end on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

**Royd House Wood** – one seen on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

**Butterley** – one calling in woodland on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Storthes Hall Woods** – a female with a tit flock in **Radcliffe Wood** on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Lepton Great Wood** – a male on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Deffer Wood** – a male on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Longley Hall Woods** – a male with a tit flock on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## **SKYLARK**

*Alda arvensis*

Partial migrant breeder (3)

Presumably as a result of the restrictions imposed to combat the F&M epidemic, there were many fewer reports of this species this year and only 40 singing males were recorded.

The earliest report was of a singing male near **Netherton, Wakefield** on the early date of 28<sup>th</sup> January, followed by three west at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.12 over **Scout Dike**, 11 (including three singing males) at **Meltham Grange** and three singing males near **Thunderbridge** all on 13<sup>th</sup> February. On 15<sup>th</sup> February c.40 were feeding on stubble near **Royd Moor Res.**, after which birds were reported with increasing frequency from their regular sites, with birds passing through **Harden** where local birds had established territory on 18<sup>th</sup> February. The only flock of the spring contained 30+ birds in stubble near **Ravensthorpe** on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Away from the moorland fringes singing males were present at **Salendine Nook**, **Stockmoor Common**, **Lepton**, near **Castle Hill**, **Thurstonland** (2), **Kirkheaton**, **Thunderbridge** (3), **Horbury Strands** and **Elland GPs**.

In October, v.m.w. produced the following results:-

**Wessenden** – two on 4<sup>th</sup>, 14 on 16<sup>th</sup>, one on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Hartcliff Hill** – 75 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 84 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 65 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Harden** – three SSE on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot** – 35 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 35 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 17 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 32 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 42 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

With the exception of the **Harden** birds all movements were in a southerly or southwesterly direction. The last of the year was one at **Wessenden** on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## **SAND MARTIN**

*Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder (2)

Birds were quite late in arriving, with only two March records, the first on 25<sup>th</sup>, but there was a late record in October. Breeding was confirmed at two sites but two others, where small colonies have been established in recent years, were not checked.

**Marsden** – one flew NE on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – two on 30<sup>th</sup> March, then in April from 1<sup>st</sup> on 24 dates, usually up to six birds but eight on 29<sup>th</sup>; on only four dates in May, max. three and a max. of two on three dates in June. Singles on four dates in July, with three on 20<sup>th</sup> and present on four days in August, max. four on 14<sup>th</sup>. In September on five dates, max. five on 20<sup>th</sup> and a late bird on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Dewsbury SF** – 30 flew west on 3<sup>rd</sup> April then present regularly to 14<sup>th</sup> September but numbers well down on the figures for 2000.

**Elland GPs** – in April nine on 4<sup>th</sup>, seven on 17<sup>th</sup>, three on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>; 20 on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> May then low single figures on several dates to 23<sup>rd</sup> June.



**Ravensthorpe GPs** – first noted on 8<sup>th</sup> April, but very little activity with no more than c.12 birds prospecting until late May. By June an estimated 70-80 nest holes were occupied, but breeding success is unknown.

**Cannon Hall** – two pairs bred at the Cascades; three birds still present on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Litherop Lane** – 15 feeding over adjacent fields on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Horbury area** – c.15 were present on 13<sup>th</sup> April with similar numbers later in the month and through May; 20+ on 28<sup>th</sup> June, c.25 flew west on 19<sup>th</sup> July, one on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Harden** – nine flew north in an hour on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – six on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. In July two on 15<sup>th</sup>, 20+ on 19<sup>th</sup> and present but not counted on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Boshaw Whams** – five on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Gunthwaite Dam** – one on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – in July three on 1<sup>st</sup>, one on 13<sup>th</sup> and one on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**Almondbury** – six flew over on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

## SWALLOW

### *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4)

Despite the very early arrival of birds at eight sites, there was then a considerable gap and the majority of birds did not arrive until late April and even into May.

The first individuals were noted at **Greetland** and **Blackmoorfoot** on 29<sup>th</sup> March, followed by five at the latter site and one at **West Vale** on 31<sup>st</sup>. In April singles were noted on 1<sup>st</sup> at **Helme**, **Ingbirchworth** and again at **Blackmoorfoot**, on 2<sup>nd</sup> at **Castle Dam**, on 3<sup>rd</sup> at **Dewsbury SF** (four), **Bradley Park G.C.** and **Blackmoorfoot** (two) with additional singles here also on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

There was then a gap in sightings to 11<sup>th</sup> April, again at **Blackmoorfoot**, followed on 12<sup>th</sup> by two at **Litherop Lane**, on 13<sup>th</sup> at **Horbury Wyke** and on 17<sup>th</sup> when 40 were at **Elland GPs**.

Birds then appeared at **Lindley Moor** (two) and **Bretton Park** on 20<sup>th</sup>, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Hade Edge** and **Harden** (four north) on 21<sup>st</sup>, **Clayton West** (c.12) on 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Ingbirchworth** (six), **Taylor Hill** and **Oldfield** (two) on 23<sup>rd</sup>, **New Mill** and **Boshaw Whams** (five) on 24<sup>th</sup>, **Dalton** on 25<sup>th</sup>, **Shelley** on 26<sup>th</sup> and **Waterloo** (three) on 28<sup>th</sup>, but not until 1<sup>st</sup> May in the **Grimescar Valley**. At **Harden** local breeders were back on territory on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The only sizeable gatherings during this period were 50+ at **Elland GPs** on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, at **Blackmoorfoot** 60+ on 26<sup>th</sup>, 45+ on 28<sup>th</sup>, 78 on 29<sup>th</sup> April and 75 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and c.200 feeding at **Ingbirchworth** on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Small numbers were still moving north all day in the **Broadstones** area on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

The only sites for which breeding evidence was submitted were at **Brookfoot**, **Elland**, **Cartworth Moor**, **Crosland Road/Lindley Moor**, **Harden**, **Laugsett** (c.5 pairs only due to loss of nesting sites caused by the conversion of empty buildings), **New Mill** and the **Shelley/Emley Moor** area (c.12 pairs).

Many sites continued to have birds till late September but post breeding numbers were low apart from a roost at **Elland GPs** which held 2000-3000 birds on 14<sup>th</sup> and 3000-4000 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Elsewhere, **Blackmoorfoot** max. were 35+ in July, 53 in August and 30

in September, 30 were at **Cannon Hall** on 11<sup>th</sup> August and 80 at **Scammonden** on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Good numbers passed through **Colnebridge SP** on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Seven sites provided October records – at **Lindley Moor** one on 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the **Wessenden Valley** seven moved west on 4<sup>th</sup> and six on 7<sup>th</sup>, at **Harteliff Hill/Green Moor** 125 south on 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 south on 6<sup>th</sup> and five south on 9<sup>th</sup>, at **Dewsbury SF** six flew west on 6<sup>th</sup>, when at least one was at **Bretton Lakes**, present at **Blackmoorfoot** on nine dates to 15<sup>th</sup>, including 15 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23 moving south on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12 south on 12<sup>th</sup>, while the last of the year were eight going east at **Oldfield** on 18<sup>th</sup>.

## HOUSE MARTIN

*Delichon urbica*

Migrant breeder (3)

Two very early individuals were reported at **Dewsbury SF** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and at **Elland GPs** on 4<sup>th</sup> April

but it was not until more than two weeks later that the next sighting was made at **Bretton Lakes** on 20<sup>th</sup> April and with the exception of **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Dewsbury SF** no sites achieved double figure counts before May. The only other April records came from **Elland GPs** again with seven on 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Boshaw Whams** one, **Lockwood Bar** four and **Ingbirchworth Res.** 10+ all on 24<sup>th</sup>, followed on 26<sup>th</sup> by one at **Shelley**, 2+ at **Waterloo** and three pairs at a breeding site in **Golcar**, six at **Ingbirchworth** on 27<sup>th</sup> with ten there on 28<sup>th</sup> and c.100 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 5+ at **Waterloo** on 28<sup>th</sup> and 50+ at **Dewsbury SF** on 29<sup>th</sup>. On 1<sup>st</sup> May singles appeared at **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Lindley**, the **Longwood Valley** and **New Mill**, with the first sightings at **Blackmoorfoot** also on this date.

Considerable numbers passed west through **Dewsbury SF** in the first half of May with 58 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 88 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 293 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 279 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 308 in two hours on 16<sup>th</sup>, but otherwise numbers were small with only 20 at **Elland GPs** on 14<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May, and at **Blackmoorfoot** max. of 21 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 19 on 25<sup>th</sup> May and in June 36 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 40+ on 9<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 11<sup>th</sup> the only counts of note.

Little information was received for the breeding season, the only records being three pairs at **Golcar**, 3-4 pairs near **Castle Dam**, c.12 pairs at **Shelley**, at least three pairs at **Holly Bank Road**, **Lindley** (but none at a nearby traditional site in **West Street**), a pair at **Taylor Hill**, several pairs at **Dalton** and two broods raised at **Almondbury**. Ten birds were observed gathering mod at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Birds were widespread in small numbers until late September, with the largest gatherings and movements listed below :-

**Hullen Edge** – 100 regularly during the summer.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – August max. 34 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 64 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 50 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 42 on 24<sup>th</sup>, but only up to 15 in September.

**Colnebridge SP** – 200+ east on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 15 feeding and 20 east on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Scammonden** – 35 on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**Dewsbury SF** – 345 south on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**Dalton** – 20+ feeding on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Grimescar Valley** – c.100 on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Few remained into October, with at **Blackmoorfoot** birds on five dates, the last two flying south on 15<sup>th</sup>, but a significant southerly movement of 66 on 2<sup>nd</sup>. At **Dewsbury SF**

the last record was on 3<sup>rd</sup>, c.80 were at **Bretton Lakes** on 6<sup>th</sup> and six at **Crosland Moor** on 7<sup>th</sup>.

At **Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor** 153 moved south on 4<sup>th</sup>, one SW on 6<sup>th</sup>, 23 south on 7<sup>th</sup> and six south on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

### TREE PIPIT

*Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (1)

F&M restrictions prevented some favoured sites being visited, so the picture this year is incomplete. Extreme dates were 20<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a singing male nearby on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Denby Dale** – a singing male arrived on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Holme Styes** – singing males were located at Fox Clough (2), Reynard Clough (2) and T.Kirk Forestry from 5<sup>th</sup> May onwards.

**Upper Midhope** – two singing males on 5<sup>th</sup> May, one on 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Harden** – one which flew north on 6<sup>th</sup> May was possibly a migrant as birds were already on territory nearby from 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Langsett Banks** – at least two males held breeding territories.

**Elland GPs** – one flew over on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Seammonden** – two were in the area on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Shepley** – one on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**Winscar** – a singing male on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Broadstones** – one on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

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

**Cupwith Moor** – one flew over to the south on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

**Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor** – one flew south on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

### MEADOW PIPIT

*Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (4-5)

Following on from the numbers present at the end of last year, wintering birds were found at 12 sites in January and at an additional four in February, although these latter sightings could have involved early passage birds.

In January singles were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, seven at **Clayton West SF** on 1<sup>st</sup>, six at **Dewsbury SF** on 2<sup>nd</sup> with ten there on 13<sup>th</sup>, 11 at **Lindley Moor** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a max. of 12 on 3<sup>rd</sup> at **Kirkheaton** where birds were present throughout, at **Meltham SF** between three and five to 28<sup>th</sup> then none until one on 25<sup>th</sup> February, c.10 at **Denby Dale** on 5<sup>th</sup>, two at **Cartworth Moor** and one NE at **Harden** on 13<sup>th</sup>, six at **Crosland Road** on 18<sup>th</sup> and small numbers throughout the month at **Emley Moor** and near **Castle Hill**.

February saw three on school playing fields at **Golcar** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, ten at **Meltham Grange** and one in **Dearne Dike Lane** on 13<sup>th</sup>, one north at **Harden** on 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 (the first of the year) at **Castle Dam** on 20<sup>th</sup> and three at **Deer Hill** on 21<sup>st</sup>.

More obvious evidence of spring passage came from **Meltham SF** where there was an increase to ten birds in March, from **Harden** where small numbers moved between north and west on 15<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April with c.100 grounded there on 31<sup>st</sup> March; **Blackmoorfoot** with two to four daily in March and max. of 23+ on 24<sup>th</sup> and 80+ on 29<sup>th</sup>,

**Shelley** where movements began on 9<sup>th</sup> March and there was a daily passage of 50+ birds towards the month end, **Slaithwaite** which had 39 on 11<sup>th</sup> March, **Winscar** with small numbers moving north on 10<sup>th</sup> April and **Dewsbury SF** which, in April, had 12 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 42 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 46 on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Little information was received for the breeding season but one observer reported good numbers breeding in the **Scammonden** area and at **Cupwith**, **Buckstones** and **Rishworth**.

From August onwards passage was noted at several sites and some impressive counts made.

**Elysium fields** – a passage flock of c.30 on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Harden** – small parties moved west in conditions of low cloud on the evening of 31<sup>st</sup> August and S/SSE on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**Butterley Res.** – 30+ on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Digley** – 300/400 on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**Langsett Res.** – 35 on the dam wall on 10<sup>th</sup> September and 60 moving SW in two hours on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**Deer Hill** – hundreds moving through on 16<sup>th</sup> September and a flock of c.40 feeding on the shore on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Dewsbury SF** – in September 25 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 35 on 29<sup>th</sup> and 230 east in the first two hours of daylight on 30<sup>th</sup>; in October 80 east on 6<sup>th</sup> in the same time period.

**Kirkheaton** – first on 17<sup>th</sup> September increasing to c.12 by 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot** – in September 35+ on 1<sup>st</sup>, 157 on 30<sup>th</sup>; in October 139 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 20 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 69 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 37 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26 on 24<sup>th</sup> all moving south.

**Pule Hill** – 60+ on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Royd Moor** – 15+ on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Scout Dike** – 170 flew SE in three hours on 28<sup>th</sup> and 160 SE in two hours on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor** – in October 915 flew SW on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10,000 (ten thousand) in two hours on 4<sup>th</sup>, 1685 S/SW on 6<sup>th</sup>, 2375 south on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Wessenden Valley** – in October 149 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 27 on 16<sup>th</sup>, eight on 25<sup>th</sup>, 17 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 45 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 28<sup>th</sup>, five on 31<sup>st</sup> all moving S/SW.

**Scammonden** – 24 moved SW on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ringstone Edge** – 70 flew SW on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

The trend for birds to remain in winter was again apparent, with November/December records from 12 sites.

**Wessenden Valley** – on seven dates in November to 18<sup>th</sup>, max. 14 on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Meltham Grange** – seven on 9<sup>th</sup> and three on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**Cooper Bridge** – c.20 along the canal on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

**Dewsbury SF** – 39 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 25 on 21<sup>st</sup> November; seven on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Oldfield** – 20+ on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Redbrook Res.** – one on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – seven on 26<sup>th</sup> November, then one or two daily in December with a high count of 11 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Meltham SF** – up to eight regularly in November/December.

**Golcar** – in December four on 1<sup>st</sup>, three on 8<sup>th</sup>, four on 15<sup>th</sup>, three on 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Greenfield Road, Holmfirth** – up to 15 regularly in a kale field in December.  
**Wessenden Head** – one on 18<sup>th</sup> December.  
**Crosland Moor** – two in snow on the airfield on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## **ROCK PIPIT**

*Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor

One flew SW over **Hartcliffe Hill** during a v.m.w. on 27<sup>th</sup> October (KC via BBSG).  
In addition, a bird which flew south on a v.m.w. at **Wessenden** on 3<sup>rd</sup> November was either this species or Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*), but specific identification was not possible (TG).

## **YELLOW WAGTAIL**

*Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder (?) and passage migrant

Sightings continue to decline, birds being reported from only nine localities, one of which accounted for half the records.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – singles on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May (MLD,DMP).

**Dewsbury SF** – a single on 27<sup>th</sup> April, then in May one west on 4<sup>th</sup>, two on 7<sup>th</sup>, one on 8<sup>th</sup>, three on 9<sup>th</sup>, singles on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, followed in June by one west on 4<sup>th</sup>, two on 6<sup>th</sup> and one on 18<sup>th</sup>. In August singles on 11<sup>th</sup> and from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> (JH).

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – one over on 30<sup>th</sup> April (AC via HBC).

**Whitley Common** – two over on 12<sup>th</sup> and one over on 15<sup>th</sup> May (JMcL).

**Shelley Roydhouse** – one over on 20<sup>th</sup> May (SRG).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – singles on 13<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> (juv.) July (BBSG, DB).

**Wessenden Valley** – two in Adam's Pasture on 29<sup>th</sup> August (TG).

**Harden** – one flew west on 31<sup>st</sup> August, when small numbers of Meadow Pipits were moving (MC).

**Meltham/Marsden** – one over Moortop Farm on 14<sup>th</sup> September (TG).

## **GREY WAGTAIL**

*Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

Again reported from over 50 localities and breeding was proved at two sites near **Blackmoorfoot**, **Dunford Bridge Cycle Track**, **Lockwood**, **Castle Dam** (two pairs), **Swinden Plantation** (two pairs), **Langsett Res.** (three pairs), **Waterloo**, **Dewsbury SF**, **West Vale**, **Waterhall Park**, **Elland GPs**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Eastergate**, **Blakeley Res.**, **Magdale** and **Oxygrains Clough**.

Further pairs were also present and probably bred at **Diggle**, **Harden Res.**, **Dogley**, **Cliff Wood**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Brownhill Res.**, **Meltham**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Grimescar Valley**, **Almondbury**, **Thunderbridge**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Lindley** and **Lockwood**. No records were received from some other regular breeding sites owing to access restrictions.

Birds were seen at many other sites outside the breeding season, including **Denby Dale**, **Taylor Hill**, **Kirkheaton**, **Meltham SF** where five were regular and at least six present on 18<sup>th</sup> September, **Ravensthorpe**, **Wessenden Valley** (singles on v.m.w. on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October), **Hill Top Slaithwaite**, **Thornton Lodge**, **Ravensknowle Park**, **Colnebridge**

**SP, Crosland Moor, TP Wood** (up to four), **Tunnel End, Shelley** and in the **Town Centre** on five dates.

Eleven were counted in the **Upper Little Don Valley** above **Brookhouse Bridge** on 15<sup>th</sup> July (BBSG).

### **PIED WAGTAIL**

*Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Resident breeder and passage migrant/winter visitor (3)

This species is still under-reported and again no information was received relating to the roost in **Huddersfield Town Centre**.

Breeding took place at **New Mill** (four juvs. on 9<sup>th</sup> June), **Emley Tx** (2-3 broods), **Emley Moor, Shelley/Emley, Harden, Ingbirchworth** (family parties on 24<sup>th</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> July). **Elland GPs, Langsett Res.** (at least four pairs), **Cliff Wood, Kirkheaton** (family party on 13<sup>th</sup> June), **Eastergate** and **Colnebridge SP**. Additional pairs were at **Cartworth Moor** and **Gunthwaite Dam**.

The largest gatherings reported were at :-

**Brighouse** -- 40 on the roof of Sainsbury's store on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Marsden** -- 14+ on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 33 on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**Dewsbury SF** -- max. 14 on 14<sup>th</sup> August and much less numerous than in recent years.

**Kirkheaton C.C.** -- 12+ on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** -- 29 on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

**Lindley** -- 50+ roosting in trees lining the main drive to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** -- ten on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

V.m.w. produced up to three moving S/SW on five dates in October at **Wessenden**, at **Blackmoorfoot** 12 went south on 30<sup>th</sup> September and in October nine on 2<sup>nd</sup>, ten on 3<sup>rd</sup>, nine on 12<sup>th</sup> and 17 on 15<sup>th</sup> all moving south and at **Harteliff Hill/Green Moor** 88 went south on 4<sup>th</sup> and 142 passed S/SW on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Up to two birds visited a **Taylor Hill** garden regularly in November/December, but one feeding in snow in a **Lindley** garden on 13<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December was unusual.

### **WHITE WAGTAIL**

*Motacilla alba alba*

Uncommon passage migrant

Reported from three sites, all in spring.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** -- singles on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> May (AC,PGe via HBC).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** -- one on 10<sup>th</sup> April (PDB).

**Dewsbury SF** -- male and female on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> April, one on 7<sup>th</sup> May (JH,BA,DM).

### **WAXWING**

*Bombycilla garrulus*

Eruptive winter visitor, rare to uncommon

The birds seen at the rear of the Merrie England coffee shop on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2000 did indeed prove to be the beginning of one of the largest incursions ever into the area. Subsequently birds were reported from 23 sites, at two of which over one hundred birds were present, on 55 dates from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**Salendine Nook** – four at the Merrie England on 1<sup>st</sup> January (JMN).

**Marsh, Jim Lane** – six arrived on 5<sup>th</sup> January and increased to a peak of 17 on 11<sup>th</sup>, with the last 15 on 12<sup>th</sup> (AJW,DT,PDB et al).

**Elland** – two on 5<sup>th</sup> January, none then until eight on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 25 on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> March, then another gap to 17 on 8<sup>th</sup> April and 12 on 9<sup>th</sup> (via HBC).

**Skelmanthorpe** – c.20 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 26, including seven adults, on 7<sup>th</sup> January (JMD,BA,MC).

**Waterloo** – in January eight on 7<sup>th</sup>, 34 on 17<sup>th</sup>, c.30 on 29<sup>th</sup> and two on 31<sup>st</sup> all in the vicinity of Morrison's Supermarket (HQ,BA,M&SC).

**Shelley** – 14 in a garden on 8<sup>th</sup> January (DWB).

**Denby Dale** – six on 12<sup>th</sup> January (BLNE).

**Shepley** – six on 12<sup>th</sup> January (TM). (same as above?).

**Butterley** – 40 flew west on 13<sup>th</sup> January (TG).

**Lockwood/Folly Hall** – the first was a single bird on **Victoria Road** on 13<sup>th</sup> January, the next at least 23 there on 17<sup>th</sup> (DM,BA). The remaining sightings, with one exception, were all in the car park of the **HotShots/Mecca Bingo complex** and began with 36 on 19<sup>th</sup> January. Numbers varied considerably from day to day until the end of the first week of February. Max. daily counts in January were 55 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 63 on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, c.40 on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>, 63 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, c.60 on 29<sup>th</sup>, 25 on 31<sup>st</sup>, then in February c.100 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 87+ on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 140 on 3<sup>rd</sup> (RT) and finally 35 on 6<sup>th</sup>. The difficulty of achieving accurate counts was exemplified on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, when counts at different times of the day produced the 140 quoted above, 97 and c.60. The last birds of the year at these two adjacent sites were 78 in Victoria Road on 7<sup>th</sup> February (RT).

**Thornton Lodge** – c.30 near St. Thomas' Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> January (JED).

**Wooldale/Totties** – 40 on 24<sup>th</sup> January (RD&SEH).

**Langsett Res.** – one flew south on 28<sup>th</sup> January (DMS via BBSG).

**Bradford Road** – five near the Hebble Garage on 5<sup>th</sup> February (GBS).

**Brighouse** – 70 on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> February (MS via HBC).

**Birkby** – eleven on 25<sup>th</sup> February (DHP).

**Ainley Top** – 20 flying towards Elland on 27<sup>th</sup> February (JB).

**Dalton** – at least 61 on 4<sup>th</sup> March near Cow Heys, with c.10 there on 5<sup>th</sup>, a minimum of 102 from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, about seven on 12<sup>th</sup> and nearby 65 on 18<sup>th</sup> March. The local resident (MB) who initially informed the RSPB of the presence of these birds also said that between 16 and 36 had been present for about three weeks from 8<sup>th</sup> January and that birds had turned up in this area in each of the past four winters.

**Cowlersley** – 22 on 8<sup>th</sup> March (DS).

**Healey Mills** – a small flock on 16<sup>th</sup> March (BLNE).

**Huddersfield Town Centre** – five seen near the Police HQ on 6<sup>th</sup> April (MC).

**Cubley** – eleven on 8<sup>th</sup> April (BP via BBSG).

It is impossible of course to speculate on how many individuals were involved in this invasion, but if, and it is a big if, there was no interchange of birds between sites, then approximately 650 Waxwings graced our area.

There were no reports of any birds at the end of the year.

## DIPPER

*Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2)

Ten pairs were proved to have bred, at **Millmoor (Meltham)**, **Thunderbridge** (one pair raised two broods), **Eastergate** (two pairs with two and one young on 3<sup>rd</sup> June), near **Castle Dam**, in the **Little Don Valley** (two pairs above **Brookhouse Bridge**) and on the **R. Don** at **Thurlstone**. None were found in the upper section of the **R. Don** due probably to silt pollution caused by the emptying of **Winscar Res.** and the **Thurlstone** pair were perhaps the pair which had relocated from a traditional site at **Bullhouse**. Birds were also observed collecting food at **West Vale** on 13<sup>th</sup> May and at **Oxygrains Beck** on 24<sup>th</sup> June and were presumably feeding young nearby.

Birds were also observed in the breeding season at a further nine sites, at some of which breeding probably occurred – on the **R. Colne** in the centre of **Marsden**, in **Marsden Clough** above **Bilberry Res.**, at **Denby Dale**, **Waterloo** (up to three birds present in March), **Chew Valley**, **Dovestones**, **Lockwood**, **Meltham Pleasure Park** and at **Lindley**, where one flew inside **Jos. Sykes Wire Mill** at 0430hrs. on 19<sup>th</sup> June; it could not be found later so was assumed to have found its own way out (GBS).

Outside the breeding season, Dippers were found at an additional 12 sites – at **Elland** regularly from January to April and October to December with a singing male on 29<sup>th</sup> December, **Bretton Lakes**, **Hinchliffe Mill** (two on 9<sup>th</sup> September), **Wessenden** (two on 15<sup>th</sup> December) and **Wessenden Head Reservoirs**, **Scout Dike**, **Dogley**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Condnit**, **Deer Hill**, **R. Colne** at **Linthwaite** and **Slaithwaite**, **March Haigh Res.** and **Stones Wood**, **Shepley**.

## WREN

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (4)

Again only a handful of records was submitted for this species. Birds were reported from **Lindley Moor**, **Shelley**, **TP Wood**, where six to ten pairs were said to be resident, and in gardens at **Fixby** and **Hinchliffe Mill**.

Eleven birds were counted in **North Dean Woods** on 27<sup>th</sup> May and eleven singing males reported in **Bretton Park** on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

## DUNNOCK

*Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (4)

There was a slight increase in the number of records of this widespread and common species.

Breeding was reported from **New Hall Woods**, **Stockmoor**, **Edgerton**, **Shelley**, **Emley Tx**, **New Mill**, **Lindley Moor**, **Gledholt** and **Harden** and doubtless occurred at many other sites.

Up to six were present all year in a **Gledholt** garden and up to four at **Elland GPs** and in a garden at **Shelley**.



## **ROBIN**

*Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (4-5)

The few reports received referred almost exclusively to breeding – at **Fixby**, **Stoneycliffe Wood**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Blacker Beck**, **Shelley**, **Emley Tx**, **New Mill**, **Lindley Moor**, **Taylor Hill**, **Baitings**, **Colnebridge SP** (two pairs at least, young seen on 26<sup>th</sup> May) and **Gledholt**. A pair held territory at altitude at **Harden**, but breeding was not proven. Seven birds were counted at **North Dean** on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

## **BLACK REDSTART**

*Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor

Two reports were received of this potential breeding species. A male was reported to be singing in the alleyway behind **Marks & Spencer's Food Hall** in the town centre on 21<sup>st</sup> April (GBS) and a male on the parapet of the bridge over the canal at **Colnebridge** on 27<sup>th</sup> May before flying towards the canal (JER). Despite several searches, neither bird could be relocated.

## **COMMON REDSTART**

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder (1-2)

A total of 14 singing males was located but the only indication of breeding came from the extreme south of the area in the vicinity of **Langsett**. Birds were very late in arriving, with the first dated record on 5<sup>th</sup> May; the last was on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**Holme Styes** – a male on territory from 5<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May but not later.

**Upper Midhope** – song was heard briefly nearby on 8<sup>th</sup> May and a male on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**Cliff Wood** – two pairs bred in nestboxes.

**Langsett Banks** – at least two pairs held breeding territories.

**Little Don Valley** – at least six males held breeding territories and included a pair which bred in an outbuilding wall at **Brookhouse Farm**.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a female in the SW corner on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Marsden** – a singing male in **Hemplow Wood** on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Drop Clough** – one sang briefly on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Inghirchworth Res.** – a male on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Wessenden Lodge** – a female on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**Lindley Moor** – one on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Cop Hill, Bradshaw** – one on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

## **WHINCHAT**

*Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor

Birds were present between 28<sup>th</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> October. Pairs/singing males were located at 13 sites but breeding was confirmed only at four of them.

**Dewsbury SF** – a male on 28<sup>th</sup> April, one on 31<sup>st</sup> August and the latest of the year, an imm. on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Slaithwaite** – a male near the **White House Inn** on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Harden** – a singing male by the reservoir on 1<sup>st</sup> May, then a second male almost continuously in song from 13<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June, including mimicry of Robin and

**Chaffinch**. Two males in song at **Harden Clough** on 20<sup>th</sup> May. At least three pairs bred in the area.

**Meltham** – three singing males at the top of **Brow Grain's Road** on 4<sup>th</sup> May and one at the top of **Millmoor Road** on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Scammonden** – one on 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May and two males in song on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Five birds present on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**Winscar** – one male in song on 5<sup>th</sup> May and two the following day. By 11<sup>th</sup> May two females had arrived and two pairs were on territory. At least one pair bred, with two spotty juvs. present on 16<sup>th</sup> July and a female with a juv. on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, but two juv/1stW. present with a Stonechat on 28<sup>th</sup> August were probably dispersing migrants. A male on 3<sup>rd</sup> September was the last reported.

**Royd Edge Clough** – three on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Holme** – a male in song between the village and Holme Moss on 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Marsden Golf Course** – a singing male on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, with two males and a female on 1<sup>st</sup> June. **Wessenden Valley** – two males, one displaying, and a female on 25<sup>th</sup> May and two males and two females on 14<sup>th</sup> June at **Wessenden Lodge**; a pair below **Wessenden Head Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Eastergate** – a pair on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Bradshaw** – one nearby on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Buckstones** – a pair on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**Little Don Valley** – at least one pair bred; three on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

**Dovestones** – a family party present in August.

Birds presumed to be migrants were above **Marsden** on 21<sup>st</sup> August, a male at **Lindley Moor** on 26<sup>th</sup> August, one at **Meltham Cop** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, two (one juv.) at **Shepley** on 28<sup>th</sup> September and **Colnebridge SP** on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

## STONECHAT

### *Saxicola torquata*

Occasional breeder (1) and passage and winter visitor, increasing

The influx in early October 2000 comprising 40 birds was described in last year's report as "unprecedented". October 2001 proved to be even more outstanding with a minimum of 55 birds in the area on 18<sup>th</sup> and probably as many as 80 individuals present during that month and a few lingered into December. The breeding situation was less prolific however, though access restrictions may have contributed to a decrease in reported numbers.

Single birds were recorded at nine sites in the first two months of the year.

**Clayton West SF** – one on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**Winscar** – one calling on 4<sup>th</sup> January, a male on 1<sup>st</sup> April, male and female on 21<sup>st</sup> April, possibly on territory but not necessarily as other migrant species were in the area, and not again until May. By 1<sup>st</sup> June the pair had at least two juvs.; young were being fed on 28<sup>th</sup> June and one "spotty" juv. still remained on 16<sup>th</sup> July. On 28<sup>th</sup> August a spotty young bird was present with young Whinchats and may have been a bird on the move rather than having been reared locally.

**Scout Dike Res.** – single female(s) on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 24<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Broadstones Lodge** – early in the year a male on 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> February was joined by a female on 11<sup>th</sup> March and two pairs were present on 8<sup>th</sup> April. At least one pair bred successfully with a pair plus two juvs. on 31<sup>st</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> August. A pair on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Deer Hill area** – one on 19<sup>th</sup> January and a male on 13<sup>th</sup> February. In October a male and a female on 6<sup>th</sup>, at least eleven on 7<sup>th</sup> and a minimum of 27 between the reservoir and **Oldfield Hill Farm, Meltham** on 18<sup>th</sup> (TG), but by 27<sup>th</sup> only a female remained. One was near the shooting range on 17<sup>th</sup> November and a male and a female on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Hepworth** – a male on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**Scammonden/Deanhead** – a male on 8<sup>th</sup> February. In October four on 6<sup>th</sup> increasing to six (five males) on 11<sup>th</sup>, then reported almost daily to 21<sup>st</sup> with peak counts of 14 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 13 on 16<sup>th</sup>. Two remained on 28<sup>th</sup> October, with the same number on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Norland Moor** – a pair in February and a male on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

**Magnum** – a pair on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth** – a pair was present throughout the summer at **Castle Farm** but no young were seen.

**Harden** – a male on 2<sup>nd</sup> June could have been one of the Winscar birds. In October a male and two female/imm. were seen on a v.m.w. on 9<sup>th</sup>, six (three males) were grounded on 13<sup>th</sup>, four on 18<sup>th</sup> and a male on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Wessenden Valley** – a pair on 8<sup>th</sup> June and two juvs. on 12<sup>th</sup> September may indicate successful breeding. From 14<sup>th</sup> November to the year end two birds, including an adult male, were present.

**Buckstones** – a male alarming and a pair on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**Little Don Valley** – two pairs present and presumed to have bred.

**Dovestones** – at least two juvs. present on 28<sup>th</sup> August; two pairs on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Pule Hill** – two on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**Meltham Cop** – a male on 23<sup>rd</sup> September; four (three males) on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Royd Moor Res.** – a female/imm. on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**March Haigh Res.** – three (two males) on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot Conduit** – five (three males) above Marsden on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Old Lindley** – four on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Dewsbury SF** – male and female on several dates from 17<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October. Then two males and a female on 24<sup>th</sup> November, with a male and female to the year end.

**Townhead** – five on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Copthurst Moor** – at least 16 feeding in heather near **Crossley's Plantation** on 18<sup>th</sup> October vanished into vegetation when threatened by a Sparrowhawk.

**Holme Styes** – three on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Hade Edge** – one on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**Marsden** – one on Meltham Road on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**New Mill** – one from 6<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**Helme Catchment** – two on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## NORTHERN WHEATEAR

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder (1-2) and passage visitor

Birds were very late in arriving with only a single record in March; only very small numbers were involved in the spring passage.

First of the year was one at **Royd Moor Res.** on 27<sup>th</sup> March, followed on 1<sup>st</sup> April by four in **Dearne Dike Lane** and ten at **Brown's Edge**, the only double figure count of the year. On 3<sup>rd</sup> April six were near **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, with the same number at **Brown's Edge**, four were on **Greenfield Road** above **Holmfirth** and one at **Bradley Park G.C.** on 5<sup>th</sup>, a pair at **Buckstones** and two at **Broadstones Lodge** on 8<sup>th</sup>, and at **Winscar** a female on 9<sup>th</sup> and a male and two females on 10<sup>th</sup>. Passage birds continued to trickle through later in the month with five at **Whitley Common** on 19<sup>th</sup>, two females at **Winscar** on 29<sup>th</sup> probably on passage, as were two males and three females at **Blackmoorfoot** on 30<sup>th</sup>. In May a female was at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a bird of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoa* at **Broadstones** on the same date, with another female at **South Crosland** on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

The breeding situation was not easy to assess. Two pairs bred in the **Wessenden Valley**, where a pair was observed carrying food and another adult was present with a very fresh juvenile on 14<sup>th</sup> June. Evidence elsewhere though was less positive. A pair was at **Buckstones** on 8<sup>th</sup> April, a male on 21<sup>st</sup> May and a juv. on 14<sup>th</sup> July, a pair was at **Bradshaw** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a male on 21<sup>st</sup> May, male and female at **Winscar** on 1<sup>st</sup> June with a female on 7<sup>th</sup> and two juvs. on 28<sup>th</sup> August, one at **Law** in suitable breeding habitat on 8<sup>th</sup> May, a pair at **Dovestones** in late June, an adult with two juvs. at **Redbrook Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup> July and at **March Haigh Res.** a female and four juvs. in two separate groups on 9<sup>th</sup> August. Whether these were local breeders or birds passing through is open to debate.

After the breeding season birds were reported at 17 sites, usually singly or two together, with max. of three at **Deer Hill** on 28<sup>th</sup> August and three at **Winscar** on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Obvious passage birds were at **Harden** on 28<sup>th</sup> August, **Scout Dike** on 16<sup>th</sup> September, **Kirkheaton** on 19<sup>th</sup> September and **Langsett Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. There were several records in October, two at **March Haigh** on 4<sup>th</sup>, then singles at **Scout Dike** on 6<sup>th</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot** on 7<sup>th</sup>, **Digley** on 9<sup>th</sup>, **Scammonden** on 12<sup>th</sup> and finally at **Castle Dam** on 13<sup>th</sup>.

## RING OUZEL

*Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage migrant

A slightly better year than in 2000, despite restricted access, breeding being confirmed in two localities and singing males located in at least two others. There was a considerable influx in late October with the arrival of other winter thrush species and a very late November record.

**Royd Edge Clough** – a singing male on 29<sup>th</sup> April and on 6<sup>th</sup> May (DMP).

**Wessenden Valley** – a male on 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May and two males on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. A breeding pair was present in late June with further reports of singles on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> August. A male and a female were present on 1<sup>st</sup> September and two adults and two juvs. on 8<sup>th</sup> October and one flew south on a v.m.w. on 28<sup>th</sup> October (TG,RT,SF,BA et al).

**Little Don Valley** – at least three pairs bred and a male was still singing on 8<sup>th</sup> August (BBSG).

**Buckstoues** – in June a singing male on 3<sup>rd</sup>, increasing to two on 15<sup>th</sup> (JED).

**Green Owlers, Marsden** – male and female on 5<sup>th</sup> June (TG).

**Dovestones** – at least one present throughout June (GMBC via JS).

**Eastergate, Marsden** – a female on 14<sup>th</sup> July (SF).

**Scammonden** – two (a female and a 1<sup>st</sup> year) on 22<sup>nd</sup> October (JB, JED).

**Blackmoorfoot** – two flew south on 24<sup>th</sup> October (TG).

**Hade Edge** – two flew south on 25<sup>th</sup> October (CH).

**Colnebridge SP** – a male on 27<sup>th</sup> October (DS).

**Slaithwaite** – a male flew south over the White House Inn during a movement of thrushes on 28<sup>th</sup> October (SA, TG).

**Shooter's Nab** – a 1<sup>st</sup> W. on 16<sup>th</sup> November (TG).

*Of interest, on 3<sup>rd</sup> June four pairs, including one pair feeding young, were located near Saltersbrook Bridge only c.250 metres beyond our southern boundary.*

## **BLACKBIRD**

*Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor

Remains very common throughout the area. Reports of breeding were received from eleven localities. In the east of the area one observer located ten nests of which seven failed, a very worrying statistic, but young were reported from other sites at **New Mill, Lindley Moor, Taylor Hill, Winscar, Harden and Fixby**, where nestlings were still being fed on 16<sup>th</sup> August.

Few records were submitted regarding winter numbers but eight were feeding together in one small area of a school garden at **Skelmanthorpe** on 6<sup>th</sup> January and at least 25 were in fields at **Lumb Lane, Almondbury** on 7<sup>th</sup> January. A "mini-influx" was noted at both **Birkby and Oldfield** on 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November.

## **FIELDFARE**

*Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred

The low numbers at the end of 2000 were reflected in the first two weeks of January 2001 with only six sites having three figure counts and even fewer sites exceeded these totals in the second half of the month. There were some higher counts in February but the expected increase through March and into April, when birds are normally passing through on their way back to breeding grounds, failed to materialize. There was just one May record.

**January** – birds were reported from 25 sites but at 14 of these numbers did not exceed 40, with just single figures at six of them. The highest counts were at **Dewsbury SF** where 312 moved south on 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Castle Dam** c.100 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and c.400 on 9<sup>th</sup>, **Bird's Edge** c.100 on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Gilbert Hill** c.100 on 6<sup>th</sup>, **Hade Edge** c.400 feeding on 7<sup>th</sup>, **Broadstones** 80 on 13<sup>th</sup>, **South Crosland** 200 on 20<sup>th</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot** 68 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 48 on 29<sup>th</sup>, **Butterley** 80 on 28<sup>th</sup> and a "good few hundred" at **Ingbirchworth** on 31<sup>st</sup>. A mixed Fieldfare/Redwing flock at **Snowgate Head** held c.250 on 5<sup>th</sup>. Max. elsewhere were 17 at **Scammonden** on 1<sup>st</sup>, 30 at **Barkisland** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 38 at **Shepley** on 27<sup>th</sup>, otherwise fewer than 15 birds anywhere.

**February** – with the exception of a flock of 240 feeding in one field, and including some birds in song, at **Hade Edge** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, very few were present in the first week, 45 moving south at **Dewsbury SF** on 6<sup>th</sup> being the next largest count. An increase was apparent from 13<sup>th</sup> when 100+ were in **Windmill Lane** and more so from 14<sup>th</sup> when **Blackmoorfoot** had 320, **Bretton** 150 and **Deer Hill** 100. Easily the highest total of this winter period was achieved at **Bradshaw** where there were 850 on 15<sup>th</sup>. On 17<sup>th</sup> 80 were at **Ingbirchworth** and 38 at **Broadstones**, 60 at **Grange Moor** on 25<sup>th</sup> and c.50 feeding in heavy snow at **Dalton** on 27<sup>th</sup> before leaving to the north. Smaller numbers were noted in the **Colne Valley** and at **Shelley** and **Scammonden**.

**March** – traditionally this is the month when larger numbers appear on their way back north but this year reports were forthcoming from only nine sites, with just two counts in three figures, 190 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16<sup>th</sup> and c.200 over **Snailsden** on 20<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 25+ went south at **Ingbirchworth** on 4<sup>th</sup> with 30+ there on 11<sup>th</sup>, when there were also 20 at **Blackstone Edge**, and at **Dewsbury SF** 22 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 75 on 28<sup>th</sup> all moving south. Four other sites had single figures.

**April** – again no large numbers appeared, the only reports being 200+ at **Ingbirchworth** with 78 nearby in **Dearne Dike Lane** on 1<sup>st</sup>, at **Blackmoorfoot** four on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 78 on 4<sup>th</sup>, when c.100 were at **Horn Lane**, 48 north at **Dewsbury SF** on 7<sup>th</sup>, c.200 feeding at **Bretton** on 18<sup>th</sup>, ten at **Booth Wood** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and c.35 at **Oxspring** on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**May** – the only record was of 20 birds at **Millmoor, Meltham** on 6<sup>th</sup>.

After a very early record of a single bird at **Holmfirth** on 14<sup>th</sup> September considerable numbers appeared from mid-October but few stayed in the area and records were received from only three sites in November and two sites in December.

**October** – after two on 4<sup>th</sup>, v.m.w. in the **Wessenden Valley** produced 194 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 40 on 25<sup>th</sup>, 770 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 4043 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 585 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 124 on 31<sup>st</sup> all moving S/SW. One was at **Digley** on 12<sup>th</sup> and five flew over **Goat Hill** on 13<sup>th</sup>. At **Dewsbury SF** movement began on 14<sup>th</sup> with 370, then 68 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 246 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 587 on 25<sup>th</sup> again all moving south. At **Blackmoorfoot** 578 flew south on 15<sup>th</sup>, 51 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 215 south on 18<sup>th</sup>, 116 south on 21<sup>st</sup>, 47 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 237 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 224 south on 24<sup>th</sup> and eight on 25<sup>th</sup>, while nearby at **Crosland Moor** there were seven on 15<sup>th</sup> and 127 south on 25<sup>th</sup>. Also on 15<sup>th</sup> c.40 flew SSW at **Kirkheaton**. Birds appeared at five sites on 16<sup>th</sup> with c.35 SW over **Grimescar**, 15+ at **Lindley Moor**, three west at **Scammonden**, 200 over the **M62** and c.70 at **Scout Dike**. On 18<sup>th</sup> 360 were in fields at **Meltham Grauge** and 14 flew SE at **Harden** and single figures were at **Oldfield** and **Wilshaw**. Later in the month c.100 were at **Scout Dike** on 20<sup>th</sup>, 200 at **Booth Wood** on 21<sup>st</sup>, 400+ moved SE in half an hour at **Harden** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, when 33 were grounded at **Wilshaw** and on 27<sup>th</sup>, when huge numbers were logged at **Wessenden**, 1360 moved south at **Hartcliffe Hill**, with a mixed flock of 300 thrushes, mainly this species, at **Flight Hill** on the same date. On 28<sup>th</sup> c.75 flew S/SE at **Kirkheaton** and c.100 west plus c.50 feeding at **Scammonden**.

**November** – birds were recorded at just three sites with the **Wessenden Valley** having the lion's share. Here birds occurred on eleven dates to 22<sup>nd</sup> in very variable numbers with max. of 291 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 113 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 86 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 53 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 102 on 18<sup>th</sup>. The only other sites with birds were **Marsden G.C.** 170+ on 5<sup>th</sup> and **Blackmoorfoot** which had records on four dates, with low max. of 28 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11 on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**December** – **Scout Dike** had 27 on 1<sup>st</sup> and **Scammonden** 35 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 27 on 10<sup>th</sup> and one on 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **SONG THRUSH**

*Turdus philomelos*

Resident breeder (3)

Encouragingly observers are responding to appeals to submit records of this much reduced and declining species so that a more accurate picture of its status is emerging. Birds were reported from over 60 localities and mainly referred to singing males. Song was first reported on 25<sup>th</sup> January at **Fixby**. There were few records of birds in the second winter period.

A minimum of 97 pairs/singing males was located in about 45 sites throughout the area, with most frequently one singing male or pair involved. Concentrations were found in several areas, for example six males at **Bretton Park** in February, at least nine males holding breeding territories in the **Langsett Res./Langsett Banks** area, 13+ singing males in April in “greater” **Marsden**, but most conspicuously at **Winscar**, where at least 13 were in song at 0520hrs. on 11<sup>th</sup> May (MC). If dawn counts were made at other sites perhaps many more birds would be located.

One bird was taken in a garden at **Fixby** by a Sparrowhawk on 8<sup>th</sup> May and in the same garden one drowned in a stream on 13<sup>th</sup> August, but a juv. was present on 14<sup>th</sup> (DSH).

The only evidence of autumn immigration came from the **Wessenden Valley** where in October two on 16<sup>th</sup>, one on 25<sup>th</sup> and two on 27<sup>th</sup> flew S/SW and perhaps from **Scammonden** where single birds were present on 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> November.

## **REDWING**

*Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor

After the scarcity of birds in December 2000, there was a surprisingly large number of sightings, from over 20 localities, of birds in January, but these were followed by few reports in the rest of the first winter period to the last on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**January** – on 1<sup>st</sup> 40+ at **Hall Bower**, 18 at **Scammonden**, three at **Blackmoorfoot** and described as “numerous” at **West Slaithwaite**, followed by “several dozen” at **Upper Park Wood** and 28 flying south at **Dewsbury SF** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, then 23 at **Crosland Moor** and ten at **Horbury Wyke** on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Later in the month birds were reported at 16 sites but the only double figure counts were c.100 at **Brown’s Edge** and 40 on berries in a garden at **Beaumont Park** on 5<sup>th</sup>, c.20 at **Gilbert Hill** on 6<sup>th</sup>, 18 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8<sup>th</sup> with 11 there on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12+ at **Dalton** on 16<sup>th</sup>, 15 at **Lindley** and 18 at **Bretton** on 18<sup>th</sup>, 40 at **Ringstone Edge**, “numerous” at **Golcar** on 27<sup>th</sup> and ten at **Butterley** on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**February** – with the exception of ten at **Ingbirchworth** on 17<sup>th</sup>, three at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20<sup>th</sup> and a few at **Golcar** on 24<sup>th</sup>, all records were in the first half of the month – at **Blackmoorfoot** 43 on 1<sup>st</sup>, eight on 8<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, at **Bretton** 50 on 1<sup>st</sup>, six on 9<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 60 by the **R.Colne between Marsden and Slaithwaite** on 7<sup>th</sup>, two at **Dalton** on 8<sup>th</sup> and one at **Taylor Hill** on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**March** – 12 were at **Dalton** during a snowstorm on 1<sup>st</sup>, c.50 at **Waterloo** on 4<sup>th</sup>, 500+ flew WSW at **Fixby** at 1145hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup> and a few were present there on the following days

to 12<sup>th</sup>. Ten were at **Lindley Moor** on 10<sup>th</sup>, three at **Ingbirchworth** on 11<sup>th</sup> and 38 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**April** – the only records were two on 2<sup>nd</sup> and three on 4<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot** and a late bird at **Marsden** on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Returning birds were noted from 23<sup>rd</sup> September before a considerable influx in October but few remained at the year end.

**September** – one flew west at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, six over **Shelley** on 25<sup>th</sup>, one over **Kirkheaton** on 26<sup>th</sup>, 13 south at **Dewsbury SF** on 29<sup>th</sup> and birds were heard overflying **Horbury Wyke** on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**October** – birds were reported from 19 localities mainly moving south or west and the great majority in the second half of the month. Impressive numbers were recorded on v.m.w. at **Wessenden** with 83 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 52 on 25<sup>th</sup>, 579 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 3400 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 786 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 255 on 31<sup>st</sup> all going S/SW. Significant maxima at other sites were 244 south at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15<sup>th</sup>, with 55 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 67 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 154 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 51 on 24<sup>th</sup> all moving south. At **Dewsbury SF** 384 south on 14<sup>th</sup>, 68 south on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 155 south on 25<sup>th</sup>, at **Lindley Moor** 40 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 40+ south over **Turley Cote Lane** on 16<sup>th</sup>, 50 at **Denby Dale** and 56 feeding at **Meltham Grange** on 18<sup>th</sup>, 36 at **Scammonden** and 50 west over **Colnebridge** on 28<sup>th</sup> and 160 west over **Barkisland** on 29<sup>th</sup>. **November** – only three sites reported birds; **Blackmoorfoot** had birds on four dates with a max. of 12 on 7<sup>th</sup>, **West Vale** on ten dates to 20<sup>th</sup> with max. of 72 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 70 on 18<sup>th</sup> and **Bretton Park** where there were c.20 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**December** – the only records were eight on 1<sup>st</sup> and 20 on 20<sup>th</sup> at **Elland GPs**, 17 at **Wood Nook** on 6<sup>th</sup>, singles at **Golcar** and **Bretton Park** on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> respectively, **Grimescar** up to eight regularly, **Oldfield** 23 on 25<sup>th</sup> and singles at **Crosland Moor** on 29<sup>th</sup> and **Blackmoorfoot** on 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **MISTLE THRUSH**

*Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3)

This remains a very much under-reported species, breeding evidence being submitted from only eight sites.

One very experienced observer reports the species as less frequent than usual on his local patches and this observation would appear to be borne out by the lower counts in the post-breeding season, the only double figure numbers being listed below.

**Greenhead Park** – up to ten seen regularly.

**Healey Mills** – 11 on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

**Marsden** – 18 on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**Ford Inn** – c.30 on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**Lindley Rec.** – 18 on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**Dewsbury SF** – 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> September (72 in September 2000).

**Elland GPs** – 27 on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Scout Dike** – 18 on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Scammonden** – 13 on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

V.m.w. in the **Wessenden Valley** produced single figures on seven dates between 16<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November but with a high count of 21 on 27<sup>th</sup> October.



### **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**     *Locustella naevia*

Occasional migrant breeder (1)

At **Elland GPs** a male was reeling from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May, was joined by a female on 11<sup>th</sup>, the pair observed carrying nesting material in mid month and reeling continued to be heard to 17<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately no young were seen (JB,JED,HBC).

The only other record was of a bird in grassland to the southwest of **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> July (DB).

### **SEDGE WARBLER**

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1)

A much reduced showing compared to last year, with singing males at six sites and breeding proved at only three. Present in the area between 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Dewsbury SF** – the first was a singing male on 3<sup>rd</sup> May increasing to two on 16<sup>th</sup>. Two pairs bred on the works, with four fledged young being fed on 24<sup>th</sup> July and remaining to 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Elland GPs** – a singing male on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> May with a second on 11<sup>th</sup>. Three males were singing by 14<sup>th</sup> May when a fourth bird was present. Nest building was observed on 18<sup>th</sup> and one was carrying food on 15<sup>th</sup> June, followed by an adult feeding a young bird out of the nest on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The last report was on 17<sup>th</sup> August.

**Horbury area** – the first singing male was heard on 7<sup>th</sup> May and had increased to five on 13<sup>th</sup> (two at **Wyke**, two at **Strands**, one between). At least two remained to 19<sup>th</sup> July and one to 21<sup>st</sup> but no breeding evidence was obtained.

**Colnebridge** – a singing male on 9<sup>th</sup> June, but not present on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – a juv. seen briefly on 13<sup>th</sup> August.

**Colnebridge SP** – one pair bred; one on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. (A new breeding site).

### **REED WARBLER**

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare breeder (1) and passage migrant

Reported regularly from only one site, breeding suspected but not proven.

**Elland GPs** – two singing males from 6<sup>th</sup> May and three birds present on 9<sup>th</sup> July. One pair probably attempted to breed but no proof was obtained. Last sighting was on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Horbury Wyke** – one on 19<sup>th</sup> May was the only record at this traditional site; low water levels probably contributed to its absence.

**Bretton Lakes** – a singing male on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

**Dewsbury SF** – single passage birds on 27<sup>th</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> September.

### **LESSER WHITETHROAT**

*Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1)

Present in the area between 24<sup>th</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> September. Pairs bred at two sites and probably in at least two others.

**Shelley** – a singing male from 24<sup>th</sup> April and one pair bred. Last sighting was on 25<sup>th</sup> September (SRG).

**Ingbirchworth** – a singing male on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April (MC, JMcL); at least one pair bred and fledged two young (BBSG).

**Dewsbury SF** – single birds on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May (JH).

**Penistone** – a male was holding territory in Waterhall Park for at least a week from early May (NEP).

**Denby Dale** – in May one on 10<sup>th</sup>, two on 14<sup>th</sup>, one remaining to 24<sup>th</sup> (TM).

**Blackmoorfoot** – a singing male on 12<sup>th</sup> May only (MLD).

**Scout Dike Res.** – one pair probably bred (BBSG). After the breeding season one on 28<sup>th</sup> August and in September three on 1<sup>st</sup>, singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (RJB).

**Horbury area** – a singing male in Balk Lane and a pair on the railway embankment on 13<sup>th</sup> May, one on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Probably bred (BA, DHP).

**Thornhill, Millbank** – a singing male on 18<sup>th</sup> May (BA).

**Bradley Park G.C.** – one on 18<sup>th</sup> May (DWB).

**Emley Moor** – one on 2<sup>nd</sup> July (SRG).

**Waterloo** – at least one near Morrison's Supermarket on 3<sup>rd</sup> July (BA).

### **COMMON WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2)

Birds were rather late in arriving this year with only two sites having records in April. Reports were received from 17 sites and a total of nearly 50 pairs/singing males, an increase on last year, located despite the fact that some favoured parts of the **Calder Valley** were not surveyed.

The first returning birds were at **Dewsbury SF** on 27<sup>th</sup> April increasing to five on 28<sup>th</sup>, when three were also at **Elland GPs**. Numbers increased further at these two sites to eight at the former on 4<sup>th</sup> May and six singing males at **Elland** on 5<sup>th</sup>, before birds appeared elsewhere – singing males at **Broadstones Lodge** on 7<sup>th</sup>, **Crosland Heath** and **Dogley NR** (two) on 10<sup>th</sup> and **Ingbirchworth** on 12<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding was confirmed at **Dewsbury SF** (six pairs), **Elland GPs** (probably at least three pairs), **Colnebridge SP**, **Helme**, **Blacker Beck**, **Royd Moor** and **Langsett**. An interesting development this year was further encroachment into higher altitudes, with the first confirmed breeding for **Langsett Res.** and singing birds near **Upper Midbope** and **Ainley Top**. Other sites where singing males were found were **Waterloo**, **Shelley**, **Shepley**, **Emley**, **Shelley Woodhouse**, **Ingbirchworth** (two), **Scout Dike Res.** (four), **Royd Moor**, **Grimescar**, **Ravensthorpe GPs** (five), **Horbury area** (five), **Dalton**, **Gnathwaite** and **Colnebridge** (two) and breeding probably occurred at some of these.

Autumn passage/feeding concentrations were conspicuous at **Dewsbury SF** with a steady increase from 30 birds on 30<sup>th</sup> July to an amazing count of 81 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, followed by a decline to 20 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 29<sup>th</sup> August, and in September three on 12<sup>th</sup> then singles on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Latest reports from other sites were 11<sup>th</sup> August at **Broadstones**, 17<sup>th</sup> August at **Elland** and at **Scout Dike** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> (in song) and 20<sup>th</sup> September.

## GARDEN WARBLER

*Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2)

Although fewer singing males (a minimum of 36) were located than in 2000, some key sites (e.g. **Bretton Park**, **Royd Moor**, **Scout Dike**) could not be visited owing to access restrictions, so there would probably have been a slight increase if full coverage could have been made. Present in the area between 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> September but only two sites had birds in April.

**Royd Moor** – a singing male on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> July with at least two birds present on 4<sup>th</sup> August and last reported on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**Elland GPs** – two singing males on 28<sup>th</sup> April, increasing to max. of ten on 11<sup>th</sup> May and 12 on 17<sup>th</sup> June, a big increase on previous years. At least one pair was proved to breed and the last record was two on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**Gunthwaite** – singing male reported on 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**Shelley** – singing male on 11<sup>th</sup> May but did not remain to breed.

**Winscar** – singing male on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ravensthorpe GPs** – a male on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Horbury Wyke** – three males on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Scout Dike** – two males on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Tunnel End** – a singing male on 14<sup>th</sup> May, two males on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Grimescar** – male on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Birchenclyffe** – male on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

**Marsden** – singing males in the old goods yard on 29<sup>th</sup> May and by the R.Calder on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**Langsett Banks** – three males held breeding territories.

**Cliff Wood** – at least one male had a breeding territory.

**Orange Wood, Helme** – in June a pair built several “cock” nests but there was no breeding attempt.

**Dene Wood** – two singing males on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Brockholes** – singing male on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Colnebridge** – male on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Sparth Res.** – male on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – male on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Denby Dale** – singing male on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

## BLACKCAP

*Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3) and scarce winter visitor

In the first winter period a garden at **Fixby** held two females on 13<sup>th</sup>, a male and two females on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January with the male and one female remaining to at least 11<sup>th</sup> March. At **Taylor Hill** a male was another garden visitor on 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> February. In March a singing male in **Norman Road, Birkby** on 4<sup>th</sup> was probably an overwintering individual as were a female at **Almondbury** on 10<sup>th</sup> and males at **Skelmanthorpe** on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> and **Greenhead** on 29<sup>th</sup> March. One at **Golcar Tip** on 9<sup>th</sup> April could have been a wintering bird or the first spring arrival.

Genuine spring arrivals probably commenced with singing males at **Deffer Wood**, **Magdale** and **Berry Brow** all on 12<sup>th</sup> April, followed by others at **Horbury Wyke** and **Grimescar** on 13<sup>th</sup>, **Woodsome** on 15<sup>th</sup>, with two here on 16<sup>th</sup> when birds were also at **Denby Dale** and **Thunderbridge**, **Blackmoorfoot** on 17<sup>th</sup>, **Big Valley** on 19<sup>th</sup>, **Elland GPs** (two), **Bretton Park** and **Brighouse** (two) on 20<sup>th</sup> and **Dewsbury SF** on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Most birds appeared to arrive from late April into May and a total of c.80 singing males, well down on the year 2000 but probably reflecting access difficulties, located at 46 sites.

**Elland GPs** had a max. of eight singing males on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, **Bretton Park** six on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, **Cliff Wood** five occupied territories, **Langsett Banks**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and **Dean Wood** three singing males each. Breeding was proven only at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Horbury Wyke** and **Elland GPs**, where a female was feeding young with a female Common Darter Dragonfly (*Sympetrum striolatum*) on 13<sup>th</sup> July (WB).

After the breeding season there was an obvious influx into the **Grimescar Valley** where two males and four females were present on 16<sup>th</sup> September, a male on 19<sup>th</sup> September and two males on 7<sup>th</sup> October and there were single males in gardens at **Shelley** and **Longwood** on 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October respectively.

Wintering males were discovered at **Birkby** on 10<sup>th</sup> November, **Waterhall Park**, **Penistone** from 5<sup>th</sup> to at least 17<sup>th</sup> December, **Norman Park** on 9<sup>th</sup> December and in a **Taylor Hill** garden on 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December with a female present there on 16<sup>th</sup>.

## WOOD WARBLER

*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Migrant breeder (1)

A slightly more encouraging picture this year after the disappointments of recent years but still nowhere approaching its former status.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – one on the south bank on 29<sup>th</sup> April (TG).

**Cliff Wood**, **Langsett** – one male held a breeding territory (BBSG).

**Dean Wood** – a singing male on 3<sup>rd</sup> May (MID).

**Netherwood (Park Gate Clough)** – a singing male on 1<sup>st</sup> and two singing on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. On 17<sup>th</sup> June one was seen taking food to a possible nest site and song/display was still taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June (TG, JMP, BA, JED, DM).

## CHIFFCHAFF

*Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder (3) and passage visitor

A minimum of 78 singing males were reported from just over 40 sites, a slight increase on the previous year. One in a garden at **Cowcliffe** on 15<sup>th</sup> January was the only individual reported in the first winter period and was presumably the bird remaining from 29<sup>th</sup> December 2000.

The spring arrival was later than usual with no records until 28<sup>th</sup> March at **Blackmoorfoot** (three), **Denby Dale** (three) and at **Elland GPs** and **Park Wood**, followed by 3+ birds at both **New Hall Woods** and **Stockmoor Common** on 31<sup>st</sup>. In early April singing males appeared at **Grimescar** and **Horbury Wyke** (two) on 1<sup>st</sup>, at **Shelley**, **Smith Wood**, **Jenkinson Wood** and **Dewsbury SF** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, at **Bretton** and **Ingbirchworth** on 8<sup>th</sup> and at **Beaumont Park** on 9<sup>th</sup>, after which there was a widespread arrival.

Most sites had one or two singing males but at least ten were at **Bretton** on 20<sup>th</sup> April, seven at **Elland GPs** on 5<sup>th</sup> May and eight males held breeding territories at **Langsett Banks** and several sites held three males. Breeding evidence was submitted for only two localities, successfully at **Horbury Wyke** but failing at the egg stage in **New House Wood**.

Singing birds in autumn were widespread – at **New Mill** on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup> September, at **TP Wood** in September, **Grimescar** on 19<sup>th</sup> September, **Scout Dike** on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, **Royd Moor** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and **Tunnel End** on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Most birds had left the area by late August but in September singles were at **Dewsbury SF** on 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, at **Scout Dike** on 22<sup>nd</sup> (five) and 29<sup>th</sup> (three) and at **Hill Top, Slaithwaite** on 28<sup>th</sup>. A few also lingered into October – at **Dewsbury SF** on 1<sup>st</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, in the **Longwood Valley** on 15<sup>th</sup> and at **Scout Dike** on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> with a very late bird, possibly overwintering, in a **Langsett** garden on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

## **WILLOW WARBLER**

*Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4-5)

The first arrivals were quite early, at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and at **Dewsbury SF** on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, followed by birds at **New Mill** on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Bretton Lakes** and **Ingbirchworth** on 8<sup>th</sup>, **Bradley Park G.C.** and **Thornhill Millbank** (three) on 11<sup>th</sup>, **Shelley** on 12<sup>th</sup> and **Elland GPs** (six) on 14<sup>th</sup>. In the lowerlying areas birds were back in numbers by 15<sup>th</sup> but the first bird did not reach **Holmfirth** until 20<sup>th</sup> and **Dunford Bridge** until 21<sup>st</sup>, on which date an influx was also noted in the **Denby Dale** area.

Even taking into account the problems of access created by the F&M restrictions, numbers of singing males appeared to be considerably reduced compared with recent years, max. being 12 at **Elland GPs**, eight at **North Dean**, seven at **Cliff Wood** and six at both **Blackmoorfoot** and **Dunford Bridge Cycle Track**. Unfortunately it was not possible to census the **Ingbirchworth** area, where over 100 singing males held territories in the last two years.

Breeding was confirmed at only two sites, **Colnebridge SP** (one pair successful) and **Horbury Wyke** (two pairs successful).

There was little evidence of postbreeding passage apart from juvs. at **Harden** on 16<sup>th</sup> July and 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August (after which the resident observer was away for most of September) and **Blackmoorfoot** which had 2-3 almost daily in July and August, but these figures are probably on the low side as no ringing, which reveals the presence of unsuspected birds, was undertaken.

In September birds occurred at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> (two) and 15<sup>th</sup>, **New Mill** on 16<sup>th</sup>, **Ingbirchworth** on 17<sup>th</sup> and finally at **Tunnel End** on 30<sup>th</sup>.



### GOLDCREST

*Regulus regulus*

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

Most reports of this species were in the first three and last three months of the year with very few records in the breeding season or summer months.

21 sites had birds between January and March, 14 in January, 13 in February and seven in March but the highest counts were only three at **Bretton** on 21<sup>st</sup> January and at **Elland GPs** on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

A pair bred successfully at **Hagg Wood** but a nest containing downy young in **New Hall Wood** on 19<sup>th</sup> May had been predated by 24<sup>th</sup>.

A bird at **Cannon Hall** on 11<sup>th</sup> August was the only other record before mid- September after which birds were recorded from 15 sites and in greater numbers than in the

early months and mostly from mid-October onwards. During this period **Blackmoorfoot** had records on nine dates in September (max. three), 15 dates in October (max. four) and 17 dates in November (max. five) with just one in December on 5<sup>th</sup>. At other sites max. were at **Elland** 12 on 27<sup>th</sup> October and ten on 26<sup>th</sup> December, up to four at **Grimescar**, eight at **Marsden** in a mixed flock on 10<sup>th</sup> November, at least 15 at **Langsett Banks** on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 20+ in **Deffer Wood** on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and at least six at **Squirrel Ditch** on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

One was killed striking a house window at **Fixby** on 25<sup>th</sup> September (DSH) and during the year gardens were also visited at **Shelley**, **Gledholt**, **Daltou**, **Taylor Hill** and **Golcar**.

### FIRECREST

*Regulus ignicapillus*

Rare visitor

A female passed through the observer's garden at **Shepley** on 3<sup>rd</sup> November (TM).

### SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

*Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder (1-2) and passage visitor

A much better year for this species with breeding attempted at a minimum of ten sites and probable in four others. Birds were present between 12<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Denby Dale** – birds returned on 12<sup>th</sup> May and were feeding young on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**Marsden** – one in the centre of the village on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – one from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May and later bred successfully in the south bank woodland, fledging a second brood on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

**Orange Wood** – a pair present on 30<sup>th</sup> May and bred successfully, two birds remaining to at least 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**Helme** – a pair bred in June.

**Storthes Hall Woods** – one on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Thunderbridge** – one on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Longwood Valley** – one on 29<sup>th</sup> May, three on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Eastergate, Marsden** – two present from 1<sup>st</sup> June. A pair was nest building on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and two pairs were present on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Wellhouse, Golcar** – a pair nested in climbing Hydrangea.

**Dean Wood, Netherton** – a pair was at a nest in a Silver Birch on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**Hagg Wood** – a pair was present on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> June but could not be located later.

**Langsett** – a pair bred in the village car park.

**Langsett Banks** – at least one male held a breeding territory.

**Cliff Wood** – one male held a breeding territory.

**Flouch** – at least one pair bred successfully at Little Rannah Farm and probably a second pair.

**Netherthong** – a pair made a breeding attempt in a garden, reaching the egg laying stage before deserting. (A pair had bred here successfully in several recent years).

**Bretton Park** – present in the breeding season with a max. of seven present on 7<sup>th</sup> July, a strong indication of breeding.

**Royd Moor Res.** – one on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**Grimescar Valley** – one on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – present, but no date given.

## **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Migrant breeder (1)

Reported from only four sites but breeding was confirmed at two of them.

**Cliff Wood, Langsett** – at least five pairs bred and two family parties were seen on 19<sup>th</sup> June (BBSG).

**New House Wood** – a pair had returned by 18<sup>th</sup> May and were feeding young in a nest box on 24<sup>th</sup> June (JMCL).

**Denby Dale** – two singing males on 24<sup>th</sup> May (TM).

**Hagg Wood, Thongsbridge** – a singing male on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May, joined by a second male on 10<sup>th</sup>. One of the birds was a 1<sup>st</sup> summer and carried a BTO-type metal ring on its right leg. Unfortunately no female appeared although one of the males was seen entering two different nest boxes on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. One of the birds remained to 6<sup>th</sup> June (DSI,BA,DM, DHP,MC).

## **LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudata*

Resident breeder (2-3)

The situation was much healthier than that reported in 2000. Birds were reported from almost 60 sites and breeding confirmed at a minimum of 18, compared with only five last year. At least seven other sites had birds in the breeding season.

At the beginning of the year birds were recorded at many localities including several gardens, but double figure counts were only achieved at **Elland GPs** – 35 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 30 in three parties on 9<sup>th</sup> January, **Blackmoorfoot** – 11 on 9<sup>th</sup> January, **Lockwood** – up to ten, **Gledholt** – up to 15 and **Royd House Wood** – 12 on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Breeding attempts were reported for the first time at **Shelley** and at **Colnebridge** (two family parties on 10<sup>th</sup> June), **Lockwood** (nest building on 19<sup>th</sup> March), **Dean Wood** (family party on 4<sup>th</sup> June), **Hagg Wood**, **Dogley**, **West Vale**, **Elland GPs** (three pairs

building on 4<sup>th</sup> March) and reported successfully from **Orange Wood, New Hall Woods** (four nests, two successful), **Ossett, Earlsheaton, Horbury Wyke/Blacker Beck** (four nests, two successful) and **Bullcliff Wood** but failed at **Stockmoor Common** and **Stoneycliffe Wood** (two pairs). Elsewhere pairs were at **Bretton Park, Cowlersley, Deffer Wood, Lepton Great Wood, Lower Stones Wood, Netherwood** and **Penny Spring Wood** in the breeding season.

At least 54 birds of this species in a mixed tit flock at **Horbury Wyke** on 28<sup>th</sup> June would appear to indicate a very successful breeding season and double figures were present at a further eleven sites later in the year – at **Blackmoorfoot** ten on 19<sup>th</sup> July and 11 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, **Lindley Moor** 11 on 31<sup>st</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August, 13 on 20<sup>th</sup> and ten on 30<sup>th</sup> August, **Dalton** at least 12 on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, **Scout Dike** 26 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, **Dewsbury SF** 12 on 17<sup>th</sup> September, **Marsden** 21 on 1<sup>st</sup> October, **Langsett Banks** c.35 on 24<sup>th</sup> November, **Deffer Wood** 23 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, **Gledholt** up to 15 in December and at **Bretton Lakes** 21 on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

The species was a welcome visitor to gardens in **Dalton, Gledholt, Golcar, Hinchliffe Mill, Lindley Moor, Lockwood** (three sites), **Taylor Hill** and **Wooldale**.

## **WILLOW TIT**

*Parus montanus*

Resident breeder (1)

There were fewer reports this year, from a smaller number of sites, although breeding was confirmed at three localities.

**Bretton Lakes** – one on 14<sup>th</sup> and three on 28<sup>th</sup> January were the only records but the site was out of bounds during the F&M crisis.

**Dewsbury SF** – two were at the feeding station feeding on nuts on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January and 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – two on the south side on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Stoneycliffe Wood** – one on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Horbury Wyke** – a pair on 29<sup>th</sup> April and bred successfully. Reported on six dates between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**Scout Dike Res.** – a pair with at least two fledged young on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**Royd Moor Res.** – bred successfully, a pair with 3-4 young observed on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Regular sightings in July/August and one on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Denby Dale** – one in the grounds of the RSPB offices on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## **COAL TIT**

*Parus ater*

Resident breeder (3)

Although this species remains largely under-reported more records were received this year from about 20 sites, mainly gardens.

Breeding evidence was submitted from **Deffer Wood, Shelley, New Mill, Salendine Nook** and **Gledholt** with birds also present in the breeding season at **Dalton, Jenkinson Wood, Holly Bank, Penny Spring Wood, Taylor Hill** and **Hinchliffe Mill**.

The highest counts were 25+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 13<sup>th</sup> January, nine in **Marsden** on 5<sup>th</sup> October, c.12 in **Deffer Wood** on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and up to 12 regularly at **Gledholt**. At



**Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where the species is scarce, there were records on 8<sup>th</sup> January (two), 29<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> October (two).

#### **BLUE TIT**

*Parus caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5)

A slight increase in the number of records of this species from ten sites, with breeding reported at **New Mill**, **Shelley**, **Lindley Moor**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Fixby** and **Gledholt**, where the species is described as probably the most numerous in the area with upwards of 20 pairs.

Max. numbers reported were 40+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 12 on a **New Mill** bird table on 6<sup>th</sup> June and c.25 in a **Lindley Moor** garden on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

At **Harden**, where the species is described as rare, one was in the observer's garden in sunny weather on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **GREAT TIT**

*Parus major*

Resident breeder (4)

Very few records received.

Bred at **New Mill**, **Salendine Nook** and **Gledholt**, where up to ten were regular garden visitors. Reported also from **Taylor Hill**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Dewsbury SF** and **Brookfoot**, which had a count of eleven on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

A dead juv. was found in a garden at **Harden** on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **NUTHATCH**

*Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder (2-3)

This species continues to extend its range and to increase in numbers and can now be found in most areas apart from the higher altitudes. Favoured areas remain the valleys of the **Fenay Beck**, **R.Holme**, **Hall Dike** and **R.Dearne**. Over 40 pairs/singing nuthatches were located even though some sites, for example in the **Shepley/Denby Dale** locality, were not visited. Five singing males were located at **Bretton Lakes** where up to 12 individuals were seen both at the beginning and end of the year, and five birds were present at **Cannon Hall** on 27<sup>th</sup> April. A minimum of nine singing males were present in the **Almondbury/Longley** area, up to four nearby in **Woodsome Road** woodlands and at least five in the **Thunderbridge** area. In the **Holme Valley** and woodlands along its tributary streams 13 males/pairs were located. **Healey Greave Wood** and **Shelley Wood** at **Kirkburton** were both occupied and at least one pair bred in the **Grimescar Valley** and additional pairs were at **New House Wood** (two), **Deffer Wood** and **Gunthwaite**, with one in an **Edgerton** garden on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Additional sites which had birds outside the breeding season were **Denby Dale** (February), **Dean Wood** (July-October), **Blackmoorfoot Res.**(August), **New Mill** (August-December), **Hinchliffe Mill** (first ever record on 15<sup>th</sup> September), **Taylor Hill** (November-December), **Orange Wood** (December), **Squirrel Ditch** (December) and three well separated garden localities in **Lockwood**, at one of which it was the observer's first sighting of the species in 40 years, having appeared on 27<sup>th</sup> September and then daily to the year end (TC).

## TREECREEPER

*Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (2-3)

This species was reported from 33 sites, about half of the records coming in the breeding season.

Breeding was confirmed at **Helme**, **Orange Wood**, **Elland GPs**, **Dean Wood**, **Magdale** and **Hagg Wood** and birds were also located in the nesting season in the **Ryburn Valley**, at **Lumb Lane**, **Grimescar**, **New Mill**, **Longley**, **Cannon Hall**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Woodsome Road**, **Mytholmbridge**, **Beaumont Park**, **New Hall Wood** and **Slaithwaite**, at some of which breeding doubtless took place.

Outside the breeding season individuals were also observed at **Morton Wood**, **Golcar**, **Fixby**, **Longley** (4+ on 15<sup>th</sup> December), **Oldfield**, **Taylor Hill**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **New House Wood**, **Denby Dale**, **Longwood Valley**, **Royd House Wood**, **Lockwood**, **Storthes Hall Woods**, **Langsett Res.** (5+ on 10<sup>th</sup> November) and **Bretton Lakes** (10+ on 8<sup>th</sup> December).

## JAY

*Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2)

There were reports of this species from about 30 sites, mainly in the winter period, but particularly in September/October when birds become very obvious.

In the early months the highest numbers notified were four at **Longley Park G.C.** on 25<sup>th</sup> January, five at **Elland GPs** on 28<sup>th</sup> January, four in a garden at **New Mill** on 10<sup>th</sup> March and eight at **Hinchliffe Mill** on 30<sup>th</sup> March "making unfamiliar noises".

The only breeding report came from **Gledholt** where young birds frequented the observer's garden in May and 2-3 pairs were recorded in **TP Wood**. The species can be very unobtrusive in the breeding season.

In autumn higher numbers were reported, with five at **Langsett Res.** and five moving south at **Hartcliff Hill** on 6<sup>th</sup> October, seven at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October with five on 12<sup>th</sup>. Two flew over **Lindley Moor** on 25<sup>th</sup> September, birds were reported moving regularly in the **Scammonden** area in September/October and one was recorded on a v.m.w. at **Wessenden** on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Birds visited gardens in **Fixby**, **Dalton**, **Shelley**, **New Mill**, **Taylor Hill**, **Gledholt** and **Hinchliffe Mill**.

## MAGPIE

*Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4-5)

Few observers submitted records of this very common species and breeding was only reported at **Kirkheaton** and **Gledholt**.

Counts received were ten on **Lindley Rec.** on 20<sup>th</sup> January, a high number for this site, at **Dalton** 20+ on 4<sup>th</sup> March and 18 together at a different locality on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, a max. of 26 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7<sup>th</sup> August, up to 15 regularly at **Gledholt** and 34+ at **Cromwell Bottom** on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Interestingly this species is reported as regular, but less frequent than Jay, at **Hinchliffe Mill** with never more than two birds together (HQ).

## JACKDAW

*Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4)

Breeding was reported only from **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Golcar** and **Dunford Bridge**, where a pair nested on the Stanhope Arms Hotel.

c.1000 were with Rooks near **Royd Moor Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

A leucistic bird was seen at **Marsden** on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## ROOK

*Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5)

Once again little information was received.

Occupied rookeries were reported at **Mount Road**, **Marsden** (13 nests), **Crosland Moor** (8 nests), **Lower Stones Wood** (c.50 nests) and **Armitage Bridge** (no count).

Feeding flocks counted comprised c.200 birds at **Royd Moor** on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 32 on 7<sup>th</sup> February at **Dewshury SF** with just 14 there on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 128 at **Thornhill** on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 85 at **Ingbirchworth** on 31<sup>st</sup> July and c.40 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

## CARRION CROW

*Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4)

Breeding reports came only from **New Mill**, **Gledholt** and **Golcar**.

The only counts received were at **Brookfoot**, **Elland** 22 on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 21 on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 17 on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 17 on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 18 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 20 on 14<sup>th</sup> November and 22 on 14<sup>th</sup> December, at **Blackmoorfoot** 32 on the ice on 20<sup>th</sup> January and 23 on ice on 6<sup>th</sup> March, c.200 at **Blackley Tip** on 18<sup>th</sup> March and up to 60 near **Scammonden** on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

## HOODED CROW

*Corvus cornix*

Rare visitor

This has recently been recognised as a full species by the British Ornithologists' Union, having been split from Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*).

A couple described a bird in their garden at **Holme** for two days in early May and when asked if it could have been a Jackdaw replied "No, it was a big bugger with a grey back!" (via DHP).

On 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> May one flew north at **Harden** at c.1930hrs. (JMD) and could presumably have been the individual referred to above.

The 15<sup>th</sup> record for the area and the first since 1993.

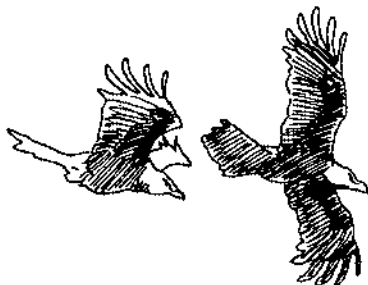
## RAVEN

*Corvus*

*corax*

Resident breeder (1)

Once again the species was reported in all months, from two dozen sites, but the high numbers in the **Langsett** area in 2000 were not repeated and there was only one record from the **Ingbirchworth** area. No breeding evidence was obtained.



**Langsett area** – three were at **Hordron** in the **Little Don Valley** on 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January. At **Langsett Res.** one was displaying over **North America Wood** on 1<sup>st</sup> April, one on 7<sup>th</sup> April, three on 30<sup>th</sup> July, singles on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October increasing to three on 23<sup>rd</sup>, then two on 27<sup>th</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> December (BBSG).

**Marsden/Wessenden/Deer Hill area** – singles were at **Wessenden Head and Black Moss Res.** on 14<sup>th</sup> February (same bird involved?), over **Marsden** on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> April (three birds), 2<sup>nd</sup> May (in heavy moult) and flying west on 16<sup>th</sup> October, in the **Wessenden Valley** on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> October (in heavy moult), 28<sup>th</sup> October (no moult) and feeding on a dead sheep on 18<sup>th</sup> November, at **Deer Hill** two on 31<sup>st</sup> August and one at **Pule Hill** on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Nearby two flew over **Slaithwaite** towards **Scapegoat Hill** on 28<sup>th</sup> January and two over **Sparth Res.** towards **Deer Hill** on 3<sup>rd</sup> March (TG,DMP,SF,JMN,JMP,PDB).

**Winscar/Harden/Snailsden area** – at **Harden** one on 13<sup>th</sup> and two W/SW into a strong gale on 31<sup>st</sup> March, two on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> May, one on 12<sup>th</sup> and three on 20<sup>th</sup> May and in June one on 3<sup>rd</sup> and two on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two were at **Snailsden** on 18<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> May, one flew NW over **Windle Edge** on 26<sup>th</sup> March and at **Winscar Res** one on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and two soaring and displaying on 25<sup>th</sup> December (MC,DHP,GBS).

**Yateholme/Holme Moss** – two over **Holme Moss** in diving display on 13<sup>th</sup> March (MC) and one in an aerial dispute with a Common Buzzard over **Yateholme** on 10<sup>th</sup> June (HQ).

**Whitley Common** – two feeding on a sheep carcass on 23<sup>rd</sup> January (BBSG).

**Shelley** – one flew over calling on 19<sup>th</sup> February (SRG).

**Buckstones** – one on 15<sup>th</sup> June (JED).

**Skelmanthorpe** – three flew over on 22<sup>nd</sup> September (JMD).

**Scapegoat Hill** – one on 2<sup>nd</sup> November (TG).

**Washpit Valley** – a calling bird flew over low in misty conditions on 24<sup>th</sup> November (HQ).

## STARLING

### *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5) and numerous winter visitor

There was a welcome increase in the records of this still widespread and common species. Almost unbelievably it has now been added to the Red List Species “of high conservation concern” as a result of a population decline of more than 50% in the UK over the last 25 years. Breeding was reported only from **Lindley, New Mill, Hinchliffe Mill, Taylor Hill** and **Gledholt** (5-6 pairs) and there were garden flocks in winter of c.20 at **Lindley** and up to 30 at **Gledholt**.

Flock counts received were c.300 at **Bird's Edge** on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 200 at **Broadstones** on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 100+ at **Blackstone Edge** on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 450 at **Broadstones** and 1200 (mostly adults) at **Cop Hill, Slaithwaite** on 6<sup>th</sup> June, at **Dewsbury SF** in July 55 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 220 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 420 west on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1235 west on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 320 feeding on the works on 21<sup>st</sup> November. There was an influx in mid-October which produced counts of c.1000 at **Scout Dike** on 20<sup>th</sup>, 630 at **Meltham Grange** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 1500+ feeding there on 10<sup>th</sup> November, c.300 at **Flight Hill** on 27<sup>th</sup> October and a large flock (but not counted) going to roost in **Elland** on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

V.m.w. in the **Wessenden Valley** produced small numbers of up to 40 birds from late October to mid-November.

## **HOUSE SPARROW**

*Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5)

There was a further slight increase in records submitted for this species, which also has been added to the Red List Species because of its rapid decline as a breeding species over the last 25 years. Several experienced observers made interesting comments on the species' status.

Breeding was confirmed at **New Mill**, with young birds present from 26<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June, at **Dunford Bridge** (where the species is locally rare) on the Stanhope Arms Hotel, **Langsett** (down to one breeding pair), **Gledholt** 4-6 pairs and in the **Holme Valley** in small numbers at **Burnlee**, **Netherthong** and in **Dunford Road** in the centre of **Holmfirth** but none in **Hinchliffe Mill** or **Holmbridge**.

At **Salendine Nook** a slight increase in garden numbers and frequency was detected with a similar report from the **Elland** area, while at **New Mill** there was no sign of a decline with between ten and 30 birds occurring daily in the observer's garden. In the **Beaumont Park** area the species was described as being quite plentiful but numbers were difficult to assess and at **Taylor Hill** the species is a regular, but not daily, garden visitor in small numbers. Conversely, however, one garden in **Lockwood** had only one bird compared with 20 in 1999, yet another site nearby had up to 40 birds.

Numbers reported elsewhere were 12+ at **Kirkheaton** on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 13 in a **Lindley** garden on 13<sup>th</sup> January, up to 30 regularly in **Lumh Lane**, **Almondbury** and **Greenhead Park**, a flock of 30 in a **Shelley** garden after the breeding season, a max. of 25 in two flocks in **Marsden** on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 40 feeding in a garden at **Golcar** on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

## **TREE SPARROW**

*Passer montanus*

Resident breeder (1)

A rather disappointing year after the encouraging signs in 2000, with only one pair proved breeding.

**Lumb Lane, Almondbury** – in January 12 on 7<sup>th</sup>, two on 17<sup>th</sup> and five on 20<sup>th</sup> at the regular feeding station. Nearby four were present at a barn on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> April indicating probable breeding in the area, but there were no records after this (BA, DS&VAI,DHP).

**Coxley Valley** – a pair bred in a nest box and up to 15 birds were present subsequently in the observer's garden (JG).

**Scout Dike/Belle Royd Farm** – 13 on 27<sup>th</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 22 on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 12 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December (RJB). The high September numbers probably indicate successful local breeding. Higher numbers were believed to be present but the site is on private land and accurate counts were not always possible.

**Castle Dam** – one pair probably bred; a max. of 16 on 28<sup>th</sup> December (BBSG).

**Horbury area** – at least eight at the **Strands** on 18<sup>th</sup> February and one at the **Wyke** on 29<sup>th</sup> July (DHP).

**Litherop Lane** – birds were calling at the western end of **Bretton Park** on 1<sup>st</sup> April (JED). This is a former regular breeding site.

**Meltham** – one by the roadside to **Marsden** on 13<sup>th</sup> June (TG).

**Dewsbury SF** – three on wires on the approach road on 12<sup>th</sup> December (DHP).

**Brockholes** – reported to be breeding at a private site between here and **Thurstonland** but no additional information.

*Postscript :- no information was submitted from the recent breeding site at Emley, the owner having left the area and the birds are not being fed. The owner of the Lumb Lane feeding station has died recently and the birds are no longer being fed at this site either, so it is unlikely that these two sites will be productive in future.*

## **CHAFFINCH**

*Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor

A much under-reported species and few records of winter flocks, but remains a very common breeding species.

Bred at **Harden**, where a singing male on 15<sup>th</sup> February was the first of the year; also reported breeding at **Stoneycliffe Wood**, **New Hall Wood**, where two out of three nests failed and 5-6 pairs in the **Gledholt** area.

Winter flocks of c.100 at **High Hoyland** and c.50 on stubble at **Royd Moor** both on 7<sup>th</sup> January, at **Bretton Lakes** c.100 on 7<sup>th</sup>, c.30 on 14<sup>th</sup>, c.70 on 17<sup>th</sup> and c.300 (feeding under beeches in heavy snow in the Sculpture Park) on 21<sup>st</sup> January with 60 on 14<sup>th</sup> February, a max. of 20 on 16<sup>th</sup> January at **Blackmoorfoot**, 15 near **Ingbirchworth** on 17<sup>th</sup> February, up to ten in a **Shelley** garden and ten at **Waterloo** on 4<sup>th</sup> March were the largest numbers reported.

Visible migration watches produced the following results:-

**Hartcliff Hill** – 158 SW on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden** - five SSE on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**Wessenden Valley** – in October 22 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 49 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 124 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 46 on 28<sup>th</sup>, 21 on 31<sup>st</sup> and in November 100 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 95 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 41 on 3<sup>rd</sup> then smaller numbers, usually single figures, to 22<sup>nd</sup>, all moving S/SW.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – in October 29 south on 12<sup>th</sup>, 43 south on 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **BRAMBLING**

*Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common winter visitor

Birds were very scarce in the early part of the year, being seen at only seven sites and with only one sizeable flock reported. Present from early January to 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Bretton Lakes** – birds present on ten dates from 6<sup>th</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> February, mainly singles, but three on 6<sup>th</sup> January, four on 20<sup>th</sup> and six on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – c.20 in the SW corner on 8<sup>th</sup> January, followed by singles on 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, three on 29<sup>th</sup> and six on 31<sup>st</sup> January, two on 8<sup>th</sup> February, two or three on most days in March and finally one on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Cowcliffe** – a female in a garden on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**Yateholme** – in February two on 16<sup>th</sup> then at least 200 reported on 18<sup>th</sup> (DWB).

**Almondbury** – a female in a garden for c.30 minutes on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Meltham** – up to three in a garden in March.

**Windybank Wood** – two on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

After the first returning birds, two at **Deer Hill** on 30<sup>th</sup> September, birds were reported from just over 20 sites, mainly from late October onwards, but only small numbers were involved, apart from some good counts on v.m.w. at **Wessenden**. After mid-November all sightings were in gardens.

**October** – on 3<sup>rd</sup> one south at **Blackmoorfoot**, one south at **Deer Hill** on 13<sup>th</sup> and again at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18<sup>th</sup>, five at **Ingbirchworth** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, one at **Denby Delf** and five at **Oldfield**, remaining to 6<sup>th</sup> November, on 23<sup>rd</sup>, one at **Bretton Lakes** on 27<sup>th</sup>, 25 feeding in **Marsden** on 28<sup>th</sup>, one at **Denby Dale** on 30<sup>th</sup> and three in from the north at **Dewsbury SF** on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**November** – six at **Blackmoorfoot** and two at **Royd Moor** on 1<sup>st</sup>, seven at **Marsden** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, at least five at **Bretton** on 8<sup>th</sup>, one at **Shepley** on 10<sup>th</sup>, up to 14 from mid-month to the year end in a **Linthwaite** garden, four feeding in a field at **Golcar** on 17<sup>th</sup>, one flying south at **Dewsbury SF** on 19<sup>th</sup> and one at **Longwood** on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**December** – up to three regularly in the **Grimescar Valley**, two at **Longwood** on 2<sup>nd</sup> increasing to a max. of four on 31<sup>st</sup>, three at **Gledholt** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, two at **Shepley** on 8<sup>th</sup>, a male at **Taylor Hill** on 10<sup>th</sup> and again on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 18 at an **Almondbury** feeding station from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, one at **Cubley** on 26<sup>th</sup>, one at **Cowcliffe** on 30<sup>th</sup> and four at **Blackmoorfoot** and one at **Wooldale** on 31<sup>st</sup>.

V.m.w. counts at **Wessenden** produced in October one on 27<sup>th</sup>, eight on 28<sup>th</sup> and 90 on 31<sup>st</sup> and in November 63 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 31 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 83 on 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by smaller numbers with eight on 4<sup>th</sup>, six on 5<sup>th</sup>, eight on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 9<sup>th</sup> and five on 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **GREENFINCH**

*Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4)

Little information was received regarding this species, which is common throughout the area wherever there is suitable habitat.

Bred at **New Mill** (young in June/July), **Gledholt** (5-6 pairs, young birds in June) and **Taylor Hill**, where it is described as the most numerous daily garden visitor, with up to 20 birds and many young in summer/autumn. Two pairs held territory in **Lindley Moor Road**.

Few counts of any note were submitted, the highest being a max. of 60+ roosting at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 30 at **Broadstones Lodge** on 29<sup>th</sup> July and up to 50 at a **Shelley** feeding station at the year end.

V.m.w. at **Wessenden** produce low numbers in October/November, all single figures apart from 18 on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

## **GOLDFINCH**

*Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (2-3)

Reports were received from 40 sites, the great majority relating to the post breeding period. Breeding evidence, in the form of young birds, only came from **New Mill**, **Ingbirchworth** and **Lindley Moor**, but this is a gross misrepresentation of the species' status and doubtless many of the flocks reported from late July onwards contained birds of



the year reared locally. In the breeding season itself birds were present at **Hade Edge, Blackmoorfoot, Dalton, Golcar, Colnebridge, Ravensthorpe GPs, Baitings, Carlecotes and Hinchliffe Mill.**

In the early months the only flocks reported were 50+ at **Elland GPs** on 1<sup>st</sup> January, c.20 at **Rawthorpe** in January, 12 at **Bretton Park** on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 20+ at **Golcar** on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 11 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

After the breeding season max. counts were 13 at **Broadstones** and 16 near **Netherton** on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 42 at **Dewsbury SF** on 26<sup>th</sup> August plus "good numbers" at **Thornhill Millbank** on 29<sup>th</sup>. The

majority of flocks were noted in September, with at **Ingbirchworth** ten on 14<sup>th</sup>, near **Blackmoorfoot** 24 on 15<sup>th</sup> (the only double figure count at this site apart from one v.m.w. count in October), at **Kirkheaton** 40+ on 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, **Deer Hill** 20+ on 20<sup>th</sup>, 28 at **Scout Dike** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 35+ near the **Royd Moor** windfarm, two flocks of 50 and 55 at **Scammonden**, 15 at **Boshaw Whams** and c.15 at **Maythorne** all on 23<sup>rd</sup> and c.80 at **Royd Moor** on 25<sup>th</sup>. Fewer and smaller flocks were encountered in October, max. being 20 at **Dewsbury SF** on 6<sup>th</sup>, ten at **Scout Dike** on 7<sup>th</sup>, 30+ at **Kirkheaton** on 13<sup>th</sup> and c.25 at **Lindley** on 16<sup>th</sup>; there were very few reports and no double figure counts in November/December.

An interesting sighting was of an individual at **Redbrook Res.** at an altitude of 1170 feet on 19<sup>th</sup> December (JMP).

Autumnal movements were noted through the area – at **Blackmoorfoot** on five dates in late October, max. 50 on 15<sup>th</sup> with nine on both 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, all going south; at **Wessenden** a total of 67 on nine dates in October/November, max. 14 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 22 on 27<sup>th</sup> October and at **Dewsbury SF** where 67 flew south on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

## SISKIN

*Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1) and winter visitor

There were reports this year from only two garden feeding stations but quite good numbers at both ends of the year from **Bretton Lakes** and **Elland GPs** as well as a significant autumn movement, mainly in October, at several sites. Breeding was not confirmed anywhere.

**Bretton Lakes** – regular throughout January and February with max. of c.40 on 16<sup>th</sup> January and 18<sup>th</sup> February, on which date a male was singing and accompanied by a female. Birds reappeared from late October with c.30 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 20 on 8<sup>th</sup> November decreasing to c.10 on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**Denby Dale** – 19 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**Grimescar Valley** – at least eight on 7<sup>th</sup> and two on 9<sup>th</sup> January feeding in alders then regularly up to 11 in November/December.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – one on 9<sup>th</sup> January, then in October southerly movements of 23 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, ten on 3<sup>rd</sup>, seven on 4<sup>th</sup>, 25 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 24 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and ten on 24<sup>th</sup>.



**Elland GPs** – in the early months a max. of 30 on 7<sup>th</sup> February and up to 35 from 21<sup>st</sup> October to late December.

**Langsett Res.** – 30+ on 8<sup>th</sup> February. At least three males held breeding territories at **Langsett Banks**.

**Yatcholme** – five on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Dovestones** – 16, including three singing males, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Hinchliffe Mill** – up to three regularly on feeders to late April.

**Scout Dike Res.** – 14 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 20 SE on 22<sup>nd</sup> September; in October four on 6<sup>th</sup> and eight on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Scammonden** – two on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, up to 20 flying west on 7<sup>th</sup> October and small numbers passing over on 12<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**Tunnel End Res.** – at least three on 30<sup>th</sup> September, four on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**Marsden** – in October flocks of six on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 28 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and five on 5<sup>th</sup> all flying over the village and moving south up the Wessenden Valley, with eight feeding in beeches in the village on 28<sup>th</sup> October and six on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Wessenden Valley** – v.m.w. counts were in October two on 4<sup>th</sup>, nine on 16<sup>th</sup>, 11 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 31<sup>st</sup>, all moving S/SW, followed in November by up to six birds on eight dates to mid-month.

**Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor** – 52 SW on 4<sup>th</sup> and 61 south on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Dewsbury SF** – seven flew south on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Bradley Park G.C.** – 20 on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

## LINNET

### *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3)

Remains very scarce in the first two and last two months of the year, although there was an unusually large flock at one site in mid-February. Breeds fairly commonly still in the moorland fringe areas and other sites with scrub and gorse in particular. Some good-sized flocks in autumn probably indicate a good breeding season.

The only reports in the first two months were six at **Clayton West SF** on 1<sup>st</sup> January, an exceptionally early singing male at **Hade Edge** on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and c.100 at **Royd Moor** on 15<sup>th</sup> February, when there was another very early singing male at **Harden**. None were reported after these until 31<sup>st</sup> March when ten were at **New Mill**, followed by birds in early April at **Broadstones** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Dewsbury SF** on 3<sup>rd</sup> (3) and 4<sup>th</sup> (4), **Shepley** 40 on 7<sup>th</sup>, **Ingbirchworth** (3) and **Ravensthorpe GPs** (at least 4) on 8<sup>th</sup> and a singing male at **Birchencliffe** on 10<sup>th</sup>. Birds were reported at a further 22 sites later in April and into May and June, at many of which breeding probably occurred – **Old Lindley** (one pair), **Ringstone Edge**, **Norland Moor**, **New Mill**, **Linthwaite/Slaithwaite** (12 on 1<sup>st</sup> May), **Cop Hill** (three pairs), **Bradshaw** (six pairs), **Marsden**, **Wessenden Lodge**, **Hade Edge area** (several pairs at various sites), **Castle Hill**, **Royd Edge Clough**, **Thurstonland**, near **Upper Midhope**, **Ravensthorpe GPs** (12+ on 22<sup>nd</sup> April), **Boshaw Whams** (one pair), **Carlecotes**, **Broadstones Lodge**, **Shelley** (c.6 pairs), **Golcar**, **Castle Dam** (a few pairs) and **Scammonden** (at least one pair). Breeding evidence was only obtained however at **Broadstones** (adults carrying food on 6<sup>th</sup> May) and **Harden**, where adults were observed feeding c.14 young on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July.

After the breeding season the largest flocks reported were at **Dewsbury SF** 42 on 21<sup>st</sup> August increasing to 200 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 300 on 8<sup>th</sup> September followed by a gradual reduction to 120 on 30<sup>th</sup> September and 23 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, **Hey Green** 28 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, **Scout Dike** c.30 on 28<sup>th</sup> August, c.100 on 1<sup>st</sup> September, c.45 on 25<sup>th</sup> September and c.50 on 6<sup>th</sup> October, **Blackmoorfoot** max. of 120 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 150+ on 9<sup>th</sup>, 90 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 95 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September with up to 50 on many other dates in the month, **Barkisland** 90 on 18<sup>th</sup> September, **Ringstone Edge** 200 on 19<sup>th</sup> September and at **Oxspring** on 6<sup>th</sup> October the largest flock of the year, c.500 feeding in stubble.

The only reports after October were at **Thornhill Millbank** 32 feeding on 19<sup>th</sup> November, at least 36 at **Dewsbury SF** on 12<sup>th</sup> December and 30+ at **Colnebridge SP** on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

Visible migration watching in October produced at **Blackmoorfoot** 31 south on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21 south on 23<sup>rd</sup>, at **Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor** 162 south on 4<sup>th</sup> and 328 S/SW on 6<sup>th</sup>, at **Harden** three SSE on 9<sup>th</sup>, but few were noted at **Wessenden**, a total of only eleven birds on six dates.

## TWITE

### *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder (1-2)

Thanks to the efforts of a small number of observers there was a big increase in reported sightings of this species, which has suffered a huge fall in numbers in recent times. Our area is one of only a few Pennine areas where the species still breeds. Although breeding was confirmed at only one site, some of the sightings in the breeding season and post-breeding flocks of birds suggest that successful breeding was more widespread than it was possible to verify.

The great majority of the records came from the **Marsden/Wessenden/Deer Hill/Meltham** areas with smaller numbers primarily at sites in the **Hade Edge/Cartworth Moor/Winscar** district.

Birds were present between 4<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Deer Hill/Meltham area** – the first returning birds were 16 in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4<sup>th</sup> April, followed by 13 on 19<sup>th</sup>, eight flying east on 22<sup>nd</sup> and four flying west there on 30<sup>th</sup>. Three were on wires at **Red Lane, Meltham** on 5<sup>th</sup> and five in **Royd Edge Clough** on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Breeding was confirmed between **Deer Hill** and **West Nab**.

In autumn eight were in fields to the east of **Deer Hill Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> August with 34 feeding on thistles on the reservoir embankment on 26<sup>th</sup> August and 36 nearby on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Four were near **Blackmoorfoot** on 15<sup>th</sup> September and in October 12 near the **White House Inn** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, four at **Oldfield Hill Farm** and one at **Leygards Lane** on 18<sup>th</sup> (DMP,TD,MLD,TG,DHP).

**Marsden/Bradshaw/Slaithwaite area** – ten were beside the **Meltham Road** at **Marsden** on 7<sup>th</sup> April, eight at **Green Owlers Farm** on 30<sup>th</sup> April, while numbers at **Greystones Farm, Bradshaw** were two on 21<sup>st</sup> May, two in suitable breeding habitat on 6<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, two on 10<sup>th</sup> and one on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Four were at **Scapegoat Hill** on 27<sup>th</sup> May, two in breeding habitat at **Carr Clough, Marsden** on 1st June and two in suitable habitat at **Cop Hill** on 6<sup>th</sup> June with two at

**Laund Road** near **Bradshaw** on 8<sup>th</sup> June. A pair was at **Buckstones** on 15<sup>th</sup> June and birds were calling here on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Later in the summer seven were feeding in **Goat Hill Lane** on 14<sup>th</sup> July, three at **Pule Hill** on 31<sup>st</sup> July, in August 25+ at **Bank Top Farm**, ten at **White Hull** and two feeding on **March Haigh Flat** on 9<sup>th</sup>, one at **Green Owlers Farm** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and two feeding at **Fair Hall Farm** on the same date. In September four were at **Greystones Farm** on 14<sup>th</sup> and four at **Cop Hill** on 23<sup>rd</sup> (TG,JED).

**Wessenden Valley** – at **Binn Edge** two on 1<sup>st</sup> May, three on 5<sup>th</sup> June and two on 26<sup>th</sup> July. Three, including a singing male, were above **Blakeley Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> May and birds were calling at **Shiny Brook** on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Three were just above **Wessenden Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> June. On 14<sup>th</sup> June at least 15, including six in **Blakeley Clough**, were in the valley, increasing to at least 23 on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, with a minimum of 12 in **Blakeley Clough**. An adult male was at **Wessenden Head** on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, two at **Wessenden Lodge** on 12<sup>th</sup> August and flocks of 15 on 15<sup>th</sup> August and nine on 11<sup>th</sup> September near **Wessenden Res.** These numbers suggest successful breeding at this site.

Unprecedented numbers were reported on v.m.w. later in the year, October seeing 34 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 44 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 28<sup>th</sup> and three on 31<sup>st</sup> all moving S/SW, followed in November by two on 1<sup>st</sup> and 16 on 4<sup>th</sup> (a total of 114 birds) (TG,DH,VLP,SF,MJW,BA).

**Hade Edge/Cartworth Mnor/Winscar area** – four were near **Cartworth Moor** on 7<sup>th</sup> May, followed by two birds gathering nest material there on 19<sup>th</sup> and two pairs on 26<sup>th</sup>; a pair displayed at **Elysium** fields before flying west on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Near **Crossley's Plantation** three birds, including an adult male, were feeding by the roadside and two flew west there on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Four birds flew over **Holme Styes** on 17<sup>th</sup> and three east at **Harden** on 18<sup>th</sup> June, with a single at **Winscar Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> June and four there on 10<sup>th</sup> July. At least two were in a mixed finch flock at **Victoria, Hepworth** on 6<sup>th</sup> September (MC,GMC,HQ,BA,DHP,BBSG).

Records from other sites were three at **Rishworth Moor** on 8<sup>th</sup> April (HBC), a pair feeding at **Diggle** on 7<sup>th</sup> May (via JS) and four nearby at **Harrop Dale** on 31<sup>st</sup> July (TG), four at **Baitings** on 5<sup>th</sup> June (HBC), birds calling from two sites at **Oxygrains Beck** on 24<sup>th</sup> June and one there on 7<sup>th</sup> July (JED,HBC), one near the **Ford Inn** on 16<sup>th</sup> July (DHP), one on arable land at **Digley** on 10<sup>th</sup> August (TM), five flying over **Cupwith Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup> August (TG), two at **Kilner Bank** (a very unexpected locality) on 16<sup>th</sup> September (HQ), c.6 at **Scammonden** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September (JED) and finally five at **Stanedge** on the unusually late date of 22<sup>nd</sup> December (via JS).

## LESSER REDPOLL

*Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder (1-2) and winter visitor

Reported in all months, bred in at least two sites and probably at a third.

**Grimescar Valley** – regular in January, with a max. of eight on 14<sup>th</sup>, five on 15<sup>th</sup> February and at least one still on 8<sup>th</sup> April. At the year end noted from 2<sup>nd</sup> December (ten) then smaller numbers to 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Dewsbury SF** – two on 14<sup>th</sup> January, nine on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 25 on 17<sup>th</sup> October, all flying south.

**Bretton Lakes** – 11+ on 14<sup>th</sup> January, four on 27<sup>th</sup> January, three on 1<sup>st</sup> and 15 on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**Lockwood** – a female in a garden on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**Shelley** – one on 25<sup>th</sup> January and eight at **Shelley Park** on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Hinchliffe Mill** – 15 by the R.Holme on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**Harden/Winscar** – one flew north on 18<sup>th</sup> February. In the breeding season 50 on 30<sup>th</sup> April with several pairs on territory by 5<sup>th</sup> May, but no accurate counts were possible owing to F&M restrictions. By 12<sup>th</sup> May there were at least 20 birds in a loose breeding colony and a minimum of four pairs confirmed breeding. On 9<sup>th</sup> July c.10 juvs. were being fed in a neighbour's garden and two feeding in a hay meadow on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Skelmanthorpe** – 23 in the grounds of Shelley High School on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Gledholt** – up to six in TP Wood in March.

**Stockmoor Common** – one calling on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Elland GPs** – 30 on 21<sup>st</sup> March, one on 28<sup>th</sup> April, four on 27<sup>th</sup> October and max. of six on several dates in December.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – two on 10<sup>th</sup> April and two in **Orange Wood** on 30<sup>th</sup> May; in autumn singles on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October with two on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Holme Styes** – five on 21<sup>st</sup> April, a pair and two singles on 5<sup>th</sup> May, then regular in the conifer plantations.

**Marsden area** – singles in **Binn Lane** on 29<sup>th</sup> April, at **Netherwood** on 8<sup>th</sup> May and at **Tunnel End Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> November, with two by the canal on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Langsett Banks** – at least two pairs bred.

**Bradshaw** – a male feeding on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**Shepley** – one on 4<sup>th</sup> August, six on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Scout Dike Res.** – two SE on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 12 south on 13<sup>th</sup> October, nine on 17<sup>th</sup> October and two on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Dalton** – two over on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**Hartcliff Hill** – 60 moved S/SW on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Royd Moor Res.** – five from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October, two remaining to 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Wessenden Valley** – in October two on 16<sup>th</sup>, four on 26<sup>th</sup>, six on 27<sup>th</sup>, one on 28<sup>th</sup> and in November one on 3<sup>rd</sup> and three on 5<sup>th</sup>, all moving S/SW.

**New Mill** – two in a garden on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**Colnebridge SP** – 33 on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

## **MEALY (COMMON) REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor

In February about five were feeding with Siskins at **Langsett Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup> (MCW) and two with Lesser Redpolls at **Skelmanthorpe** on 20<sup>th</sup> (TG).

## **COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1) and uncommon passage visitor

Reported from six sites but no breeding evidence this year apart from a singing male in January.

**Swinden Plantation** – a singing male on 28<sup>th</sup> January (BBSG).

**Snailsden** – a party of 13, mainly juvs., flew east on 28<sup>th</sup> June (GMC).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a party of seven flew south at 0900hrs. on 1<sup>st</sup> July (MLD) and at least two were calling on 30<sup>th</sup> July (MLD, TG).

**Flouch Inn** – a flyover on 23<sup>rd</sup> August (BBSG).

**Wessenden Valley** – one flew south on 28<sup>th</sup> August, two north on 31<sup>st</sup> October, five north on 2<sup>nd</sup> and one on 22<sup>nd</sup> November (TG, J-YG).

**Royd Moor Res.** – one flew out of the conifer plantation near to the waterman's house and left to the SE on 16<sup>th</sup> October (RJB).

## **BULLFINCH**

### *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3)

After last year's quite depressing situation, the position this year showed a vast improvement, with an increase in the number of sites where the species was recorded from 40 to over 50, breeding proved at six localities (only one in 2000), attempted at two others and birds present in the breeding season at a further 24 sites. An additional 16 sites had birds in the early/late months.

Breeding was proved at **Lockwood** (three young present in June/July), **Meltham** (male with three juvs. on 16<sup>th</sup> July), **Dogley** (ad. + 3 juvs.), **Fixby** (male feeding two young on 16<sup>th</sup> August), **Elland GPs** (ads. carrying food on 21<sup>st</sup> August) and **Grimescar** (male with two juvs. on 16<sup>th</sup> September). Nest building was observed at **Dalton** on 30<sup>th</sup> May and a nest failed at the egg stage in **New Hall Wood**. Additional pairs were present at **Edgerton**, two other sites at **Fixby**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Tunnel End**, **Netherwood**, **Colnebridge** and **Colnebridge SP**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Dunford Cycle Track**, **Hinchliffe Mill** (and a first garden record on feeders here), **Liphill Bank**, **Almondbury**, **Taylor Hill**, **Beaumont Park**, **Stoneycliffe Wood**, **Wilderness Plantation**, **Stockmoor Common**, **Gledholt** (up to three pairs), **Shelley**, **Shavey Clough**, **Denby Dale** and **Slaithwaite**.

A male at **Harden** feeding on garden grass seed on 22<sup>nd</sup> June was a first site record.

Outside the breeding season birds were also at **Hall Bower**, **New Mill**, **Lockwood**, **Langsett**, **Kirkheaton**, **Diggle**, **Crosland Moor**, **Golcar**, **Cowcliffe**, **Royd Moor**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Clayton Fields**, **Wessenden**, **Almondbury Bank**, **Penny Spring Wood** and **Scout Dike Res.**

There was also an increase in the number of sites having multiple records, with eight in January and ten in December at **Bretton**, 11 at **Langsett Banks** on 24<sup>th</sup> November, eight in a garden at **Near Bank**, **Shelley** on 11<sup>th</sup> May, six in January and eight in December at **Scout Dike**, five early in the year and seven (5 males) in December at **Lockwood**, six in **Orange Wood** on 16<sup>th</sup> January and up to six at **Gledholt** from February to June and in the **Grimescar Valley** in January/February, with five there at the year end. Parties of four birds occurred at **Penny Spring Wood** on 31<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> March, **Longwood Valley** on 15<sup>th</sup> October, **Elland GPs** on 1<sup>st</sup> December, **New Mill** on 30<sup>th</sup> December and regularly in both winter periods at **Cowcliffe** and **Shelley**.

## HAWFINCH

*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Resident, probable breeder (1)

As is expected, most records were from **Bretton Lakes**, where the species was seen in small numbers in the first two months and twice at the year end, but two other sites had first records.

**Bretton Lakes** ... in January one on 3<sup>rd</sup>, two on 6<sup>th</sup>, one on 7<sup>th</sup>, three on 13<sup>th</sup>, five on 17<sup>th</sup>, two on 20<sup>th</sup> and one on 27<sup>th</sup>; in February three on 1<sup>st</sup>, at least one on 14<sup>th</sup>, 5+ on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> and one on 18<sup>th</sup>.

At the year end one on 24<sup>th</sup> November and four on 9<sup>th</sup> December (AA,DT,DB,SRG,BA,PDB).

**Scout Dike Res.** ... four flew into the trees surrounding the new housing development on 27<sup>th</sup> May (BA).

**Salendine Nook** ... two flew west at 1425hrs. at a height of c.30 feet and a range of c.25 yards on 29<sup>th</sup> July (JED).

## SNOW BUNTING

*Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor

One was at **Scammonden** on 24<sup>th</sup> February (JB) and a male fed on the top of **Shooter's Nab**, **Deer Hill** on 16<sup>th</sup> November (TG).

## YELLOWHAMMER

*Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3) and partial migrant

In the early months a good flock was located in fields off **Jos Lane**, **Shepley**, building from 70 on 1<sup>st</sup> January to 75+ on 20<sup>th</sup> and peaking at 150 on 4<sup>th</sup> February. A flock on stubble at **Royd Moor** held c.50 birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> January decreasing to c.30 on 15<sup>th</sup> February, otherwise six at **Lower Cumberworth** on 5<sup>th</sup> January was the largest party encountered.

Sightings of this species, with its attachment to scrub and hedgerows in arable areas in the breeding season, were probably affected more than most by the restrictions imposed in response to the F&M outbreak. As a result there was a lack of information for that period and the picture obtained of the species' breeding status unrepresentative.

A total of only 22 singing males/pairs was located (74 in 2000) at **Bretton Park** (2), **Ravensthorpe GPs**, **Wessenden Valley**, **Castle Hill** (2), **Royd Moor** (2), **Millbank** (4+), **Ingbirchworth** (2), **Broadstones** (2), **Elland GPs**, **Scout Dike**, **Shelley Woodhouse** and **Horbury Wyke** (2+) and breeding was proved only near **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

Very few reports were received for the second half of the year, the only flock being located again at **Royd Moor**, where c.30 were present from 4<sup>th</sup> November to the year end, the next highest count being four at **Ingbirchworth** on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## REED BUNTING

*Emberiza schoenobaenus*

Resident breeder (2) and partial migrant

This species was reported from c.40 sites in the area and a total of nearly 50 pairs/singing males located, more than double that of the last species. I am sure that this is a totally false impression of the relative abundance of the two species. The Reed Bunting is much more widespread, whereas the Yellowhammer is largely confined to the east and south of

the area owing to its habitat requirements. As mentioned in the account of Yellowham-mer, F&M restrictions probably contributed greatly to the low numbers of pairs/singing males located this year compared to Reed Bunting.

Breeding was confirmed at only one site, **Elland GPs**, where at least one pair was successful, but pairs or singing males also occurred at **Black Moss Res.**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Bradshaw** (3 males), **Broadstones**, **Buckstones**, **Carr Clough**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Deanhead**, **Dewsbury SF** (two pairs), **Eastergate**, **Gunthwaite**, **Harden**, **Horbury area** (7+ males), **Ingbirchworth** (3+ males), **Ravensthorpe GPs** (3 males), **Redbrook Res.**, **Ringstone Edge Res.**, **Royd Moor**, **Scammonden** (2 males), **Scout Dike Res.** (5+ males), **Tunnel End**, **Wessenden Valley** (5+ males) and **Winscar**.

Further sightings outside the breeding season came from **Emley**, **Lumb Lane**, **Holme Moss** (one on 10<sup>th</sup> November), **Cubley** (one in a garden on 19<sup>th</sup> February), **Deer Hill**, **March Haigh**, **Blackmoorfoot conduit** and **Oldfield Hill Farm**.

On v.m.w., birds were observed at **Harden** on 15<sup>th</sup> March one NW and on 21<sup>st</sup> April three north, and at **Holme Moss** one south on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The largest numbers reported were in **Jos Lane**, **Shepley**, three on 1<sup>st</sup> and ten on 20<sup>th</sup> January, nine (one male) on 5<sup>th</sup> March and four on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, at **Horbury** a minimum of ten on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 7+ at **Horbury Wyke** on 19<sup>th</sup> July and nine at **Dewsbury SF** on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

### 2001

**BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus atratus*  
Blackmoorfoot Res. – two on 23<sup>rd</sup> August (TG).

**GOLDEN PHEASANT** *Chrysolophus pictus*  
See Classified List

**COCKATIEL** *Nymphicus hollandicus*  
Wessenden Lodge – one on a dry stone wall on 12<sup>th</sup> August (VLP,DH via TG).

### 2000

**BAHAMA (WHITE-CHEEKED) PINTAIL** *Anos bahamensis*  
Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 19<sup>th</sup> September (DHP).

### 1999

**PARAKEET** sp *Psittacula* sp  
Elland GPs – one “small green” individual on 31<sup>st</sup> May (DSI) and 16<sup>th</sup> November (HBC).

### 1998

**MUSCOVY DUCK** *Cairina moschata*  
Ringstone Edge Res. – one on 17<sup>th</sup> April (HBC).

**MANED GOOSE** *Chenonetta jubata*  
Elland GPs – one on 12<sup>th</sup> December (JB,HBC).



## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

(with apologies for any omissions)

C.D.Abell	D.Finnis	D.H.Pennington
S.Allberry	A.Forsyth	T.Piggott
A.Archer	S.Frost	J.M.Pinder
B.Armitage	P.Gee	D.M.Pogson
W.H.Baggaley	S.R.Graham	S.Pogson
D.Barrans	P.Grba	V.L.Pritchard
J.Beaumont	T.Guillosson	H.Quarterman
P.D.Bell	J-Y.Guillosson	M.&W.Rayner
S.Bennett	R.&B.Haigh	J.E.Rogan
R.J.Boland	J.Hamilton	G.B.Silver
M.Bradshaw	D.Hoare	J.Smith
D.W.Brierley	J.Hodson	P.Smith
M.L.Brook	R.D.&S.E.Holloway	J.R.Smithson
D.Butterfield	C.Horne	D.J.Standring
T.Cantwell	K.Horne	D.Sykes
G.M.Carr	D.S.&V.A.Ives	D.Tattersley
T.R.Cleeves	N.Leece	R.Taylor
A.Cockroft	J.McLoughlin	M.J.Wainman
J.M.Collinson	D.Manchester	A.J.Wainscoat
J.R.Cookson	J.I.Martin	J.Walker
M.Cunningham	T.Melling	M.C.Wells
J.E.Dale	J.Milnes	D.R.Wild
J.M.Dale	J.M.Newman	N.Windett
S.M.Dale	D.M.Owen	D.Woodhouse
N.C.Dawtre	J.K.Palliser	K.Wright
M.L.Denton	N.E.Parker	A.Zabukas
T.Duckworth	B.Penistone	D.Shore (DSh)

Barnsley Bird Study Group (BBSG)

Bird Line NorthEast (BLNE)

Greater Manchester Ornithological Society (GMOS)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

In Focus, Denby Dale

RSPB Denby Dale Office

# FIRST AND LAST DATES OF SUMMER/WINTER MIGRANTS 2001

SUMMER	FIRST	LOCALITY	LAST	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	28/3	Dewsbury SF	20/8	Dewsbury SF
Common Sandpiper	21/4	Winscar Res	27/10	Scout Dike Res
Common Tern	12/4	Elland GPs	16/10	Blackmoorfoot Res
Cuckoo	28/4	Langsett	21/7	Shelley
Swift	25/4	Elland GPs	8/11*	Thongsbridge
Sand Martin	25/3	Marsden	2/10	Blackmoorfoot Res
Swallow	29/3	Greetland & B'm'foot	18/10	Oldfield
House Martin	3/4	Dewsbury SF	9/10	Hartcliffe Hill/Green Moor
Tree Pipit	20/4	Ingbirchworth	4/10	Hartcliffe Hill/Green Moor
Yellow Wagtail	21/4	Blackmoorfoot Res	14/9	Meltham
Common Redstart	5/5	Holme Styes	28/9	Bradshaw
Whinchat	28/4	Dewsbury SF	25/10	Dewsbury SF
Northern Wheatear	27/3	Royd Moor Res	13/10	Castle Dam
Ring Ouzel	29/4	Royd Edge Clough	16/11	Deer Hill
Grasshopper Warbler	5/5	Elland GPs	15/7	Ingbirchworth
Sedge Warbler	3/5	Dewsbury SF	2/9	Colnebridge SP
Reed Warbler	6/5	Elland GPs	29/9	Dewsbury SF
Lesser Whitethroat	24/4	Shelley	25/9	Shelley
Common Whitethroat	27/4	Dewsbury SF	21/9	Dewsbury SF
Garden Warbler	23/4	Royd Moor Res	11/9	Royd Moor Res
Blackcap	12/4	Berry Brow, Magdale & Deffer Wood	15/10	Longwood Valley
Wood Warbler	29/4	Blackmoorfoot Res	24/6	Netherwood
Chiffchaff	28/3	Denby Dale, Elland GPs & Blackmoorfoot Res	19/10	Scout Dike Res
Willow Warbler	2/4	Blackmoorfoot Res	30/9	Tunnel End
Spotted Flycatcher	12/5	Denby Dale	5/9	Grimescar Valley
Pied Flycatcher	18/5	New House Wood	24/6	New House Wood
WINTER	LAST	LOCALITY	FIRST	LOCALITY
Pink-footed Goose	15/3	Blackmoorfoot Res	13/10	Hinchliffe Mill, Elland GPs, Langsett Res, Denby Dale
Goldeneye	21/4	Blackmoorfoot Res	22/10	Blackmoorfoot Res
Waxwing	9/4	Elland	n/a	n/a
Fieldfare	6/5	Meltham	14/9	Holmfirth
Redwing	23/4	Marsden	23/9	Blackmoorfoot Res
Brambling	24/4	Blackmoorfoot Res	30/9	Deer Hill

\* denotes latest ever record

# VISIBLE MIGRATION IN THE COLNE VALLEY

By  
Tristan Guillosson

**Table 1 : Passerines and Pigeons counted in visible migration per period of 5 days in the Colne Valley in 2001** (BMF: number of count at Blackmoorfoot, WV: number of counts Wessenden Valley). Casual observations have also been included.

5 day period starting on	30-Sep	05-Oct	10-Oct	15-Oct	20-Oct	25-Oct	30-Oct	04-Nov	09-Nov	19-Nov	total
BMF	4		3	2	2	1					8
WV	1	1	1	1		4	4	2	2		12
Time (hrs)	06:25	00:25	03:15	02:55	02:20	09:45	04:50	03:25	01:20		34:40
Wood Pigeon	0	0	0	16	12	1487	402	450	106	4	2477
Stock Dove	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	3	1	0	13
Skylark	9	0	99	66	21	43	1	0	0	0	239
Meadow Pipit	545	34	223	105	40	111	31	8	1	1	1099
Alba Wagtail	31	2	21	21	6	11	1	0	0	0	93
House Martin	82	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	84
Sand Martin	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Swallow	45	5	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	68
Mistle Thrush	0	0	0	7	0	29	13	0	0	0	49
Fieldfare	2	0	0	725	353	5655	528	110	77	102	7552
Redwing	0	0	17	251	221	4858	344	81	52	72	5896
Song Thrush	0	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	8
Goldfinch	23	0	16	50	9	40	18	2	0	0	158
Linnet	34	1	29	0	21	8	2	0	0	0	95
Twite	0	0	0	0	0	93	5	16	0	0	114
Redpoll	0	0	3	3	0	11	3	4	0	0	24
Siskin	69	5	10	64	24	51	27	8	10	3	271
Chaffinch	35	1	37	12	12	263	217	63	18	5	663
Brambling	2	1	1	1	0	9	184	97	23	5	323
Bullfinch	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Greenfinch	19	0	7	13	0	25	5	0	0	0	69
Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Reed Bunting	0	0	3	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>1345</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>12747</b>	<b>1795</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>19453</b>

**Table 2: Total number of each species seen in visible migration in the Colne Valley in 2001 including best day and numbers of days when the species was recorded. Note that Starlings were underestimated due to the large local population**

Species	Days	Total	Max	Max Date
Cormorant	2	<b>2</b>	1	
Greylag	1	<b>4</b>	4	30-Sep
PFG	2	<b>243</b>	147	03-Nov
Wigeon	1	<b>2</b>	2	01-Nov
Goosander	1	<b>2</b>	2	31-Oct
Hobby	1	<b>1</b>	1	27-Oct
Peregrine	1	<b>1</b>	1	31-Oct
Sparrowhawk	2	<b>2</b>	1	
Snipe	3	<b>16</b>	11	09-Nov
Dunlin	2	<b>13</b>	12	09-Nov
Golden Plover	3	<b>14</b>	12	04-Oct
Lapwing	1	<b>681</b>	681	18-Oct
Wood Pigeon	14	<b>2506</b>	850	27-Oct
Stock Dove	3	<b>12</b>	5	16-Oct
Skylark	14	<b>239</b>	42	24-Oct
Meadow Pipit	30	<b>1099</b>	160	30-Sep
Spinoletta pip	1	<b>1</b>	0	03-Nov
Alba Wagtail	19	<b>93</b>	17	15-Oct
Grey Wagtail	4	<b>6</b>	3	02-Oct
House Martin	4	<b>84</b>	66	02-Oct
Sand Martin	2	<b>3</b>	2	30-Sep
Swallow	8	<b>68</b>	23	03-Oct
Mistle Thrush	10	<b>49</b>	21	27-Oct
Fieldfare	23	<b>7557</b>	4043	27-Oct
Redwing	23	<b>5896</b>	3400	27-Oct
Song Thrush	5	<b>8</b>	2	
Ring Ouzel	2	<b>3</b>	2	24-Oct
Goldfinch	17	<b>158</b>	50	15-Oct
Linnet	11	<b>95</b>	31	03-Oct
Twite	6	<b>114</b>	44	27-Oct
Redpoll	9	<b>24</b>	6	27-Oct
Siskin	22	<b>271</b>	38	03-Oct
Chaffinch	28	<b>665</b>	124	27-Oct
Brambling	15	<b>323</b>	90	31-Oct
Bullfinch	1	<b>3</b>	3	01-Nov
Greenfinch	11	<b>69</b>	18	27-Oct
Crossbill	3	<b>8</b>	5	02-Nov
Reed Bunting	6	<b>8</b>	2	
Jay	1	<b>1</b>	1	01-Nov
Starling	7	<b>126</b>	39	18-Nov
Total	34	<b>16971</b>	7779	27-Oct

**CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES NAMED IN THE CLASSIFIED LIST**  
**(Use O.S.Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)**

Almondbury	170155
Annat Royd Lane	211053
Appleyards, Golcar	101152
Armitage Bridge	130135
Aspley	151163
Bank Wood, Emley	263138
Banks Hall	282066
Bartin	091072
Beaumont Park	130147
Berry Brow	141138
Big Valley	130136
Bilberry Res.	102070
Bird's Edge	202077
Birkby	140183
Birks Moss	056078
Black Moss	040085
Blacker Wood	240111
Blackley Tip	102195
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127
Booth Dam Quarry	018161
Boothroyd Wood	183118
Boshaw Whams	151057
Bradley	165205
Bradley Park GC	157207
Bretton Lakes	280127
Broadstones Lodge	200065
Broadstones Res.	195065
Brookhouse Bridge	198007
Brownhill Res.	114050
Brown's Edge	195058
Buckstones	010140
Bullcliff Wood	292152
Bunny Wood, Golcar	095173
Butterley Res.	050103
Cannon Hall	275085
Carlecotes	178034
Carr Wood	180133
Cartworth Moor	138060
Castle Dam, Penistone	255022
Castle Hill	152141
Cawthorne	285080

Cheesegate Nab	175065
Choppards	142064
Cinderhills	147075
Clayton West	260110
Cliff Wood,Langsett	215002
Clock Face Quarry	044173
Clough Wood	175114
Colne Valley	070140
Cooper Bridge	166206
Cowcliffe	139187
Coxley Bank	275168
Coxley Valley	271165
Cranberry	247008
Crosland Heath GC	110142
Crosland Hill	115145
Crosland Moor	120150
Crossley's Plantation	125050
Crow Edge	188046
Cubley	245023
Cupwith Res.	038141
Dalton	163162
Deanhead Res.	038152
Dearne Dike Lane	195075
Deer Hill Res.	070115
Deffer Wood	260090
Deighton	167191
Denby Dale	225084
Dewsbury SF	260198
Digley Bottom	115068
Digley Res.	107070
Dogley NR	187137
Dovestones Res.	018040
Drop Clough	048133
Dunford Bridge	158024
Eastergate,Marsden	029121
Edge Hill	235016
Elland GPs	125222
Elysium Fields	133055
Emley Moor	225135
Emley Tx	223130
Farnley Tyas	166128
Farnley Wood	164134
Featherbed Moss	044067
Fenay Beck	183152

Flight Hill	153042
Flockton	245151
Flouch Inn	198016
Folly Hall	142159
Ford Inn	114084
Fox Clough	136057
Fox Clough,Langsett	190006
Fox House Moss	165042
Fullshaw	210012
Gawthorpe Green	193168
Gilbert Hill	210007
Golcar	096160
Golcar Tip	104156
Grain's Moss	125025
Grange Moor	220160
Greenfield Road	103080
Green Gate Road	113080
Grimescar Valley	130190
Gunthwaite Dam	246062
Hade Edge	146053
Haigh	294120
Hall Bower	145140
Harden	153037
Harden Clough	144039
Harden Edge	158038
Harden Res.	150037
Hartcliff Hill	221017
Hazlehead	195028
Healey Greave Wood	198116
Healey House	115124
Healey Mills	268193
Helme	101118
Hepworth	164066
Highburton	193133
Hill Top Res.	074141
Hinchliffe Mill	127072
Hingcliff Common	194001
Holmbridge	120068
Holme	108060
Holme Styes	136054
Holme Styes Res.	141055
Holmfirth	143082
Honley	138118
Horbury Strands	288177
Horbury Wyke	297172

Hoylandswaine	265047
Huddersfield	145165
Ingbirchworth Res.	215060
Jackson Bridge	165075
Jenkinson Wood	184116
Kaye Lane	160147
King's Mill Lane	150161
Kirkburton	198128
Kirkheaton	185185
Krumlin	056183
Langsett	212005
Langsett Banks	205003
Langsett Res.	210001
Law	158047
Lepton	193157
Lepton Great Wood	195145
Lindley	120182
Lindley Moor	095185
Linthwaite	095145
Liphill Brook	129078
Litherop Lane	273123
Little Don Valley	195005
Lockwood	135152
Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150
Longwood	108167
Lower Cumberworth	223095
Lower Stones Wood	187106
Lower Windleden Res.	157017
Lowfields, Elland	117219
Lumb Lane	160140
Magdale Dam	135124
March Haigh Res.	015130
Margery Wood	275096
Marsden	045115
Marsh	125171
Maythorn	196057
McAlpine Stadium	155176
Mellor Wood	158144
Meltham Moor	080093
Meltham SF	112115
Middlestown	267172
Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Millhouse Green	218032
Millmoor, Meltham	088107
Milnsbridge	113158



Molly Carr Wood	160137
Mytholm Bridge	154102
Netherthong	139097
Netherton, Wkfld	283170
Nettleton Hill	094170
New House Wood	210082
New Mill	164088
Nont Sarah's	048152
Nopper Road	107135
Oakes	120174
Oldfield	136103
Orange Wood	102123
Ossett	280200
Outlane	085180
Oxygrains Beck	003159
Penistone	245033
Penny Spring Wood	160155
Pole Moor	067158
Pule Hill	033104
Ramsden Res.	115055
Ravensthorpe	222202
Ravensthorpe GPs	233202
Reynard Clough	136050
Riding Wood Res.	117050
Ringstone Edge Res	050182
Roughbitchworth	264016
Round Wood	157101
Royd Edge	095097
Royd House Wood	162133
Royd Moor Res.	222048
Salendine Nook	105178
Sand Ridge Moss	158032
Scammonden	050160
Scout Dike Res.	233049
Shelley	204113
Shepley	193098
Shore Head	148166
Silkstone	290059
Silkstone SF	295065
Skelmanthorpe	233105
Slaithwaite	080140
Smith Wood	179115
Snailsden Moor	135035
Snailsden Res.	135040
South Crosland	115126

Sparth Res.	055125
Spicer House Lane	205055
Spring Wood	130124
Squirrel Ditch	152154
Stainland	077194
Stocks Moor Common	275152
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158
Storther's Hall Woods	183118
Stubbin Clough	124072
Swinden Plantation	190002
Taylor Hill	135145
Thornton Lodge	135161
Thorp's	235095
Thunderbridge	188115
Thurstonland	165104
Tinker Hill	163048
Townhead	166028
Upper Cumberworth	210087
Upper Denby	238072
Upper Longdendale	095005
Upper Windledon Res.	152012
Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Waterloo	177166
Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Wessenden Valley	055088
West Nab	077088
West Slaithwaite	060132
West Wood, Honley	151123
Wetshaw Edge	147032
Whitegate Lane	128055
Whitley Common	192056
Whitley Willows	196166
Windle Edge	152017
Windledon Edge	142010
Windmill Lane	195072
Windybank Wood	112104
Winscar Res.	150025
Wood Nook	122106
Woodsome Lees	186134
Woodsome Road	185146
Wooldale	155090
Yateholme	115050

## HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

### LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION OR ACCOUNT

all Divers	all Phalaropes
Red-necked Grebe	all Skuas
Black-necked Grebe	Mediterranean Gull
Slavonian Grebe	Yellow-legged Gull
Fulmar	Iceland Gull
all Shearwaters and Petrels	Glaucous Gull
Gannet	all Terns except Common
Shag	all Auks
Bittern	Barn Owl
White-fronted Goose	Hoopoe
Brent Goose	Wryneck
Garganey	Woodlark
Red-crested Pochard	Shorelark
Eider Duck	Rock Pipit
Long-tailed Duck	Water Pipit
Velvet Scoter	Nightingale
all Harriers	Bluethroat
Goshawk	Black Redstart
Osprey	Yellow-browed Warbler
Hobby	Firecrest
Avocet	Marsh Tit
Dotterel	all Shrikes
Little Stint	Hooded Crow
Curlew Sandpiper	Raven (lowlands)
Purple Sandpiper	Lapland Bunting
Wood Sandpiper	Snow Bunting

The above species, in addition to all British Birds Rarities and YNU species requiring a description, must be supported by a description or account and should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation. For some of the more frequently occurring species an account of the occurrence will be sufficient. Inexperienced observers may like to contact one of the Records Sub-committee (Brian Armitage phone 305054, Mick Cunningham phone 680409, John Dale phone 652453) at the time of the sighting to obtain help if they are confronted with a "mystery" bird.

Details may also be requested of unseasonal records and well-defined races.

## YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

### LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION

Cory's Shearwater	Roseate Tern
Great Shearwater	Black Guillemot
Balearic Shearwater	Bee-Eater
Storm Petrel	Short-toed Lark
Leach's Petrel	Richard's Pipit
Little Egret	Tawny Pipit
Purple Heron	Cetti's Warbler
Bean Goose (including race)	Savi's Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Aquatic Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Marsh Warbler
Surf Scoter	Icterine Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Melodious Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Dartford Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Barred Warbler
Golden Eagle	Pallas's Warbler
Spotted Crake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Corncrake	Woodchat Shrike
Common Crane	Serin
Kentish Plover	Common Rosefinch
Temminck's Stint	Girl Bunting
Pectoral Sandpiper	Ortolan Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Little Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Ring-billed Gull

Plus all British Birds Rarities and All Escapes



© 1999 by the BBC

## BIRDLINE NORTHEAST

**09068 700 246**

**FOR ALL THE LATEST REGIONAL NEWS**

Calls cost 60p per minute (inc. Vat)



# in focus

e-mail: [info@focus@netcomuk.co.uk](mailto:info@focus@netcomuk.co.uk)

**THE BINOCULAR  
AND TELESCOPE  
SPECIALISTS**

FLORIAN TELESCOPE FOR GEMINITY  
LTD 1999 100%



### in focus RUTLAND

Anglian Water  
Birdwatching Centre  
Ighiteon Reservoir  
Rutland Water  
Rutland MK6 8BT  
Tel: 01572 770606

OPEN SEVEN DAYS

### in focus LANCASHIRE

The Willford  
& Watnall Trust  
Marble Hall  
Barnesworth Grange  
Lancashire LA9 6RN  
Tel: 01704 897830

OPEN SEVEN DAYS

### in focus GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Willford  
& Watnall Trust  
Shardridge  
Gloucestershire  
GL2 7HT  
Tel: 01452 898976

OPEN SEVEN DAYS

