

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: dbuit52@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 17th, with Blackmoorfoot Res. and other waters almost totally covered by ice to 23rd followed by a complete thaw by 25th. **February** started frosty with ice on local waters on 1st 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 6th, but the 7th 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 22nd and cold easterlies persisted to 29th.

Rain and cold winds dominated the early part of **April** and were followed by cold northerlies with associated sleet and snow. Things improved from 22nd 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 18th/19th 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 19th 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 29th 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 8th for the area and the first for nearly twenty years. The Slavonian Grebe remained at Blackmoorfoot from 2000 to 10th 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 I 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 st W.	- first winter	GP	- Gravel Pit
1 st S.	- first summer	NR	- Nature Reserve
2 nd W.	- second winter	SF	- Sewage Farm
2 nd S.	- second summer	SP	- Sludge Plant
3 rd 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 21st to 23rd January (JB et al) was the 8th 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 3rd January, three on the river on 28th January and further singles on 8th April and 3rd December.

Broadstones Res. – the only record was one on 13th January.

Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 13th January, then regularly from early March. At least one pair

bred, two young being seen on 24th June but reduced to one by 3rd July. Post-breeding max. were eight on 15th/16th August and 14th September, down to three in October/December, one of these remaining to 31st December.

Elland GPs – two were present on the R.Calder on 22nd January and 9th February and then regular from early March. Mating was observed on 23rd 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 21st October.

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

Tunnel End Res. – one on 8th February, then two regularly from 5th March to 2nd October, but with no evidence to suggest breeding. A single bird present on 7th, 9th and 16th 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 22nd September to 6th October.

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

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



Gunthwaite Dam -- a calling bird present on 27th May but no further reports.

Boshaw Whams -- one pair bred, but no further details available. At least four birds still present on 6th 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 16th September and two still present on 31st 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 1st January, then a max. of two until 24th February when five were present. Numbers subsequently were variable but there was an increase to eight by 29th March and ten on 29th 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 21st to 25th, 20 on 26th to 30th and reached a peak of 27 (including just one juv.) from 20th July to 3rd August. Thereafter numbers declined steadily from 23 on 11th 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 1st and 14th January, one on 15th February.

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

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

Bretton Lakes -- highest counts in the early months were ten on 14th, 11 on 17th and 12+ on 18th February. One pair bred rearing two young, the two juvs. being still present on 27th September. At the end of the year max. were 17 on 24th November and 16 on 16th 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 15th and 30th March, then two on 21st April, 24th June, 1st August, 9th September and 28th October, with four on 28th September, then one on 1st and 12th November.

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

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

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

SLAVONIAN GREBE

Podiceps auritus

Rare visitor

Blackmoorfoot Res. – the bird from 2000 remained to 10th January (MLD 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 1st January and 30th 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 2nd January and an exceptional count of 63 on 31st December, easily the highest total ever recorded in the Club area.

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

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

Bushaw Whams – singles on 25th January and 26th December.

Broadstones Res. – one flew west on 28th January.

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

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

Ravensthorpe GPs – one flew upriver on 1st April.

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

Cowcliffe – three flew west on 5th April.

Marsden – two flew north on 10th April and one on 1st November.

Ryburn Res. – one on 2nd May.

Brownhill Res. – one on the water on 16th September.

Meltham – three flew north on 23rd September.

Riogstone Edge Res. – singles in October on 3rd, 6th and 7th.

Langsett Res. – an imm. flew south on 23rd October.

Wessenden Valley – one flyover on 1st November.

Colnebridge – one flew upriver on 4th November.

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

Castle Dam – two on 7th 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 11th August, **Scout Dike Res.** six on 6th September and at **Elland GPs** six on 14th January and 31st 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 18th February.

At **Scammonden**, seven nests had been built by 8th April, with six occupied on 15th and by 3rd 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 2nd 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 18th 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 10th May 1989.

WHITE STORK

Ciconia ciconia

Rare visitor

An adult at **Cawthorne Park** on 12th 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 3rd January, four (two ads, two imms) on 17th/18th February then one or two regularly. A breeding attempt was made, birds sitting on a nest from 22nd April to 27th May at least and a pair with downy young was present on the adjacent R. Calder on 1st and 12th August.

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

Elland GPs – two adults were present throughout the year.

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

Ravensthorpe GPs – two immatures on the canal on 21st April.

Hepworth, Victoria – one flew over towards Ingbirchworth on 16th May.

Mirfield – one on the R.Calder on 1st September.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – on 18th September one came in from the north and circled the reservoir before returning north.

Dewsbury SF – three adults on the R.Calder on 12th December.

BEWICK'S SWAN

Cygnus columbianus

Scarce winter visitor

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

WHOOPEE SWAN

Cygnus cygnus

Scarce winter visitor

There were at least three records.

Ringstone Edge Res. – 30 in the early evening of 20th 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 4th November (via BBSG).

Ingbirchworth Res. – three flew NW on 23rd 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 12th/13th January, 8th/10th and 13th/17th 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.

12th January – 130 NW at 1000hrs over **Bradley Park GC.**

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

30th January – c.200 NW and 200 E over **Blackmoorfoot.**

2nd February – 150 NW at 1030hrs over **Bradley Park GC.**

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

10th February – skeins of 140 and 93 W over **Brighouse**.

13th February – 80 W over **Elland**.

14th 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**.

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

17th 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.

24th February – c.60 WNW over **Scout Dike** at 1045hrs.

15th March – 32 W at **Blackmoorfoot** at 1025hrs.

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

The first returning birds of the autumn appeared on 13th October, though a small skein of unidentified “grey” geese, probably this species, occurred on 3rd. 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 27th/28th 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.

3rd October – 14 “grey” geese S at **Thornton Lodge** at 0815hrs.

13th 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**.

20th October – 250 E over **Lepton** at 1700hrs.

27th 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**.

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

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

11th November – four west at **Blackmoorfoot** at 1225hrs.

1st December – 35 SE at **Dewsbury SF**.

2nd December – 100 W at **Shepley**.

7th December – 72 W at **Dewsbury SF**.

15th December – c.45 SW at **Royd Moor**.

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

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

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 17th January.

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

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

Pule Hill – one flew NW with Pinkfeet on 14th February.

Castle Dam, Penistone – two on 9th March and one on 6th 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 25th November and 2nd 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 26th March.

Ingbirchworth Res. – three on 21st April.

Dewsbury SF – three flew west on 25th April.

Bretton Lakes – a high count of 15 on 19th December.

Scout Dike Res. – six on 23rd December presumed same as Castle Dam and Langsett birds and three on 25th 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 2nd otherwise no more than three birds present in that month.

Bretton Lakes – 100+ on 18th January (the only count received for the year).

Butterley Res. – 73 on 18th January.

Elland GPs – max.39 in January.

Horbury Wyke – max.170 on 17th 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 7th 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 14th June.

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

Deer Hill Res. – a pair and six well grown young on 30th June.

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

Harden Res. – three sitting birds on 8th May.

Horbury Wyke – one sitting on 13th April.

Langsett Res. – one pair hatched four young.

Royd Moor Res. – adults with young present on 21st July, but no count.

Wessenden Head Res. – 16 young in a minimum of three broods on 8th May.

Winscar Res. – three pairs with young on 8th 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 27th October.

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

Booth Wood Res. – 83 on 17th June.

Butterley Res. – 31 on 28th July.

Digley Res. – 25 on 20th July.

Elland GPs – 30 in December.

Hartcliff Hill – 235 on 6th October.

Ingbirchworth Res. – c.400 on 27th October, 170 in December.

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

Oak Scar Res. – 28 on 20th August.

Ringstone Edge Res. – 134 on 20th August, 143 on 2nd September.

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

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

Scout Dike Res. – 66 in September, 154 on 9th October, 235 on 23rd December.

Wessenden Res. – 29 on 28th July.

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

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor and occasional feral breeder

All records presumably refer to feral birds.

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

Royd Moor Res. – singles on 9th and 15th January and 20th to 28th October.

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

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

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

Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 11th 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 11th November.

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

Royd Moor Res. – four on 3rd February.

Ringstone Edge Res. – in April two on 2nd and one on 24th.

Horbury Wyke – two from 16th April to 27th May, one on 11th and 15th August.

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

Dewsbury SF – two on 31st May, a juv on 29th August and two on 21st November.

Scout Dike Res. – three on 10th October.

Langsett Res. – five on 11th November.

Baitings Res. – one on 11th November.

MANDARIN DUCK

Aix galericulata

Rare feral visitor

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

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

WIGEON

Anas penelope

Common passage and winter visitor

Recorded between 1st January and 24th April and from 26th July to 26th 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 30th August, 12 on 24th September, four in October, nine in November and 14 on 3rd December.

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

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

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

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

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

Boshaw Whams – nine on 4th April, an unusual record at this site.

Booth Wood Res. – one on 25th August.

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

Deer Hill Res. – five on 26th September.

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

Bretton Lakes – two on 6th October, a male on 8th November, four on 22nd November.

Langsett Res. – 33 on 27th October.

Wessenden Valley – two flew east on 1st November.

Elland GPs – one on 3rd/4th November, three on 26th 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 20th January (JB) and a female type on 29th August (HBC).

Horbury Wyke – a male and a female on 13th April (BA).

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

Ingbirchworth Res. – three on 29th August (DHP).

Gunthwaite Dam – one on 2nd September (SRG).

Dewsbury SF – one flew west on 1st 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 29th March, nine on 23rd April. Present on six dates in August, max. 22 on 30th, 12 dates in September, max. 24 on 26th, four dates in October, max. five on 23rd, a single bird on two November dates, then in December 19 on 3rd and five on 23rd.

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

Royd Moor Res. – early year max. were 29 on 15th January and 11th February, with 34 on 15th and 18th February. At the year end 50 on 12th and 42 on 26th 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 14th January, five on 14th February and six on 2nd December.

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

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

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

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

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

Other sites from which birds were reported were **Gunthwaite Dam** a male on 1st April, **Butterley Res.** a pair on 25th May, **Little Black Moss** (a potential breeding site) a pair on 26th July, **Deanhead Res.** four on 19th August, **Deer Hill Res.** one on 26th September, **Oak Scar Res.** one on 15th October, **Cupwith Res.** one on 19th 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 17th 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 8th May, **Castle Dam** a pair with young on 16th May, **Colnebridge SP** one pair, five young, **Dewsbury SF** several pairs, 86 young on 12th July but down to 56 a week later, **Eastergate** female and seven ducklings on 3rd June, **Elland GPs** at least one pair, **Horbury** a female with 13 young on 7th May and at least four broods on 13th May, **March Haigh Res.** three young on 9th August, **Ingbirchworth Res.** four broods totalling 27 young, **Langsett Res.** five broods 29 young, **Oak Scar Res.** four young on 20th 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
Blackmoorfoot	24	26	14	15	15	16	28	54	47	61	26	34
Dewsbury SF	42	n/c	48	178	82	120						
Elland GPs	80	45	25	22	15	26	22	42	60	21	30	46
Ingbirchworth	87	1	20+	5	5	8	50	109	123	67	30	12
Langsett Res	10	15	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	17	58	81	114	144	59
Royd Moor	62	45	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 21st, **Cupwith Res** (where birds are released for shooting) nine on 5th January, 176 on 22nd August, 88 on 28th October and 45 on 9th December, **Scammonden** 22 on 14th January, 12 on 12th February, 18 on 3rd November, 33 on 2nd December, **Lindley farm pond** 42 on 17th January, 20 on 3rd December, **Scout Dike Res.** 46 on 27th January, 45 on 17th February, 13 on 21st August, 15 on 22nd September, 22 on 7th 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 7th February, **Baitings Res.** nine in February, 80 in October, 51 in November, **Marsden centre** 27 on 7th May, 59 on 26th July, 97 on 14th 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 18th February and 30th March, six birds (two males) flying west on 4th April and a male and a female present on 21st April.

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

GARGANEY

Anas querquedula

Rare summer migrant

The only record was of a pair on the morning of 13th 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 1st February (AC via HBC).

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

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

Elland GPs – a male on 9th April (AZ via HBC).

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

Scout Dike Res. – single females on 28th/29th September and 9th 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 1st January, three on 14th February and one on 31st March. Birds reappeared in July, with three on 19th followed by one on 24th/25th. In August three on 1st, singles on 6th and 9th, four on 25th, one from 22nd to 24th September, six on 9th and five on 15th October, one on 3rd November, two on 11th/12th November and in December singles on 5th and 23rd, two on 24th and five on 28th.

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

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

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

Scammonden – in January three males on 1st and one male on 14th.

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

Royd Moor Res. – one on 27th January, four males on 13th February, two on 17th February.

Langsett Res. – a male on 30th July.

Boshaw Whams – a female on 22nd October.

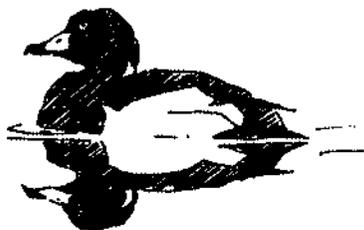
TUFTED DUCK

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 15th 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 7th 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 1st July a female had six very small young and on 8th July a female was accompanied by ten young and a brood of nine was still present on 29th 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 18th, 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 29th July increasing to 74 on 1st 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 9th February, 13 in November and 14 in December.

Seamonden/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 21st 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 9th 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 20th July (MLD, DHP), a female type on 4th August (MC) and a male on 4th 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 16th and 21st July, three (two males) on 25th July and in August a male on 12th, four (two males) on 24th and two males on 25th (MLD et al).

Ringstone Edge Res. – a f./imm. present from 1st to 5th 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 1st January to 21st April and 22nd October to 31st December.

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

Ingbirchworth Res. – a single bird in January, but none then until a 1st year male appeared on 27th May, after which further sightings occurred on 9th, 11th and 12th June and two imm. males present on 15th. (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 11th November and one was present in December.

Deanhead Res. – single redheads on 1st and 14th January and 18th 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 2nd, 16 on 13th, five on 14th then three on 7th February.

Horbury Wyke – a single female was on the R.Calder on 3rd and 17th January and 3rd December.

Langsett Res. – one on 3rd January, two from 20th January to 8th February and on 5th and 18th March. At the year end two on 19th November, a male on 22nd December, three (one male) on 3rd December, subsequently present on and off to 31st.

Scout Dike Res. – singles on 9th January and 25th December.

Royd Moor Res. – singles on 15th and 27th January, two on 17th February, one on 16th December.

Brownhill Res. – male on 20th 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 8th February.

Redbrook Res. – a r.h. on 14th February.

Winscar Res. – a female on 26th and 28th March.

Boshaw Whams – two imm. on 22nd October.

Harden Res. – an imm. on 8th December.

Marsden – a r.h. on 16th 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 12th 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 29th April (GBS), all reports came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** as follows:- a male on 21st July (MLD), single redheads on 12th October (DHP) and 1st November (MLD,DHP), a male and a redhead on 9th November (MLD,TG) and a redhead on 3rd December (CH).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Regular passage and winter visitor

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

Castle Dam, Penistone – nine on 3rd and five on 9th January.

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

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

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 28th January and one flew NE on 17th November.

McAlpine Stadium – regular in the first winter period on the R.Colne, max. three on 24th February.

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

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

Ringstone Edge Res. – two on 18th February and one, probably a juv. on 1st September.

Oak Scar Res. – a male and a redhead on 28th February.

Magdale Dam – two on 26th February.

Diggle – one on the canal on 8th March.

Harden Res. – a redhead on 28th March.

Birkby – a pair flying south over Birkby Road on 1st April.

Langsett Res. – a male on 10th 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 28th October.

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

RUDDY DUCK

Oxyura jamaicensis

Irregular breeder (1) and infrequent visitor

Reported from only three sites this year.

Scout Dike Res. – one on 6th January, a pair on 5th June and two on 7th July.

Elland GPs – a female on 24th January.

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

HONEY BUZZARD

Pernis apivorus

Rare passage visitor

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

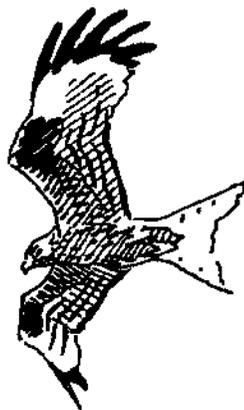
Amendments to 2000 Report – The YNU Rarities Committee has accepted the records at **Harden/Winscar** on 22nd September, at **Holmbridge** on 23rd September, at **Silkstane** on 27th September and at **Ringstone Edge Res.** and at **Dalton/Almondbury** on 29th September. Those at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 21st and at **Holme Village** on 25th and 27th 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 8th 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 6th May (RJB). On 27th 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 17th April, but could not be relocated in the afternoon (RT).

Deer Hill – a female was hunting at 1830hrs. on 23rd July (KW).

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

Dovestones – one on 28th August (via JS).

Scapegoat Hill – a ringtail flew south at 1500hrs. on 27th September (TG).

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

Scammonden – a male flew north at 0940hrs. on 17th 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 15th February and a probable male was present on 1st April. Singles were seen going to roost on 17th, 22nd, 25th and 30th September and 25th November. At a second site a pair displayed on 18th April and at a third former breeding site display was observed on 21st April and 6th and 19th May.

Away from breeding areas a female was hunting along hedgcrows near **Skelmanthorpe Cricket Club** on 6th January (BA), a male was at **Winscar** on 9th January (BBSG), a male at **Ringstone Edge** on 11th January (AC via HBC), one flew NE over **Greenhead** on 12th 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 17th March (MLB via JED), a male was watched briefly at **Scammonden** on 8th April (JED), a male was soaring over **Cawthorne Park** on 27th 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 28th April (MC), one was at the northern end of **Winscar Res.** on 13th May (MC), a female was over **Lindley Moor** on 23rd August (JED), an adult flew low SSW at **Harden Res.** on 17th November (MC) and a “probable” was at **TP Woods** on 21st 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 **Yateholme** area. Juveniles were observed in July at **Dalton** on 7th, **Winscar** on 16th and **Harden** on 29th.

Dated sightings in each month were :-

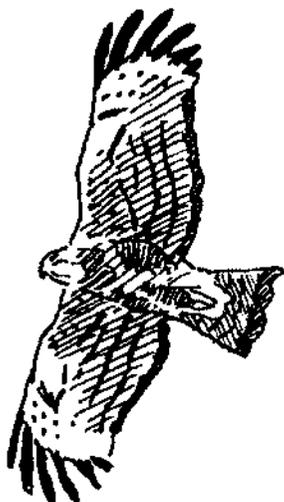
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	21	12	24	20	9	15	20	15	15	13	19

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

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

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

V.in.w. produced singles moving south at **Wessenden** on 27th and 28th October and at **Dewsbury SF** three south on 30th September and two south on 7th 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 11th March (DB).

Marsden – one flew west on 23rd March (TG).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – one drifted to the NW circling on 28th March (TG).

Meltham Cop – one circled before departing east on 7th April (TD).

Stainland – a “probable” on 25th April (HBC).

Dovestones – one drifted west on 9th May (PDB).

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

soaring with Peregrine and Raven (MC).

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

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

Flouch Inn – one over on 20th July (BBSG).

Margery Wood – one flying over on 11th August (JED).

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

New Mill – a “probable” flew over on 26th August (CDA).

Cawthorne – one over on 5th and 7th September (BBSG).

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

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

Dewsbury SF – one flew south on 1st 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 24th August, a minimum of six over **Langsett** on 27th August and three at **Dewsbury SF** on 15th 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 7th, with possibly the same individual nearby in **Annat Royd Laue** on 16th and also on 7th February, one flew south at **Dewsbury SF** on 13th January and one was at **Horbury Wyke** on 18th.

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 27th. A female was at **Holme Styes** on 1st April and a male at **Whitley Common** on the same date and one spent the day at **Dewsbury SF** on 12th April. A female was at **Whitley Common** on 1st May.

Breeding was confirmed at one locality, the male and three fledged juveniles being seen on 25th and 31st 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 26th August. Birds were seen at another potential breeding site on 27th April, 6th and 12th May, 3rd June and 20th/21st July, both male and female being involved in these sightings and both a male and a female were at a fourth site on 3rd August.

In the post-breeding season birds were in the **Wessenden Valley** on 14th August (m. and f.), 29th August, 12th September (mobbing a Common Buzzard), 27th and 30th October and on 1st November, when a f./imm. harassed a migrant Chaffinch flock. At **Dewsbury SF** a male flew south on 11th July and a second male on 21st August, whilst two (m. and f.) hunted the works on 6th October and a male on 23rd December was the last of the year. Additional sightings came from the **Little Don Valley** on 6th August, **Ingbirchworth** on 13th September, **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th September and 8th October, **Royd Moor** on 25th September, **Denby Dale** on 28th September, near the **Flouch Inn** and **Digley Res.** on 13th and **Victoria** on 18th October, a male hunting near **Marsden** on 1st November, followed by a male at **Elland GPs** on 12th 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 1st July and there was a further sighting on 20th July (MC).

Elsewhere single birds were seen on 8th July in the **Little Don Valley** (BBSG) and at **Ingbirchworth Res.** (DB), the latter being harassed by Swifts. An immature was over **Thornhill** on 22nd August (JRS), an adult hunted over **Dewsbury SF** on 28th August (JH), one went south at **Hade Edge** on 24th September (CH) and one flew south up the **Wessenden Valley** on the late date of 27th 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 21st June, and an adult and a juv. were present at a third site on 25th August. At a further site, birds were present on 2nd April and 21st 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 14th February.

Dewsbury SF – one east on 14th April and one on 8th August.

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

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

Brighouse – one over on 22nd April.

Ringstone Edge -- singles on 13th July and 7th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res. -- an imm. female chasing gulls on 3rd August and an adult female on 22nd August.

Little Don Valley -- one on 6th August.

Whitegate Lane -- two juveniles on 16th August, perhaps indicating breeding nearby.

Marsden -- a female on 22nd August and an imm. on 22nd December.

Langsett Res. -- two at dusk on 22nd September.

Scout Dike Res. -- an immature, probably female, flew NNE on 25th September.

Harteliff Hill -- two on 6th October.

Cupwith Moor -- one on 9th 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 28th January. At **Marsden Clough** a female was accompanied by two well grown young on 25th July, with several other birds seen and heard. At least five were at **Hade Edge** on 30th July.

Later in the year eight were on **Wessenden Moor** on 29th August, 14 near **Deer Hill** on 13th October and at least 18 in the **Shooter's Nab** area on 16th 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 26th August (DMP), two adults and two juvs. were present beside the approach road on 20th and 26th September and three were seen on 18th October (TG). On 9th November an adult was caught by a falconer's Peregrine (TG).

The only other report was of eight in fields near **Thurgoland** on 1st 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 15th February, one on 13th October.

Shelley – one at Roydhouse on 8th March.

Lower Denby – one near the Dunkirk Inn on 11th March.

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

Broadstones Lodge – a pair in gorse on 12th April and one on 1st July.

Ringstone Edge – a pair flew across the road on 21st April.

Dovestones – two on 25th June.

Scout Dike – two on 1st September and 12 on 12th December.

Denby Dale – six on 11th October.

Deer Hill – one on 18th October.

Wessenden Valley – two in Adam's Pasture on 18th November.

Digley – six in fields off Acres Lane on 8th December.

Dewsbury SF – nine on 29th 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 4th 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 9th 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 16th July (JRS). Birds had been heard calling at the site on 13th, 16th and 21st April and two adults were also observed on 19th and 22nd July, with one on 21st July and 1st 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 10th, 14th, 17th, 18th and 24th February and on 8th, 9th and 16th December (DB,BA,JED,AA,TCl). One was also seen sunning itself at the edge of the phragmites bed on the lower lake on 31st December (DMP,SP).

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

Colnebridge SP – a juvenile was present on 20th October (DS).

Scout Dike Res. – one was picked up dead about 28th 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 17th February and from 8th March to 5th April, a pair was present from 6th April, but their nesting attempt was predated on 9th May. One bird remained from 22nd to 31st May, then one on 1st December was the only other record.

Castle Dam – at least one pair bred, young present on 16th May.

Ingbirchworth Res. – at least one pair bred, adults and young present un 12th 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 17th 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 3rd January.

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

Gunthwaite Dam – one on a nest on 27th May.

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

Langsett Res. – two pairs were present.

Dewsbury SF – three broods of small chicks only a couple of days old were present on 5th 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 22nd 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 **Scammonden** – two on 12th January, one on 15th February, **Hill Top Res.** – singles on 30th April, 30th May, 15th June and 28th September, **Clough Lea** – one on 9th September, two on 14th October, **Boshaw Whams** – one on 23rd September and **Oak Scar Res.** – two on 15th 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 24th July. Occurred on 11 dates in August, max. five on 6th, then on only three more dates to the year end.

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

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

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

Scout Dike Res. – eight broods totalling 24 young on 5th 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 4th November.

Dewsbury SF – three pairs present on 4th 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 28th February and two on 15th October, two at **Canon Hall** on 11th August and singles at **Scammonden** on 1st January, 8th and 12th February.

OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus ostralegus

Rare breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor

Once again a pair returned to breed at **Winscar Res.** First seen on 15th 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 3rd July and three small chicks were visible on 16th July but not subsequently. The last report was of one on 2nd September. An adult, presumably one of the breeding pair, was feeding on pasture on **Tinker Hill** on 5th 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 8th February and 11th April, two on 6th June, then in July two on 12th, two west on 16th, one west on 24th and one on 27th, followed in August by three on 8th and singles on 10th, 12th and 18th.

Baitings Res. – two on 8th March.

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

Horbury Wyke – one on 13th April.

Brown's Edge Road – one on 26th April.

Castle Dam – two on 28th April.

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

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

Scout Dike Res. – one flew NE on 13th May, one on 8th August.

Elland GPs – three on 13th May.

Scammonden – one on 20th May.

Deer Hill Res. – two on 30th July, one on 18th 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 28th March, then none until 3rd April when two appeared and remained to the month end. Two from 3rd to 31st May, three on 6th June, three (one juv.) from 7th to 9th July, five on 19th July, then singles regularly to the last, a juvenile, on 20th August.

Denby Dale – a pair had arrived by 25th April and had young on 18th 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 30th April and 16th May.

Elland GPs – one on 2nd May.

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

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

Horbury Wyke – two on 13th May.

Ravensthorpe GPs – at least one on 18th May and one on 28th June.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor

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

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

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

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

Deer Hill Res. – an adult on 23rd September (BA, DM).

Royd Moor Res. – one flew over calling on 18th October (RJB).

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare passage visitor

Two were found at **Whitley Common** at 2000hrs. on 11th 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 18th, 25 flew south at **Ingbirchworth** on 28th 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 19th, 80 on 22nd and 84 on 24th. Elsewhere **Ringstone Edge** had a max. of 130, 30 flew over **Shepley** on 3rd, 250 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th, 31 at **Broadstones** on 18th and singles flew over **Scout Dike** on 13th, **Wessenden Head** on 14th and **Saddleworth Road** on 18th.

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

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 19th peaked at 226 on 22nd before reducing gradually to 90 on 28th and 21 on 30th. **Blackmoorfoot** had birds daily from 3rd with max. of 68 on 20th, 154 on 21st and 77 on 24th. At **Dewsbury SF** 53 on 3rd increased to c.400 by 17th before reducing to 280 on 29th; 102 were at **Ringstone Edge** on 16th.

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 12th. At **Blackmoorfoot** there was still an almost daily presence with max. of 16 on 10th, 23 on 14th, 27 on 16th, 42 on 18th, 38 on 20th and 24 on 29th. Birds probably still on the move were singles ENE over **Harden** and north over **Whitley Edge**, both on 12th.

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 9th then between 27 and 66 in a ley field near the **Will's o' Nat's** from 17th to 20th. Seven were near the **Ford Inn** on 12th.

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

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

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

GREY PLOVER

Pluvialis squatarola

Rare passage visitor

One was with the Golden Plover flock at **Ringstone Edge** on 18th 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 14th and at a slightly higher altitude at **Harden Edge** on 17th. 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 31st, February 97 on 2nd, June 84 on 25th, July 460 on 23rd, August 297 on 7th, 468 on 17th, 262 on 23rd, September 350 on 5th and 11th, 422 on 23rd, October 590 on 18th, November 340 on 19th, December 600 on 12th.

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

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

Castle Dam – c.80 on 3rd January.

Royd Moor Res. – c.100 on 15th January, 138 on 29th July, 106 on 25th September.

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

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

Netberton (Wakefield) – c.200 on 28th January.

Broadstones – 200 on 15th June.

High Flatts – c.250 on 31st July.

Horbury Wyke – 65 on 1st August, 60 on 3rd December.

Colnebridge SP – 102 on 26th August, 147 on 2nd September, 35 in October, 76 in November.

Hartcliff Hill – c.250 on 6th 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 12th February, 20 west and 30 north at **Bretton** on 14th February, 70 SE at **Nont Sarah's** on 28th October, 20 east at **Cupwith** on 9th December and 25 west at **Lindley Moor** on 31st December.

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

KNOT

Calidris canutus

Rare visitor

The only record was of an adult at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17th and 18th 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 15th (JB, AC via HBC), one on 19th (JB), one on 26th (JB,PGe), one on 27th from 1030 to 1115hrs. but not later (DHP) and one on 18th July (AC via HBC).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – two, one in 90% summer plumage and the second c.50%, on 28th May (MLD) and a bird in full summer plumage remained from 5th to 7th 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 3rd June.

Passage birds were noted at four sites.

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

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

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

Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 20th September.

RUFF

Philomachus pugnax

Scarce passage visitor

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

JACK SNIBE

Lymnocyptes minimus

Scarce passage and winter visitor

There were five records from three locations.

Elland GPs – one on 13th and four on 24th February (MS,JB).

Deer Hill – one in a rushy pasture on 21st February (BA).

Featherbed Moss – singles flushed from beside the Pennine Way on 4th October and 19th 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 14th January to 25 on 28th March, after which numbers reduced to 22 on 30th and to eight on 11th and 30th 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 13th January, eight at **Cubley** on 21st January, a max. of six in a damp field at **Golcar** on 27th January, two at **March Haigh** on 8th February and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles were present on 4th and 8th January, with three from 1st to 6th March.

In the breeding season the first displaying bird was reported from **Tinker Hill**, where two pairs were on territory, on 21st 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 3rd August and numbers increased gradually to 12 on 12th September, 16 from 6th to 24th October, then down to six on 19th November. The only other sites where double figures were achieved were **Shepley**, where there were 17 on 22nd and 29th December and **Ringstone Edge**, which had six on 21st and ten on 29th October and seven on 23rd December. Eight were at **Scammonden** on 23rd October. Singles were present in November at **Colnebridge SP** on 3rd and at **Annat Royd Lane** on 24th and max. of nine at **Golcar** on 1st December and eight at **Horbury Wyke** on 3rd 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 1st January, **Bretton Park** on 8th February, **Upper Stones Wood** and **Matthewman Wood** (three) on 11th February and **Golcar Tip** on 7th March. One flushed from the same spot at **New Hall Wood** on 17th March and 7th and 28th April could have been wintering or could be suggestive of nesting.

A nest with eggs was located in **Stoneycliffe Wood** on 12th May and hatching had occurred by 15th. 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 26th November, **Horbury Wyke** on 3rd December and from the **Deer Hill/West Nab** area where during a shoot on 1st 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 28th April (JB) and there was an autumn record of a single bird at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7th 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 2nd May (BBSG), followed by singles north over **Ringstone Edge** on 24th May (DJS via HBC) and over **Lindley Moor** on 25th May (JED).

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

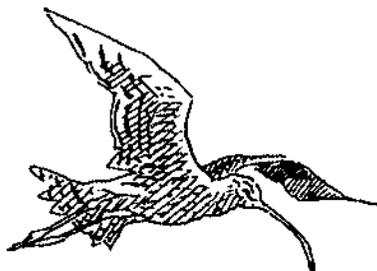
CURLEW

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 18th January and three birds roosting at **Dewsbury SF** on 23rd January were exceptionally early, as were singles in February at **Harden** flying NW on 13th and north on 15th and at **Redbrook Res.** on 14th and **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd.

By 11th March birds were on territory and displaying on the **Ingbirchworth** plateau and at



Harden by 13th, 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 15th March. Birds also appeared in March at **Broadstones** (seven) and **Bretton/Midgley** on 8th, **Ringstone Edge** (two) and **Marsden** on 10th, **Flouch** on 14th, **Digley** on 18th, **Dewsbury SF** on 19th and 28th and over **Lindley Moor** on 24th. A single flock of 52 birds passed over **Langsett Res.** on 25th, c.20 were roosting in fields at **Victoria** on 27th March and 18 were at **Baitings** on 28th. 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 4th May.

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

REDSHANK

Tringa totanus

Migrant breeder (1)

One on the R. Calder at **Ravensthorpe** on 28th January was extremely early, the next not appearing until 14th March at **Winscar Res.**, followed by one at **Horbury Wyke** on 19th March. Further spring passage birds occurred at **Horbury** on 31st March, 1st (2), 3rd, 7th and 13th April (2) and at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th/5th 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 14th 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 14th and one there on 23rd May, all other records were from June onwards, as follows :-

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

Boshaw Whams – one on 11th June.

Oldfield, Honley – one over on 17th June.

Ingbirchworth Res. – two on 10th July.

Deer Hill Res. – one on 15th July.

Winscar Res. – one on 17th July.
Scout Dike Res. – one on 23rd September.
Dewsbury SF – two on 19th 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 19th August.

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

Deer Hill Res. – one on 6th July (CH) and three on 19th August (DMP).

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

Horbury Wyke – one on 19th July (DHP).

Dewsbury SF – singles on 20th and 26th July and 21st August (JH).

Ringstone Edge Res. – in August four on 8th, one on 20th (HBC).

Baitings Res. – three on 25th August (HBC).

Butterley Res. – one on 2nd 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 9th 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 12th to 20th July, then in August two from 5th to 10th, three on 11th, four on 12th remaining to 26th, three on 27th to 30th and four again on 31st. In September two appeared on 27th/28th and in October singles on 1st, 3rd and 22nd with two on 17th. One present on 1st November was seen regularly until 1st December (JH). Probably at least a dozen birds were involved in these sightings.

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

Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 28th August (RD&SEH).

Scout Dike Res. – one on 28th 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 28th 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 21st 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 27th October.

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

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

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

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

Elland GPs – one on 27th April.

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

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

Castle Dam – one on 1st May.

Langsett Res. – two on 8th and two pairs on 16th 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 24th June. Three were still present on 14th July, one remaining to 1st September.

Wessenden Res. – two were harassing a Fox on the shoreline on 8th May.

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

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

Blakeley Res. – one on 25th May and an adult with a chick nearby on 14th June.

Wessenden Head Res. – a pair with at least one young on 8th June.

Dovestones Res. – present in the breeding season.

Deer Hill Res. – two on 30th June, one on 12th August.

Marsden – one over calling on 14th July.

Scammonden – singles on 30th July and 19th 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 13th January (MC).

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

Digley – a 1stW was in fields near Issues Road on 14th January (MC).

Ingbirchworth Res. – an adult in full summer plumage present on 1st April (DB).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – in October a 1stW on 2nd (KW) and an adult on 19th (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 23rd July (JKP, KW) and two birds, an adult and a 2nd year, were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 23rd 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 6th, c.900 on 14th rising to c.1400 on 28th and 1500+ on 3rd February. No further details then until the first of autumn appeared on 29th July. Eleven roosted on 30th September, increasing through October with 20 on 12th, 63 on 13th, 108 on 17th, 204 on 23rd, 322 on 27th. In November 1115 on 11th, 635 on 17th, 950 on 24th and 1323 on 25th. Numbers decreased through December from c.1300 on 1st to 1161 on 15th, 451 on 23rd and 60 on 24th.

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

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

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 15th January and 23rd February, 47 on 25th September increasing to c.200 on 27th October and c.250 on 16th December.

Bretton Lakes – 140+ on the ice on 18th January, 86 on 9th December.

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

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

Tunnel End Res. – 87 on 8th February.

Brown's Edge – c.300 in fields on 11th March.

Lindley Rec. – two on 30th June were the first since 30th March. 55 on 15th December.

Shepley Common – 350 feeding in fields on 1st July.

Harden – small numbers were moving west from 6th to 9th July.

Ringstone Edge Res. – the only count was 450 on 23rd 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 14th and 196 on 28th, then c.400 on 3rd February. No further counts then until October with just one on 17th increasing to 24 by 27th. There was a gradual increase in November to a max. of 119 on 25th and a max. in December of 223 on 15th, reducing to c.30 on 24th.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – 500 on 10th March, one on 13th 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 24th and in December a count of 850 on 30th. There were no counts in January, February or March except in combination with Black-headed Gull, producing totals of 4700 on 29th January and 4300 on 13th February.

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

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

Elland GPs – 25 on 14th January, 43 on 28th March, 50 on 3rd November, 18 on 14th December.

Ingbirchworth Res. – c.70 on 15th 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 19th July.

Blackley Tip – 50 on 27th January.

Ringstone Edge Res. – two on 25th May, 50 on 23rd October.

Royd Moor Res. – 33 on 16th December.

Single figures were reported from another ten sites and included a subadult at **Milnsbridge** on 1st June, three at **Booth Wood Dam** on 11th June and an adult at **Castle Hill** on 27th 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 1st and seven on 29th January, increasing through February with 39 on 14th and through March with 87 on 3rd, 97 on 10th and 359 on 17th to a peak of 536 on 3rd April. Max. in May was 127 on 19th and in June 196 on 22nd, with an adult of the race *L.f.intermedius* on 13th and 17th. Numbers thereafter increased to monthly max. of 360 on 25th July, 431 on 22nd August, 453 on 26th September and 559 on 5th October. There were no counts in November and only three birds in December on 29th/30th.

Langsett Res. – birds roosted on three dates in January, max. just two on 6th followed by seven on 3rd February. 16 flew west on 8th April. Numbers in the daytime roost from July to September were low with max. of 66 on 29th and 64 on 30th July and 73 on 11th August. From September onwards monthly max. at the evening roost were 627 on 22nd September, 502 on 6th October, 281 on 11th November and 232 on 1st December, decreasing to six on 26th December. At least 50% of those roosting from 22nd September to 17th 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 28th September, 200 on 18th October, in November c.230 on 3rd and 200 on 17th, c.120 on 8th December down to four on 16th.

Elland GPs – one on 27th January, 30 on 5th May.

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

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

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

Dewsbury SF – 22 on the works on 12th August as well as birds moving SW.

Ingbirchworth Res. – c.50 in a nearby field on 15th August.

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

Hartcliff Hill – 80 in fields on 29th September.

Wessenden Valley – 108 moved S/SW on 28th 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 29th January, 409 on 12th and 369 on 13th February, 42 on 21st April and 23 on 13th 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 28th, 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 1st to 143 on 13th and 313 on 30th December.

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

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 1st January was the highest of the year.

Elland GPs – 15 on 14th January down to two on 27th; ten on 30th December.

Dewsbury SF – c.100 moved west on 26th 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 15th 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 2nd March (JED).

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

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

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

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

October and 5th 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 1st September (RJB).

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

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

Harcliff Hill – an adult flew SW towards Langsett Res. on 29th September (BBSG).

ICELAND GULL

Larus glaucooides

Scarce winter visitor

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

GLAUCOUS GULL

Larus hyperboreus

Scarce winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Res. provided all the records, the same 1st W. on 8th, 16th and 17th February (MLD,DHP,JKP et al) and another 1st W. at the year end on 31st 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 29th January, in February 67 on 12th, 43 on 13th, 23 on 14th, eight on 15th and seven on 16th. Six counts in March produced a max. of 23 on 3rd 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 3rd. November had birds on four dates, max. 14 on 13th, but numbers increased in December to 87 on 30th.

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

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

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

Blackley Tip – two on 27th January, eleven on 15th December.

Elsewhere birds were reported from **Ringstone Edge Res.**, where there was an adult, possibly injured, from at least 27th May to 3rd June and again on 17th June, **Bradshaw** four west on 6th June, **Inghirchworth Res.** two 3rd years on 1st July and a juv. on 2nd September, **Marsden** an adult west on 21st September, **Taylor Hill** one over on 19th December and **Shelley** four adults over on 23rd 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 22nd February (KW), 28 (26 ads. and two 1st years) on 13th March which departed to the NW at 1730hrs.(TG), three ads. on 30th and one ad. on 31st March (TG), an adult on 16th May (MLD), an adult on 6th November (DHP) and two ads. and a juv. on 7th November (TG).

Ringstone Edge Res. – an adult on 18th May (JB).

Elland GPs – adult on 3rd November (JB et al).

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

SANDWICH TERN*Sterna sandvicensis*

Scarce passage migrant

Three which passed through **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2nd April (BBSG) were the earliest ever recorded in the Club area, the previous record being on 13th 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 12th April and 16th October.

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

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

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

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

Ravensthorpe – one along the canal on 10th June.

Scout Dike Res. – two on 24th June.

Ringstone Edge Res. – in July two on 6th, five on 13th and four on 18th.

ARCTIC TERN*Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon passage visitor

Two flew over **Thurgoland** about 25th April (NEP), one at **Colnebridge SP** on 6th May (DS), one at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 19th July (AC via HBC) and an adult at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on the evening of 10th 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 14th May (JB).

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** two adults with two juvs. arrived at 1540hrs. on 19th August, but were not seen after 1550hrs.(MLD,DMO) and two adults were present on 29th 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 11th 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 23rd February, max. were six on 13th February, 19th March and 1st April and five on 23rd 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 3rd January to 15th February.

Castle Dam -- a max. of seven on 3rd January.

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

Deer Hill -- four on 13th February, 13 feeding on 10th November.

Emley Moor -- c.50 on 26th February.

Dearne Dike Lane -- nine at the northern end on 1st April.

Dewsbury SF -- 13 on 13th April, 35 on 17th October, 58 on 27th October and 60+ on 12th 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 16th and four on 27th.

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 7th and 200 south on 15th. 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 13th January.

Bretton Park – 500+ on 14th January.

Helme – c.200 on 28th January.

Dewsbury SF – 140 on 6th February was the highest count of the year.

Denby Dale – 200+ roosted in Toby Wood on 12th February.

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

Colnebridge SP – max. were at least 60 moving west on 28th October and 43 on 17th 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 16th, 850 on 27th, 637 on 28th and 19 on 31st; in November 201 on 1st, 182 on 2nd, 103 on 3rd, 112 on 4th, 235 on 5th, 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 4th 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 13th January, then none until three on 8th December.

Cannon Hall – 14 on 11th 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 3rd 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 10th 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 6th 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 28th April and the last report was on 21st July.

Up to two were present around **Langsett** from 28th April until the last on 24th June and a hepatic female was at **Langsett Banks** on 10th June. The only other April report came from **Horbury Wyke** on 29th. A male was in song in the **Harden/Winscar** area on 1st May and was heard intermittently to 24th May, whilst at nearby **Snailsden/ElLEN Tree Brow** a pair was mobbed by Meadow Pipits on 23rd May. Further individuals were reported in May at **Bullcliff Wood** on 15th, **Bradshaw** on 21st and **Near Bank, Shelley**, the last remaining to 21st July. Singles were heard in June at **Bilberry Res.** on 12th and **Shelley Park** on 16th, one was at **Dewsbury SF** on 12th 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.

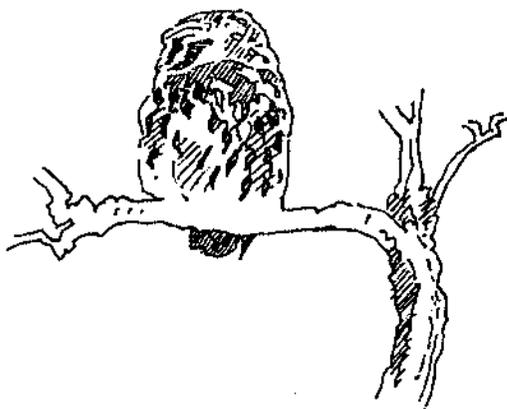
LITTLE OWL

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/Roughbircworth (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 25th 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 28th July and at least one, probably two, large mobile juveniles were present from 10th to 17th August. Nearby an adult was hunting newly cut fields in good light on 23rd May and at the roadside at 2150hrs. on 18th July.

At the second site a juvenile was being mobbed by Blackbirds on 24th 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 23rd April and 30th May (MC,SRG).

In the autumn one was hunting over fields at **Spicer House Lane** on 27th August (JKP), two were reported from **Upper Heaton** at 2200hrs. on 30th August (DW) and in the **Marsden/Blackmoorfoot** area two were reported along the **Blackmoorfoot conduit** on 23rd September, one to the west of **Deer Hill** on 26th September and one again along the **Meltham Road Blackmoorfoot conduit** about one mile out of **Marsden** on 8th November (TG); these last sightings probably involve the same individual. The only other reports were singles at **Cupwith Hill** on 18th September (JMD) and at **Harden**, possibly a migrant after hard weather, on 26th 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 25th, birds were seen on 26th at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and **Waterloo** (3+) and again at **Elland**, on 27th again at **Blackmoorfoot** (7), **Honley** (2) and **Dewsbury SF**, on 28th at **Blackmoorfoot** (7) again, **Ingbirchworth** (20) and **Crosland Moor**, on 29th at **Blackmoorfoot** (11), **Stainland**, **Shelley**, **Elland**, **Horbury Wyke** (c.15) and **Dewsbury SF** again and on 30th 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 1st, **Lockwood** and **Denby Dale** on 2nd, **Milnsbridge** on 3rd and a large count of 60 at **Denby Dale** on 4th, followed by two at **Holmfirth** on 8th.

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 17th and 30 on 25th; in June 50 to 80 daily to 7th, then 250+ on 8th, 160+ from 9th to 11th, then up to 50 later in the month but the post-breeding max. was only 44 on 4th August.

Ingbirchworth Res. – 50+ on 19th May, 150+ on 19th July, up to 200 on 21st July.

Harden – 25+ on 19th May, 60+ north on 2nd June.

Tinker Hill – 80+ on 19th May.

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

Other late season high counts were 50+ at **Horbury Wyke** on 1st and 12th August, c.30 at **Oldfield** on 11th and 13th August and 60+ at **Crosland Moor** on 15th 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 16th, one at **Elland** on 22nd, three at **Dalton** and one at **Blackmoorfoot** on 25th, with one at the latter site on 30th. In September singles at **Dewsbury SF** and **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th, one flew NW over **Coweliffe** on 18th and finally one over **Hagg Wood**, **Thongsbridge** on 7th/8th 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 23rd September, Denby Dale on 27th August and 16th/17th October, Gunthwaite Dam two on 2nd 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 15th July and at Ingbirchworth Res. on 4th 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 28th 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 11th/12th June and at **Woodsome, Stockmoor, 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 7th, 9th, 13th and 14th January, 10th, 14th and 24th February. At least one pair probably bred, a pair and a probable juv. being seen on 23rd June, then singles on 1st July and 24th November.

Spring Wood, Netherton – a female on 13th January.

Shepley – a male on 27th January.

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

Gunthwaite Dam – a male on 24th March and 14th April; possibly bred.

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

Anchor Wood – one drumming on 8th April.

Magdale, Honley – one drumming on 12th April.

Denby Dale – one in **Clough House Lane** on 4th May.

Ingbirchworth Res. – one in the willow copse at the western end on 15th July.

Royd House Wood – one seen on 30th August.

Butterley – one calling in woodland on 21st November.

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

Lepton Great Wood – a male on 2nd December.



Deffer Wood – a male on 2nd December.

Longley Hall Woods – a male with a tit flock on 15th 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 28th 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 13th February. On 15th 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 18th February. The only flock of the spring contained 30+ birds in stubble near **Ravensthorpe** on 3rd 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 4th, 14 on 16th, one on 25th.

Hartcliff Hill – 75 on 4th, 84 on 6th, 65 on 9th.

Harden – three SSE on 9th.

Blackmoorfoot – 35 on 12th, 35 on 15th, 17 on 18th, 32 on 23rd, 42 on 24th.

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 2nd November.

SAND MARTIN

Riparia riparia

Migrant breeder (2)

Birds were quite late in arriving, with only two March records, the first on 25th, 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 25th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – two on 30th March, then in April from 1st on 24 dates, usually up to six birds but eight on 29th; 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 20th and present on four days in August, max. four on 14th. In September on five dates, max. five on 20th and a late bird on 2nd October.

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

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

Ravensthorpe GPs – first noted on 8th 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 11th August.

Litherop Lane – 15 feeding over adjacent fields on 12th April.

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

Harden – nine flew north in an hour on 21st April.

Ingbirchworth Res. – six on 23rd April. In July two on 15th, 20+ on 19th and present but not counted on 31st.

Boshaw Whams – five on 24th April.

Gunthwaite Dam – one on 27th May.

Ringstone Edge Res. – in July three on 1st, one on 13th and one on 8th August.

Almondsbury – six flew over on 25th 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 29th March, followed by five at the latter site and one at **West Vale** on 31st. In April singles were noted on 1st at **Helme**, **Ingbirchworth** and again at **Blackmoorfoot**, on 2nd at **Castle Dam**, on 3rd at **Dewsbury SF** (four), **Bradley Park G.C.** and **Blackmoorfoot** (two) with additional singles here also on 4th and 6th.

There was then a gap in sightings to 11th April, again at **Blackmoorfoot**, followed on 12th by two at **Litherop Lane**, on 13th at **Horbury Wyke** and on 17th when 40 were at **Elland GPs**.

Birds then appeared at **Lindley Moor** (two) and **Bretton Park** on 20th, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Hade Edge** and **Harden** (four north) on 21st, **Clayton West** (c.12) on 22nd, **Ingbirchworth** (six), **Taylor Hill** and **Oldfield** (two) on 23rd, **New Mill** and **Boshaw Whams** (five) on 24th, **Dalton** on 25th, **Shelley** on 26th and **Waterloo** (three) on 28th, but not until 1st May in the **Grimescar Valley**. At **Harden** local breeders were back on territory on 5th May.

The only sizeable gatherings during this period were 50+ at **Elland GPs** on 22nd April, at **Blackmoorfoot** 60+ on 26th, 45+ on 28th, 78 on 29th April and 75 on 3rd May and c.200 feeding at **Ingbirchworth** on 30th April.

Small numbers were still moving north all day in the **Broadstones** area on 6th 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 14th and 3000-4000 on 22nd August. Elsewhere, **Blackmoorfoot** max. were 35+ in July, 53 in August and 30

in September, 30 were at **Cannon Hall** on 11th August and 80 at **Scammonden** on 9th September. Good numbers passed through **Colnebridge SP** on 30th September. Seven sites provided October records – at **Lindley Moor** one on 2nd, in the **Wessenden Valley** seven moved west on 4th and six on 7th, at **Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor** 125 south on 4th, 12 south on 6th and five south on 9th, at **Dewsbury SF** six flew west on 6th, when at least one was at **Bretton Lakes**, present at **Blackmoorfoot** on nine dates to 15th, including 15 on 2nd, 23 moving south on 3rd and 12 south on 12th, while the last of the year were eight going east at **Oldfield** on 18th.

HOUSE MARTIN

Delichon urbica

Migrant breeder (3)

Two very early individuals were reported at **Dewsbury SF** on 3rd and at **Elland GPs** on 4th April

but it was not until more than two weeks later that the next sighting was made at **Bretton Lakes** on 20th 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 22nd, **Boshaw Whams** one, **Lockwood Bar** four and **Ingbirchworth Res.** 10+ all on 24th, followed on 26th by one at **Shelley**, 2+ at **Waterloo** and three pairs at a breeding site in **Golcar**, six at **Ingbirchworth** on 27th with ten there on 28th and c.100 on 30th, 5+ at **Waterloo** on 28th and 50+ at **Dewsbury SF** on 29th. On 1st 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 2nd, 88 on 3rd, 293 on 4th, 279 on 9th and 308 in two hours on 16th, but otherwise numbers were small with only 20 at **Elland GPs** on 14th and 29th May, and at **Blackmoorfoot** max. of 21 on 23rd and 19 on 25th May and in June 36 on 8th, 40+ on 9th and 30 on 11th 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 10th 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 9th, 64 on 11th, 50 on 15th, 42 on 24th, but only up to 15 in September.

Colnebridge SP – 200+ east on 8th September, 15 feeding and 20 east on 23rd September.

Scammonden – 35 on 9th September.

Dewsbury SF – 345 south on 20th September.

Dalton – 20+ feeding on 22nd September.

Grimescar Valley – c.100 on 23rd September.

Few remained into October, with at **Blackmoorfoot** birds on five dates, the last two flying south on 15th, but a significant southerly movement of 66 on 2nd. At **Dewsbury SF**

the last record was on 3rd, c.80 were at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th and six at **Crosland Moor** on 7th.

At **Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor** 153 moved south on 4th, one SW on 6th, 23 south on 7th and six south on 9th 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 20th April and 4th October.

Ingbirchworth Res. – a singing male nearby on 20th April.

Denby Dale – a singing male arrived on 4th May.

Holme Styes – singing males were located at Fox Clough (2), Reynard Clough (2) and T.Kirk Forestry from 5th May onwards.

Upper Midhope – two singing males on 5th May, one on 6th and 8th May.

Harden – one which flew north on 6th May was possibly a migrant as birds were already on territory nearby from 5th.

Langsett Banks – at least two males held breeding territories.

Elland GPs – one flew over on 9th May.

Seammonden – two were in the area on 13th May.

Shepley – one on 19th May.

Winscar – a singing male on 26th May.

Broadstones – one on 15th July.

Royd Moor Res. – one on 28th July.

Cupwith Moor – one flew over to the south on 22nd August.

Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor – one flew south on 4th 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 1st and 23rd, seven at **Clayton West SF** on 1st, six at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd with ten there on 13th, 11 at **Lindley Moor** on 3rd, a max. of 12 on 3rd at **Kirkheaton** where birds were present throughout, at **Meltham SF** between three and five to 28th then none until one on 25th February, c.10 at **Denby Dale** on 5th, two at **Cartworth Moor** and one NE at **Harden** on 13th, six at **Crosland Road** on 18th and small numbers throughout the month at **Emley Moor** and near **Castle Hill**.

February saw three on school playing fields at **Golcar** on 3rd, ten at **Meltham Grange** and one in **Dearne Dike Lane** on 13th, one north at **Harden** on 18th, 12 (the first of the year) at **Castle Dam** on 20th and three at **Deer Hill** on 21st.

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 15th March and 1st April with c.100 grounded there on 31st March; **Blackmoorfoot** with two to four daily in March and max. of 23+ on 24th and 80+ on 29th,

Shelley where movements began on 9th March and there was a daily passage of 50+ birds towards the month end, **Slaithwaite** which had 39 on 11th March, **Winscar** with small numbers moving north on 10th April and **Dewsbury SF** which, in April, had 12 on 3rd, 42 on 7th and 46 on 17th.

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 1st August.

Harden – small parties moved west in conditions of low cloud on the evening of 31st August and S/SSE on 9th October.

Butterley Res. – 30+ on 2nd September.

Digley – 300/400 on 9th September.

Langsett Res. – 35 on the dam wall on 10th September and 60 moving SW in two hours on 30th September.

Deer Hill – hundreds moving through on 16th September and a flock of c.40 feeding on the shore on 23rd September.

Dewsbury SF – in September 25 on 12th, 35 on 29th and 230 east in the first two hours of daylight on 30th; in October 80 east on 6th in the same time period.

Kirkheaton – first on 17th September increasing to c.12 by 13th October.

Blackmoorfoot – in September 35+ on 1st, 157 on 30th; in October 139 on 3rd, 20 on 5th, 69 on 15th, 37 on 23rd, 26 on 24th all moving south.

Pule Hill – 60+ on 22nd September.

Royd Moor – 15+ on 23rd September.

Scout Dike – 170 flew SE in three hours on 28th and 160 SE in two hours on 30th September.

Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor – in October 915 flew SW on 3rd, 10,000 (ten thousand) in two hours on 4th, 1685 S/SW on 6th, 2375 south on 9th.

Wessenden Valley – in October 149 on 4th, 27 on 16th, eight on 25th, 17 on 26th, 45 on 27th, 15 on 28th, five on 31st all moving S/SW.

Scammonden – 24 moved SW on 7th October.

Ringstone Edge – 70 flew SW on 7th 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 18th, max. 14 on 1st.

Meltham Grange – seven on 9th and three on 10th November.

Cooper Bridge – c.20 along the canal on 18th November.

Dewsbury SF – 39 on 19th and 25 on 21st November; seven on 12th December.

Oldfield – 20+ on 21st November.

Redbrook Res. – one on 26th November.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – seven on 26th November, then one or two daily in December with a high count of 11 on 12th.

Meltham SF – up to eight regularly in November/December.

Golcar – in December four on 1st, three on 8th, four on 15th, three on 29th.
Greenfield Road, Holmfirth – up to 15 regularly in a kale field in December.
Wessenden Head – one on 18th December.
Crosland Moor – two in snow on the airfield on 31st December.

ROCK PIPIT

Anthus petrosus

Rare passage visitor

One flew SW over **Hartcliff Hill** during a v.m.w. on 27th October (KC via BBSG).
In addition, a bird which flew south on a v.m.w. at **Wessenden** on 3rd 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 21st/22nd April and 1st and 7th May (MLD,DMP).

Dewsbury SF – a single on 27th April, then in May one west on 4th, two on 7th, one on 8th, three on 9th, singles on 16th and 30th, followed in June by one west on 4th, two on 6th and one on 18th. In August singles on 11th and from 25th to 27th (JH).

Ringstone Edge Res. – one over on 30th April (AC via HBC).

Whitley Common – two over on 12th and one over on 15th May (JMCL).

Shelley Roydhouse – one over on 20th May (SRG).

Ingbirchworth Res. – singles on 13th and 31st (juv.) July (BBSG, DB).

Wessenden Valley – two in Adam's Pasture on 29th August (TG).

Harden – one flew west on 31st August, when small numbers of Meadow Pipits were moving (MC).

Meltham/Marsden – one over Moortop Farm on 14th 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 18th September, **Ravensthorpe, Wessenden Valley** (singles on v.m.w. on 25th and 27th 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 15th 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 9th June), **Emley Tx** (2-3 broods), **Emley Moor, Shelley/Emley, Harden, Ingbirchworth** (family parties on 24th June and 21st July). **Elland GPs, Langsett Res.** (at least four pairs), **Cliff Wood, Kirkheaton** (family party on 13th 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 15th February.

Marsden - 14+ on 31st March and 33 on 31st July.

Dewsbury SF - max. 14 on 14th August and much less numerous than in recent years.

Kirkheaton C.C. - 12+ on 17th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - 29 on 18th September.

Lindley - 50+ roosting in trees lining the main drive to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary on 23rd November.

Ingbirchworth Res. - ten on 31st December.

V.m.w. produced up to three moving S/SW on five dates in October at **Wessenden**, at **Blackmoorfoot** 12 went south on 30th September and in October nine on 2nd, ten on 3rd, nine on 12th and 17 on 15th all moving south and at **Harteliff Hill/Green Moor** 88 went south on 4th and 142 passed S/SW on 6th October.

Up to two birds visited a **Taylor Hill** garden regularly in November/December, but one feeding in snow in a **Lindley** garden on 13th and 30th December was unusual.

WHITE WAGTAIL

Motacilla alba alba

Uncommon passage migrant

Reported from three sites, all in spring.

Ringstone Edge Res. - singles on 29th March, 1st and 30th April and 22nd May (AC,PGE via HBC).

Blackmoorfoot Res. - one on 10th April (PDB).

Dewsbury SF - male and female on 28th/29th April, one on 7th 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 30th 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 1st January to 9th April.

Salendine Nook – four at the Merrie England on 1st January (JMN).

Marsh, Jim Lane – six arrived on 5th January and increased to a peak of 17 on 11th, with the last 15 on 12th (AJW,DT,PDB et al).

Elland – two on 5th January, none then until eight on 26th February, 25 on 1st/2nd March, then another gap to 17 on 8th April and 12 on 9th (via HBC).

Skelmanthorpe – c.20 on 6th and 26, including seven adults, on 7th January (JMD,BA,MC).

Waterloo – in January eight on 7th, 34 on 17th, c.30 on 29th and two on 31st all in the vicinity of Morrison's Supermarket (HQ,BA,M&SC).

Shelley – 14 in a garden on 8th January (DWB).

Denby Dale – six on 12th January (BLNE).

Shepley – six on 12th January (TM). (same as above?).

Butterley – 40 flew west on 13th January (TG).

Lockwood/Folly Hall – the first was a single bird on **Victoria Road** on 13th January, the next at least 23 there on 17th (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 19th 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 20th, 63 on 21st/22nd, c.40 on 23rd/24th, 63 on 26th and 28th, c.60 on 29th, 25 on 31st, then in February c.100 on 1st, 87+ on 2nd, 140 on 3rd (RT) and finally 35 on 6th. The difficulty of achieving accurate counts was exemplified on 3rd 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 7th February (RT).

Thornton Lodge – c.30 near St. Thomas' Church on 23rd January (JED).

Wooldale/Totties – 40 on 24th January (RD&SEH).

Langsett Res. – one flew south on 28th January (DMS via BBSG).

Bradford Road – five near the Hebble Garage on 5th February (GBS).

Brighouse – 70 on 18th/19th February (MS via HBC).

Birkby – eleven on 25th February (DHP).

Ainley Top – 20 flying towards Elland on 27th February (JB).

Dalton – at least 61 on 4th March near Cow Heys, with c.10 there on 5th, a minimum of 102 from 8th to 11th, about seven on 12th and nearby 65 on 18th 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 8th January and that birds had turned up in this area in each of the past four winters.

Cowlersley – 22 on 8th March (DS).

Healey Mills – a small flock on 16th March (BLNE).

Huddersfield Town Centre – five seen near the Police HQ on 6th April (MC).

Cubley – eleven on 8th 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 3rd 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 13th May and at **Oxygrains Beck** on 24th 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 19th 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 29th December, **Bretton Lakes**, **Hinchliffe Mill** (two on 9th September), **Wessenden** (two on 15th December) and **Wessenden Head Reservoirs**, **Scout Dike**, **Dogley**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** **Condit**, **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 27th May and eleven singing males reported in **Bretton Park** on 23rd 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**, **Stocksmoor**, **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 26th May) and **Gledholt**. A pair held territory at altitude at **Harden**, but breeding was not proven. Seven birds were counted at **North Dean** on 17th 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 21st April (GBS) and a male on the parapet of the bridge over the canal at **Colnebridge** on 27th 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 5th May; the last was on 28th September.

Holme Styes – a male on territory from 5th to 23rd May but not later.

Upper Midhope – song was heard briefly nearby on 8th May and a male on 12th 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 22nd May.

Marsden – a singing male in **Hemploew Wood** on 1st June.

Drop Clough – one sang briefly on 17th June.

Inghirchworth Res. – a male on 1st July.

Wessenden Lodge – a female on 24th August.

Lindley Moor – one on 26th August.

Cop Hill, Bradshaw – one on 28th September.

WHINCHAT*Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor

Birds were present between 28th April and 25th October. Pairs/singing males were located at 13 sites but breeding was confirmed only at four of them.

Dewsbury SF – a male on 28th April, one on 31st August and the latest of the year, an imm. on 25th October.

Slaithwaite – a male near the **White House Inn** on 29th April.

Harden – a singing male by the reservoir on 1st May, then a second male almost continuously in song from 13th May to 6th June, including mimicry of Robin and

Chaffinch. Two males in song at **Harden Clough** on 20th May. At least three pairs bred in the area.

Meltham – three singing males at the top of **Brow Grain's Road** on 4th May and one at the top of **Millmoor Road** on 6th May.

Scammonden – one on 4th and 13th May and two males in song on 20th May. Five birds present on 9th September.

Winscar – one male in song on 5th May and two the following day. By 11th May two females had arrived and two pairs were on territory. At least one pair bred, with two spotty juvs. present on 16th July and a female with a juv. on 23rd August, but two juv/1stW. present with a Stonechat on 28th August were probably dispersing migrants. A male on 3rd September was the last reported.

Royd Edge Clough – three on 6th May.

Holme – a male in song between the village and Holme Moss on 21st and 25th May.

Marsden Golf Course – a singing male on 22nd May, with two males and a female on 1st June. **Wessenden Valley** – two males, one displaying, and a female on 25th May and two males and two females on 14th June at **Wessenden Lodge**; a pair below **Wessenden Head Res.** on 8th June.

Eastergate – a pair on 2nd June.

Bradshaw – one nearby on 8th June.

Buckstones – a pair on 15th June.

Little Don Valley – at least one pair bred; three on 15th July.

Dovestones – a family party present in August.

Birds presumed to be migrants were above **Marsden** on 21st August, a male at **Lindley Moor** on 26th August, one at **Meltham Cop** on 23rd September, two (one juv.) at **Shepley** on 28th September and **Colnebridge SP** on 20th 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 18th 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 1st January.

Ringstone Edge Res. – singles on 2nd January and 19th September.

Winscar – one calling on 4th January, a male on 1st April, male and female on 21st April, possibly on territory but not necessarily as other migrant species were in the area, and not again until May. By 1st June the pair had at least two juvs.; young were being fed on 28th June and one "spotty" juv. still remained on 16th July. On 28th 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 6th January, 24th February and 4th March.

Broadstones Lodge – early in the year a male on 7th and 13th January and 17th February was joined by a female on 11th March and two pairs were present on 8th April. At least one pair bred successfully with a pair plus two juvs. on 31st July and 11th August. A pair on 27th October.

Deer Hill area – one on 19th January and a male on 13th February. In October a male and a female on 6th, at least eleven on 7th and a minimum of 27 between the reservoir and **Oldfield Hill Farm, Meltham** on 18th (TG), but by 27th only a female remained. One was near the shooting range on 17th November and a male and a female on 2nd and 8th December.

Hepworth – a male on 27th January.

Scammonden/Deanhead – a male on 8th February. In October four on 6th increasing to six (five males) on 11th, then reported almost daily to 21st with peak counts of 14 on 13th, 12 on 15th and 13 on 16th. Two remained on 28th October, with the same number on 8th, 9th and 13th November and 11th December.

Norland Moor – a pair in February and a male on 6th July.

Magnum – a pair on 5th May.

Ingbirchworth – a pair was present throughout the summer at **Castle Farm** but no young were seen.

Harden – a male on 2nd June could have been one of the Winscar birds. In October a male and two female/imms. were seen on a v.m.w. on 9th, six (three males) were grounded on 13th, four on 18th and a male on 22nd.

Wessenden Valley – a pair on 8th June and two juvs. on 12th September may indicate successful breeding. From 14th November to the year end two birds, including an adult male, were present.

Buckstones – a male alarming and a pair on 14th July.

Little Don Valley – two pairs present and presumed to have bred.

Dovestones – at least two juvs. present on 28th August; two pairs on 22nd December.

Pule Hill – two on 31st July.

Meltham Cop – a male on 23rd September; four (three males) on 18th October.

Royd Moor Res. – a female/imm. on 30th September.

March Haigh Res. – three (two males) on 4th October.

Blackmoorfoot Conduit – five (three males) above Marsden on 13th October.

Old Lindley – four on 16th October.

Dewsbury SF – male and female on several dates from 17th to 30th October. Then two males and a female on 24th November, with a male and female to the year end.

Townhead – five on 18th October.

Copthurst Moor – at least 16 feeding in heather near **Crossley's Plantation** on 18th October vanished into vegetation when threatened by a Sparrowhawk.

Holme Styes – three on 22nd October.

Hade Edge – one on 10th November.

Marsden – one on Meltham Road on 16th November.

New Mill – one from 6th to 19th December.

Helme Catchment – two on 31st 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 27th March, followed on 1st April by four in **Dearne Dike Lane** and ten at **Brown's Edge**, the only double figure count of the year. On 3rd 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 5th, a pair at **Buckstones** and two at **Broadstones Lodge** on 8th, and at **Winscar** a female on 9th and a male and two females on 10th. Passage birds continued to trickle through later in the month with five at **Whitley Common** on 19th, two females at **Winscar** on 29th probably on passage, as were two males and three females at **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th. In May a female was at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and a bird of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoea* at **Broadstones** on the same date, with another female at **South Crosland** on 3rd 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 14th June. Evidence elsewhere though was less positive. A pair was at **Buckstones** on 8th April, a male on 21st May and a juv. on 14th July, a pair was at **Bradshaw** on 3rd and a male on 21st May, male and female at **Winscar** on 1st June with a female on 7th and two juvs. on 28th August, one at Law in suitable breeding habitat on 8th May, a pair at **Dovestones** in late June, an adult with two juvs. at **Redbrook Res.** on 31st July and at **March Haigh Res.** a female and four juvs. in two separate groups on 9th 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 28th August and three at **Winscar** on 3rd September. Obvious passage birds were at **Harden** on 28th August, **Scout Dike** on 16th September, **Kirkheaton** on 19th September and **Langsett Res.** on 22nd September. There were several records in October, two at **March Haigh** on 4th, then singles at **Scout Dike** on 6th, **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th, **Digley** on 9th, **Scammonden** on 12th and finally at **Castle Dam** on 13th.

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 29th April and on 6th May (DMP).

Wessenden Valley – a male on 8th and 18th May and two males on 3rd June. A breeding pair was present in late June with further reports of singles on 3rd, 25th and 27th July and 24th August. A male and a female were present on 1st September and two adults and two juvs. on 8th October and one flew south on a v.m.w. on 28th October (TG,RT,SF,BA et al).

Little Don Valley – at least three pairs bred and a male was still singing on 8th August (BBSG).

Buckstoues – in June a singing male on 3rd, increasing to two on 15th (JED).

Green Owlers, Marsden – male and female on 5th June (TG).

Dovestones – at least one present throughout June (GMBC via JS).

Eastergate, Marsden – a female on 14th July (SF).

Scammonden – two (a female and a 1st year) on 22nd October (JB, JED).

Blackmoorfoot – two flew south on 24th October. (TG).

Hade Edge – two flew south on 25th October (CH).

Colnebridge SP – a male on 27th October (DS).

Slaithwaite – a male flew south over the White House Inn during a movement of thrushes on 28th October (SA, TG).

Shooter's Nab – a 1st W. on 16th November (TG).

Of interest, on 3rd 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 16th August.

Few records were submitted regarding winter numbers but eight were feeding together in one small area of a school garden at **Skelmanthorpe** on 6th January and at least 25 were in fields at **Lumb Lane, Almondbury** on 7th January. A “mini-influx” was noted at both **Birkby and Oldfield** on 15th to 17th 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 2nd, **Castle Dam** c.100 on 3rd and c.400 on 9th, **Bird's Edge** c.100 on 5th, **Gilbert Hill** c.100 on 6th, **Hade Edge** c.400 feeding on 7th, **Broadstones** 80 on 13th, **South Crosland** 200 on 20th, **Blackmoorfoot** 68 on 20th and 48 on 29th, **Butterley** 80 on 28th and a “good few hundred” at **Ingbirchworth** on 31st. A mixed Fieldfare/Redwing flock at **Snowgate Head** held c.250 on 5th. Max. elsewhere were 17 at **Scammonden** on 1st, 30 at **Barkisland** on 7th and 38 at **Shepley** on 27th, 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 2nd, very few were present in the first week, 45 moving south at **Dewsbury SF** on 6th being the next largest count. An increase was apparent from 13th when 100+ were in **Windmill Lane** and more so from 14th 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 15th. On 17th 80 were at **Ingbirchworth** and 38 at **Broadstones**, 60 at **Grange Moor** on 25th and c.50 feeding in heavy snow at **Dalton** on 27th 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 16th and c.200 over **Snailsden** on 20th. Elsewhere 25+ went south at **Ingbirchworth** on 4th with 30+ there on 11th, when there were also 20 at **Blackstone Edge**, and at **Dewsbury SF** 22 on 19th and 75 on 28th 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 1st, at **Blackmoorfoot** four on 2nd and 78 on 4th, when c.100 were at **Horn Lane**, 48 north at **Dewsbury SF** on 7th, c.200 feeding at **Bretton** on 18th, ten at **Booth Wood** on 22nd and c.35 at **Oxspring** on 27th.

May – the only record was of 20 birds at **Millmoor, Meltham** on 6th.

After a very early record of a single bird at **Holmfirth** on 14th 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 4th, v.m.w. in the **Wessenden Valley** produced 194 on 16th, 40 on 25th, 770 on 26th, 4043 on 27th, 585 on 28th and 124 on 31st all moving S/SW. One was at **Digley** on 12th and five flew over **Goat Hill** on 13th. At **Dewsbury SF** movement began on 14th with 370, then 68 on 17th, 246 on 23rd and 587 on 25th again all moving south. At **Blackmoorfoot** 578 flew south on 15th, 51 on 16th, 215 south on 18th, 116 south on 21st, 47 on 22nd, 237 on 23rd, 224 south on 24th and eight on 25th, while nearby at **Crosland Moor** there were seven on 15th and 127 south on 25th. Also on 15th c.40 flew SSW at **Kirkheaton**. Birds appeared at five sites on 16th 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 18th 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 20th, 200 at **Booth Wood** on 21st, 400+ moved SE in half an hour at **Harden** on 22nd, when 33 were grounded at **Wilshaw** and on 27th, 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 28th 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 22nd in very variable numbers with max. of 291 on 1st, 113 on 2nd, 86 on 3rd, 53 on 8th and 102 on 18th. The only other sites with birds were **Marsden G.C.** 170+ on 5th and **Blackmoorfoot** which had records on four dates, with low max. of 28 on 2nd and 11 on 10th.

December – **Scout Dike** had 27 on 1st and **Scammonden** 35 on 2nd, 27 on 10th and one on 16th.

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 25th 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 11th 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 8th May and in the same garden one drowned in a stream on 13th August, but a juv. was present on 14th (DSh).

The only evidence of autumn immigration came from the **Wessenden Valley** where in October two on 16th, one on 25th and two on 27th flew S/SW and perhaps from **Scammonden** where single birds were present on 7th and 22nd October and 10th 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 23rd April.

January – on 1st 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 2nd, then 23 at **Crosland Moor** and ten at **Horbury Wyke** on 3rd. 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 5th, c.20 at **Gilbert Hill** on 6th, 18 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8th with 11 there on 11th, 12+ at **Dalton** on 16th, 15 at **Lindley** and 18 at **Bretton** on 18th, 40 at **Ringstone Edge**, “numerous” at **Golcar** on 27th and ten at **Butterley** on 28th.

February – with the exception of ten at **Ingbirchworth** on 17th, three at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th and a few at **Golcar** on 24th, all records were in the first half of the month – at **Blackmoorfoot** 43 on 1st, eight on 8th, 18 on 9th and 12th, at **Bretton** 50 on 1st, six on 9th and 20 on 14th, 60 by the **R.Colne between Marsden and Slaithwaite** on 7th, two at **Dalton** on 8th and one at **Taylor Hill** on 10th.

March – 12 were at **Dalton** during a snowstorm on 1st, c.50 at **Waterloo** on 4th, 500+ flew WSW at **Fixby** at 1145hrs. on 5th and a few were present there on the following days

to 12th. Ten were at **Lindley Moor** on 10th, three at **Ingbirchworth** on 11th and 38 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th.

April – the only records were two on 2nd and three on 4th at **Blackmoorfoot** and a late bird at **Marsden** on 23rd.

Returning birds were noted from 23rd September before a considerable influx in October but few remained at the year end.

September – one flew west at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd, six over **Shelley** on 25th, one over **Kirkheaton** on 26th, 13 south at **Dewsbury SF** on 29th and birds were heard overflying **Horbury Wyke** on 30th.

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 16th, 52 on 25th, 579 on 26th, 3400 on 27th, 786 on 28th and 255 on 31st all going S/SW. Significant maxima at other sites were 244 south at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th, with 55 on 18th, 67 on 21st, 154 on 23rd and 51 on 24th all moving south. At **Dewsbury SF** 384 south on 14th, 68 south on 22nd and 155 south on 25th, at **Lindley Moor** 40 on 15th, 40+ south over **Turley Cote Lane** on 16th, 50 at **Denby Dale** and 56 feeding at **Meltham Grange** on 18th, 36 at **Scammonden** and 50 west over **Colnebridge** on 28th and 160 west over **Barkisland** on 29th. **November** – only three sites reported birds; **Blackmoorfoot** had birds on four dates with a max. of 12 on 7th, **West Vale** on ten dates to 20th with max. of 72 on 3rd and 70 on 18th and **Bretton Park** where there were c.20 on 22nd.

December – the only records were eight on 1st and 20 on 20th at **Elland GPs**, 17 at **Wood Nook** on 6th, singles at **Golcar** and **Bretton Park** on 8th and 9th respectively, **Grimescar** up to eight regularly, **Oldfield** 23 on 25th and singles at **Crosland Moor** on 29th and **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th.

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 29th May.

Marsden – 18 on 31st July.

Ford Inn – c.30 on 4th September.

Lindley Rec. – 18 on 11th September.

Dewsbury SF – 12 on 12th September (72 in September 2000).

Elland GPs – 27 on 23rd September.

Scout Dike – 18 on 25th September.

Scammonden – 13 on 10th October.

V.m.w. in the **Wessenden Valley** produced single figures on seven dates between 16th October and 2nd November but with a high count of 21 on 27th October.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Occasional migrant breeder (1)

At **Elland GPs** a male was reeling from 5th to 7th May, was joined by a female on 11th, the pair observed carrying nesting material in mid month and reeling continued to be heard to 17th 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 15th 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 3rd May and 2nd September.

Dewsbury SF – the first was a singing male on 3rd May increasing to two on 16th. Two pairs bred on the works, with four fledged young being fed on 24th July and remaining to 31st August.

Elland GPs – a singing male on 4th and 7th/8th May with a second on 11th. Three males were singing by 14th May when a fourth bird was present. Nest building was observed on 18th and one was carrying food on 15th June, followed by an adult feeding a young bird out of the nest on 22nd.

The last report was on 17th August.

Horbury area – the first singing male was heard on 7th May and had increased to five on 13th (two at **Wyke**, two at **Strands**, one between). At least two remained to 19th July and one to 21st but no breeding evidence was obtained.

Colnebridge – a singing male on 9th June, but not present on 14th.

Ingbirchworth Res. – a juv. seen briefly on 13th August.

Colnebridge SP – one pair bred; one on 2nd 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 6th May and three birds present on 9th July. One pair probably attempted to breed but no proof was obtained. Last sighting was on 1st September.

Horbury Wyke – one on 19th May was the only record at this traditional site; low water levels probably contributed to its absence.

Bretton Lakes – a singing male on 7th July.

Dewsbury SF – single passage birds on 27th August and 29th September.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Sylvia curruca

Migrant breeder (1)

Present in the area between 24th April and 25th September. Pairs bred at two sites and probably in at least two others.

Shelley – a singing male from 24th April and one pair bred. Last sighting was on 25th September (SRG).

Ingbirchworth – a singing male on 26th and 28th April (MC, JMCL); at least one pair bred and fledged two young (BBSG).

Dewsbury SF – single birds on 28th April and 1st, 4th and 16th 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 10th, two on 14th, one remaining to 24th (TM).

Blackmoorfoot – a singing male on 12th May only (MLD).

Scout Dike Res. – one pair probably bred (BBSG). After the breeding season one on 28th August and in September three on 1st, singles on 2nd and 8th (RJB).

Horbury area – a singing male in Balk Lane and a pair on the railway embankment on 13th May, one on 24th June. Probably bred (BA, DHP).

Thornhill, Millbank – a singing male on 18th May (BA).

Bradley Park G.C. – one on 18th May (DWB).

Emley Moor – one on 2nd July (SRG).

Waterloo – at least one near Morrison's Supermarket on 3rd 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 27th April increasing to five on 28th, when three were also at **Elland GPs**. Numbers increased further at these two sites to eight at the former on 4th May and six singing males at **Elland** on 5th, before birds appeared elsewhere – singing males at **Broadstones Lodge** on 7th, **Crosland Heath** and **Dogley NR** (two) on 10th and **Ingbirchworth** on 12th.

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**, **Gnthwaite** 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 30th July to an amazing count of 81 on 23rd August, followed by a decline to 20 on 27th, 15 on 29th August, and in September three on 12th then singles on 14th, 15th, 17th and 21st.

Latest reports from other sites were 11th August at **Broadstones**, 17th August at **Elland** and at **Scout Dike** on 2nd, 16th (in song) and 20th 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 23rd April and 11th September but only two sites had birds in April.

Royd Moor – a singing male on 23rd April and 21st July with at least two birds present on 4th August and last reported on 11th September.

Elland GPs – two singing males on 28th April, increasing to max. of ten on 11th May and 12 on 17th June, a big increase on previous years. At least one pair was proved to breed and the last record was two on 29th July.

Gunthwaite – singing male reported on 7th and 16th May and 12th June.

Shelley – singing male on 11th May but did not remain to breed.

Winscar – singing male on 12th May.

Ravensthorpe GPs – a male on 13th May.

Horbury Wyke – three males on 13th May.

Scout Dike – two males on 13th May.

Tunnel End – a singing male on 14th May, two males on 20th.

Grimescar – male on 20th May.

Birchcliffe – male on 29th May.

Marsden – singing males in the old goods yard on 29th May and by the R.Calder on 12th 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 4th/5th June.

Brockholes – singing male on 14th June.

Colnebridge – male on 14th June.

Sparth Res. – male on 17th June.

Ingbirchworth Res. – male on 1st July.

Denby Dale – singing male on 23rd July.

BLACKCAP*Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3) and scarce winter visitor

In the first winter period a garden at **Fixby** held two females on 13th, a male and two females on 14th/15th January with the male and one female remaining to at least 11th March. At **Taylor Hill** a male was another garden visitor on 30th/31st January and 20th/21st February. In March a singing male in **Norman Road, Birkby** on 4th was probably an overwintering individual as were a female at **Almondbury** on 10th and males at **Skelmanthorpe** on 16th/17th and **Greenhead** on 29th March. One at **Golcar Tip** on 9th 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 12th April, followed by others at **Horbury Wyke** and **Grimescar** on 13th, **Woodsome** on 15th, with two here on 16th when birds were also at **Denby Dale** and **Thunderbridge**, **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th, **Big Valley** on 19th, **Elland GPs** (two), **Bretton Park** and **Brighouse** (two) on 20th and **Dewsbury SF** on 22nd. 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 3rd June, **Bretton Park** six on 23rd 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 13th July (WB).

After the breeding season there was an obvious influx into the **Grimescar Valley** where two males and four females were present on 16th September, a male on 19th September and two males on 7th October and there were single males in gardens at **Shelley** and **Longwood** on 5th and 15th October respectively.

Wintering males were discovered at **Birkby** on 10th November, **Waterhall Park**, **Penistone** from 5th to at least 17th December, **Norman Park** on 9th December and in a **Taylor Hill** garden on 15th, 17th and 19th December with a female present there on 16th.

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 29th April (TG).

Cliff Wood, **Langsett** – one male held a breeding territory (BBSG).

Dean Wood – a singing male on 3rd May (MID).

Netherwood (Park Gate Clough) – a singing male on 1st and two singing on 3rd June. On 17th June one was seen taking food to a possible nest site and song/display was still taking place on 21st and 24th 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 15th January was the only individual reported in the first winter period and was presumably the bird remaining from 29th December 2000.

The spring arrival was later than usual with no records until 28th March at **Blackmoorfoot** (three), **Denby Dale** (three) and at **Elland GPs** and **Park Wood**, followed by 3+ birds at both **New Hall Woods** and **Stocks Moor Common** on 31st. In early April singing males appeared at **Grimescar** and **Horbury Wyke** (two) on 1st, at **Shelley**, **Smith Wood**, **Jenkinson Wood** and **Dewsbury SF** on 3rd, at **Bretton** and **Ingbirchworth** on 8th and at **Beaumont Park** on 9th, after which there was a widespread arrival.

Most sites had one or two singing males but at least ten were at **Bretton** on 20th April, seven at **Elland GPs** on 5th 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 22nd August and 16th September, at **TP Wood** in September, **Grimescar** on 19th September, **Scout Dike** on 22nd September, **Royd Moor** on 23rd September and **Tunnel End** on 30th September.

Most birds had left the area by late August but in September singles were at **Dewsbury SF** on 15th, 22nd and 28th, at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8th and 30th, at **Scout Dike** on 22nd (five) and 29th (three) and at **Hill Top, Slaithwaite** on 28th. A few also lingered into October – at **Dewsbury SF** on 1st, **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and 6th, in the **Longwood Valley** on 15th and at **Scout Dike** on 18th/19th with a very late bird, possibly overwintering, in a **Langsett** garden on 10th November.

WILLOW WARBLER

Phylloscopus trochilus

Migrant breeder (4-5)

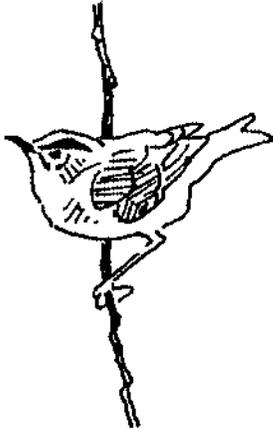
The first arrivals were quite early, at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and at **Dewsbury SF** on 3rd April, followed by birds at **New Mill** on 5th, **Bretton Lakes** and **Ingbirchworth** on 8th, **Bradley Park G.C.** and **Thornhill Millbank** (three) on 11th, **Shelley** on 12th and **Elland GPs** (six) on 14th. In the lowerlying areas birds were back in numbers by 15th but the first bird did not reach **Holmfirth** until 20th and **Dunford Bridge** until 21st, 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 16th July and 20th and 29th 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 1st, 11th (two) and 15th, **New Mill** on 16th, **Ingbirchworth** on 17th and finally at **Tunnel End** on 30th.



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 21st January and at **Elland GPs** on 9th February.

A pair bred successfully at **Hagg Wood** but a nest containing downy young in **New Hall Wood** on 19th May had been predated by 24th.

A bird at **Cannon Hall** on 11th 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 5th. At other sites max. were at **Elland** 12 on 27th October and ten on 26th December, up to four at **Grimescar**, eight at **Marsden** in a mixed flock on 10th November, at least 15 at **Langsett Banks** on 24th November, 20+ in **Deffer Wood** on 2nd December and at least six at **Squirrel Ditch** on 15th December.

One was killed striking a house window at **Fixby** on 25th 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 3rd 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 12th May and 5th September.

Denby Dale – birds returned on 12th May and were feeding young on 24th June.

Marsden – one in the centre of the village on 13th May.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – one from 16th to 18th May and later bred successfully in the south bank woodland, fledging a second brood on 25th August.

Orange Wood – a pair present on 30th May and bred successfully, two birds remaining to at least 24th July.

Helme – a pair bred in June.

Storthes Hall Woods – one on 27th May.

Thunderbridge – one on 27th May.

Longwood Valley – one on 29th May, three on 20th August.

Eastergate, Marsden -- two present from 1st June. A pair was nest building on 3rd June and two pairs were present on 17th June.

Wellhouse, Golcar -- a pair nested in climbing Hydrangea.

Dean Wood, Netherton -- a pair was at a nest in a Silver Birch on 4th June.

Hagg Wood -- a pair was present on 5th/6th 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 7th July, a strong indication of breeding.

Royd Moor Res. -- one on 29th July.

Grimescar Valley -- one on 5th 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 19th June (BBSG).

New House Wood -- a pair had returned by 18th May and were feeding young in a nest box on 24th June (JMCL).

Denby Dale -- two singing males on 24th May (TM).

Hagg Wood, Thongsbridge -- a singing male on 7th and 9th May, joined by a second male on 10th. One of the birds was a 1st 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 22nd May. One of the birds remained to 6th 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 1st and 30 in three parties on 9th January, **Blackmoorfoot** -- 11 on 9th January, **Lockwood** -- up to ten, **Gledholt** -- up to 15 and **Royd House Wood** -- 12 on 1st February.

Breeding attempts were reported for the first time at **Shelley** and at **Colnebridge** (two family parties on 10th June), **Lockwood** (nest building on 19th March), **Dean Wood** (family party on 4th June), **Hagg Wood**, **Dogley**, **West Vale**, **Elland GPs** (three pairs

building on 4th 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 **Stocksmoor 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 28th 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 19th July and 11 on 23rd October, **Lindley Moor** 11 on 31st July and 12th August, 13 on 20th and ten on 30th August, **Dalton** at least 12 on 2nd August, **Scout Dike** 26 on 22nd August, **Dewsbury SF** 12 on 17th September, **Marsden** 21 on 1st October, **Langsett Banks** c.35 on 24th November, **Deffer Wood** 23 on 2nd December, **Gledholt** up to 15 in December and at **Bretton Lakes** 21 on 9th 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 14th and three on 28th 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 19th and 26th January and 14th February.

Ingbirchworth Res. – two on the south side on 11th March.

Stoneycliffe Wood – one on 17th March.

Horbury Wyke – a pair on 29th April and bred successfully. Reported on six dates between 21st July and 30th September.

Scout Dike Res. – a pair with at least two fledged young on 24th June.

Royd Moor Res. – bred successfully, a pair with 3-4 young observed on 15th July. Regular sightings in July/August and one on 23rd September.

Denby Dale – one in the grounds of the RSPB offices on 5th 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 13th January, nine in **Marsden** on 5th October, c.12 in **Deffer Wood** on 2nd December and up to 12 regularly at **Gledholt**. At

Blackmoorfoot Res., where the species is scarce, there were records on 8th January (two), 29th April, 14th May, 3rd October and 12th 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 13th January, 12 on a **New Mill** bird table on 6th June and c.25 in a **Lindley Moor** garden on 24th September.

At **Harden**, where the species is described as rare, one was in the observer's garden in sunny weather on 18th 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 4th March.

A dead juv. was found in a garden at **Harden** on 20th 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 males 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 27th 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 1st 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 15th 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 27th 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 15th December), **Oldfield, Taylor Hill, Hinchliffe Mill, New House Wood, Denby Dale, Longwood Valley, Royd House Wood, Lockwood, Storthes Hall Woods, Langsett Res.**(5+ on 10th November) and **Bretton Lakes** (10+ on 8th 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 25th January, five at **Elland GPs** on 28th January, four in a garden at **New Mill** on 10th March and eight at **Hinchliffe Mill** on 30th 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 6th October, seven at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd and 11th October with five on 12th. Two flew over **Lindley Moor** on 25th 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 1st 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 20th January, a high number for this site, at **Dalton** 20+ on 4th March and 18 together at a different locality on 23rd March, a max. of 26 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th August, up to 15 regularly at **Gledholt** and 34+ at **Cromwell Bottom** on 9th 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 9th January.

A leucistic bird was seen at **Marsden** on 8th 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 9th January, 32 on 7th February at **Dewshury SF** with just 14 there on 3rd April, 128 at **Thorntill** on 25th June,

85 at **Ingbirchworth** on 31st July and c.40 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 10th 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 14th January, 21 on 4th March, 17 on 14th April, 17 on 5th May, 18 on 3rd June, 20 on 14th November and 22 on 14th December, at **Blackmoorfoot** 32 on the ice on 20th January and 23 on ice on 6th March, c.200 at **Blackley Tip** on 18th March and up to 60 near **Scammonden** on 8th 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 16th or 17th May one flew north at **Harden** at c.1930hrs. (JMD) and could presumably have been the individual referred to above.

The 15th record for the area and the first since 1993.

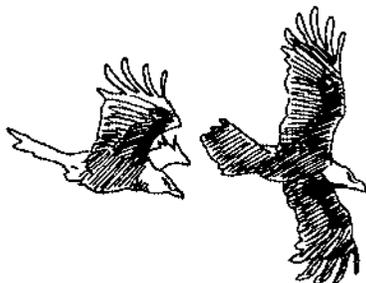
RAVEN

C o r v u s

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 20th and 28th January. At **Langsett Res.** one was displaying over **North America Wood** on 1st April, one on 7th April, three on 30th July, singles on 22nd September, 13th and 17th October increasing to three on 23rd, then two on 27th October and 31st December (BBSG).

Marsden/Wessenden/Deer Hill area – singles were at **Wessenden Head** and **Black Moss Res.** on 14th February (same bird involved?), over **Marsden** on 15th February, 4th March, 4th April (three birds), 2nd May (in heavy moult) and flying west on 16th October, in the **Wessenden Valley** on 15th June, 27th October (in heavy moult), 28th October (no moult) and feeding on a dead sheep on 18th November, at **Deer Hill** two on 31st August and one at **Pule Hill** on 19th December. Nearby two flew over **Slaithwaite** towards **Scapegoat Hill** on 28th January and two over **Sparth Res.** towards **Deer Hill** on 3rd March (TG,DMP,SF,JMN,JMP,PDB).

Winscar/Harden/Snailsden area – at **Harden** one on 13th and two W/SW into a strong gale on 31st March, two on 3rd and 8th April and 6th May, one on 12th and three on 20th May and in June one on 3rd and two on 22nd. Two were at **Snailsden** on 18th February and 6th May, one flew NW over **Windle Edge** on 26th March and at **Winscar Res** one on 3rd June and two soaring and displaying on 25th December (MC,DHP,GBS).

Yateholme/Holme Moss – two over **Holme Moss** in diving display on 13th March (MC) and one in an aerial dispute with a Common Buzzard over **Yateholme** on 10th June (HQ).

Whitley Common – two feeding on a sheep carcass on 23rd January (BBSG).

Shelley – one flew over calling on 19th February (SRG).

Buckstones – one on 15th June (JED).

Skelmanthorpe – three flew over on 22nd September (JMD).

Scapegoat Hill – one on 2nd November (TG).

Washpit Valley – a calling bird flew over low in misty conditions on 24th 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 5th January, 200 at **Broadstones** on 13th January, 100+ at **Blackstone Edge** on 11th March, 450 at **Broadstones** and 1200 (mostly adults) at **Cop Hill**, **Slaithwaite** on 6th June, at **Dewsbury SF** in July 55 on 19th and 220 on 20th, 420 west on 21st September, 1235 west on 14th October and 320 feeding on the works on 21st November. There was an influx in mid-October which produced counts of c.1000 at **Scout Dike** on 20th, 630 at **Meltham Grange** on 18th and 1500+ feeding there on 10th November, c.300 at **Flight Hill** on 27th October and a large flock (but not counted) going to roost in **Elland** on 6th 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 26th May to 30th 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 5th January, 13 in a **Lindley** garden on 13th 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 22nd September and 40 feeding in a garden at **Golcar** on 3rd 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 7th, two on 17th and five on 20th at the regular feeding station. Nearby four were present at a barn on 7th and 10th March and 17th 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 27th January and 23rd February, 22 on 9th September, 12 on 22nd 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 28th December (BBSG).

Horbury area – at least eight at the **Strands** on 18th February and one at the **Wyke** on 29th July (DHP).

Litherop Lane – birds were calling at the western end of **Bretton Park** on 1st April (JED). This is a former regular breeding site.

Meltham – one by the roadside to **Marsden** on 13th June (TG).

Dewsbury SF – three on wires on the approach road on 12th 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 15th 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 7th January, at **Bretton Lakes** c.100 on 7th, c.30 on 14th, c.70 on 17th and c.300 (feeding under beeches in heavy snow in the Sculpture Park) on 21st January with 60 on 14th February, a max. of 20 on 16th January at **Blackmoorfoot**, 15 near **Ingbirchworth** on 17th February, up to ten in a **Shelley** garden and ten at **Waterloo** on 4th March were the largest numbers reported.

Visible migration watches produced the following results:-

Hartcliff Hill – 158 SW on 7th October.

Harden - five SSE on 9th October.

Wessenden Valley – in October 22 on 4th, 49 on 26th, 124 on 27th, 46 on 28th, 21 on 31st and in November 100 on 1st, 95 on 2nd, 41 on 3rd then smaller numbers, usually single figures, to 22nd, all moving S/SW.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – in October 29 south on 12th, 43 south on 24th.

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 24th April.

Bretton Lakes – birds present on ten dates from 6th January to 15th February, mainly singles, but three on 6th January, four on 20th and six on 21st.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – c.20 in the SW corner on 8th January, followed by singles on 11th and 19th, three on 29th and six on 31st January, two on 8th February, two or three on most days in March and finally one on 24th April.

Cowcliffe – a female in a garden on 4th February.

Yateholme – in February two on 16th then at least 200 reported on 18th (DWB).

Almondsbury – a female in a garden for c.30 minutes on 4th March.

Meltham – up to three in a garden in March.

Windybank Wood – two on 15th April.

After the first returning birds, two at **Deer Hill** on 30th 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 3rd one south at **Blackmoorfoot**, one south at **Deer Hill** on 13th and again at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18th, five at **Ingbirchworth** on 22nd, one at **Denby Delf** and five at **Oldfield**, remaining to 6th November, on 23rd, one at **Bretton Lakes** on 27th, 25 feeding in **Marsden** on 28th, one at **Denby Dale** on 30th and three in from the north at **Dewsbury SF** on 31st.

November – six at **Blackmoorfoot** and two at **Royd Moor** on 1st, seven at **Marsden** on 2nd, at least five at **Bretton** on 8th, one at **Shepley** on 10th, up to 14 from mid-month to the year end in a **Linthwaite** garden, four feeding in a field at **Golcar** on 17th, one flying south at **Dewsbury SF** on 19th and one at **Longwood** on 23rd.

December – up to three regularly in the **Grimescar Valley**, two at **Longwood** on 2nd increasing to a max. of four on 31st, three at **Gledholt** on 3rd, two at **Shepley** on 8th, a male at **Taylor Hill** on 10th and again on 22nd, 18 at an **Almondbury** feeding station from 22nd to 31st, one at **Cubley** on 26th, one at **Cowcliffe** on 30th and four at **Blackmoorfoot** and one at **Wooldale** on 31st.

V.m.w. counts at **Wessenden** produced in October one on 27th, eight on 28th and 90 on 31st and in November 63 on 1st, 31 on 2nd, 83 on 3rd followed by smaller numbers with eight on 4th, six on 5th, eight on 8th, 15 on 9th and five on 20th.

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 26th January, 30 at **Broadstones Lodge** on 29th 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 27th 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 1st January, c.20 at **Rawthorpe** in January, 12 at **Bretton Park** on 18th January, 20+ at **Golcar** on 3rd February and 11 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd February.

After the breeding season max. counts were 13 at **Broadstones** and 16 near **Netherton** on 31st July, 42 at **Dewsbury SF** on 26th August plus "good numbers" at **Thornhill Millbank** on 29th. The

majority of flocks were noted in September, with at **Ingbirchworth** ten on 14th, near **Blackmoorfoot** 24 on 15th (the only double figure count at this site apart from one v.m.w. count in October), at **Kirkheaton** 40+ on 19th and 25th, **Deer Hill** 20+ on 20th, 28 at **Scout Dike** on 22nd, 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 23rd and c.80 at **Royd Moor** on 25th. Fewer and smaller flocks were encountered in October, max. being 20 at **Dewsbury SF** on 6th, ten at **Scout Dike** on 7th, 30+ at **Kirkheaton** on 13th and c.25 at **Lindley** on 16th; 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 19th December (JMP).

Autumnal movements were noted through the area – at **Blackmoorfoot** on five dates in late October, max. 50 on 15th with nine on both 12th and 23rd, all going south; at **Wessenden** a total of 67 on nine dates in October/November, max. 14 on 4th and 22 on 27th October and at **Dewsbury SF** where 67 flew south on 24th 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 16th January and 18th February, on which date a male was singing and accompanied by a female. Birds reappeared from late October with c.30 on 27th, 20 on 8th November decreasing to c.10 on 20th December.

Denby Dale – 19 on 5th and 20 on 17th January.

Grimescar Valley – at least eight on 7th and two on 9th January feeding in alders then regularly up to 11 in November/December.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – one on 9th January, then in October southerly movements of 23 on 2nd, ten on 3rd, seven on 4th, 25 on 18th, 24 on 23rd and ten on 24th.

Elland GPs – in the early months a max. of 30 on 7th February and up to 35 from 21st October to late December.

Langsett Res. – 30+ on 8th February. At least three males held breeding territories at **Langsett Banks**.

Yatcholme – five on 16th February.

Dovestones – 16, including three singing males, on 22nd February.

Hinchliffe Mill – up to three regularly on feeders to late April.

Scout Dike Res. – 14 on 1st and 20 SE on 22nd September; in October four on 6th and eight on 16th.

Scammonden – two on 23rd September, up to 20 flying west on 7th October and small numbers passing over on 12th, 23rd and 28th October.

Tunnel End Res. – at least three on 30th September, four on 16th November.

Marsden – in October flocks of six on 2nd, 28 on 3rd and five on 5th all flying over the village and moving south up the Wessenden Valley, with eight feeding in beeches in the village on 28th October and six on 14th November.

Wessenden Valley – v.m.w. counts were in October two on 4th, nine on 16th, 11 on 26th, 12 on 27th, 18 on 28th and 20 on 31st, 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 4th and 61 south on 7th October.

Dewsbury SF – seven flew south on 6th October.

Bradley Park G.C. – 20 on 12th 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 1st January, an exceptionally early singing male at **Hade Edge** on 2nd February and c.100 at **Royd Moor** on 15th February, when there was another very early singing male at **Harden**. None were reported after these until 31st March when ten were at **New Mill**, followed by birds in early April at **Broadstones** on 2nd, **Dewsbury SF** on 3rd (3) and 4th (4), **Shepley** 40 on 7th, **Ingbirchworth** (3) and **Ravensthorpe GPs** (at least 4) on 8th and a singing male at **Birchencliffe** on 10th. 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 1st 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 22nd 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 6th May) and **Harden**, where adults were observed feeding c.14 young on 9th and 15th July.

After the breeding season the largest flocks reported were at **Dewsbury SF** 42 on 21st August increasing to 200 on 5th and 300 on 8th September followed by a gradual reduction to 120 on 30th September and 23 on 23rd October, **Hey Green** 28 on 22nd August, **Scout Dike** c.30 on 28th August, c.100 on 1st September, c.45 on 25th September and c.50 on 6th October, **Blackmoorfoot** max. of 120 on 7th, 150+ on 9th, 90 on 18th and 95 on 22nd September with up to 50 on many other dates in the month, **Barkisland** 90 on 18th September, **Ringstone Edge** 200 on 19th September and at **Oxspring** on 6th October the largest flock of the year, c.500 feeding in stubble.

The only reports after October were at **Thornhill Millbank** 32 feeding on 19th November, at least 36 at **Dewsbury SF** on 12th December and 30+ at **Colnebridge SP** on 22nd December.

Visible migration watching in October produced at **Blackmoorfoot** 31 south on 3rd and 21 south on 23rd, at **Hartcliff Hill/Green Moor** 162 south on 4th and 328 S/SW on 6th, at **Harden** three SSE on 9th, 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 4th April and 18th October.

Deer Hill/Meltham area – the first returning birds were 16 in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4th April, followed by 13 on 19th, eight flying east on 22nd and four flying west there on 30th. Three were on wires at **Red Lane, Meltham** on 5th and five in **Royd Edge Clough** on 29th April. Breeding was confirmed between **Deer Hill** and **West Nab**.

In autumn eight were in fields to the east of **Deer Hill Res.** on 18th August with 34 feeding on thistles on the reservoir embankment on 26th August and 36 nearby on 15th September. Four were near **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th September and in October 12 near the **White House Inn** on 2nd, four at **Oldfield Hill Farm** and one at **Leygards Lane** on 18th (DMP,TD,MLD,TG,DHP).

Marsden/Bradshaw/Slaithwaite area – ten were beside the **Meltham Road** at **Marsden** on 7th April, eight at **Green Owlers Farm** on 30th April, while numbers at **Greystones Farm, Bradshaw** were two on 21st May, two in suitable breeding habitat on 6th and 17th June, two on 10th and one on 15th July.

Four were at **Scapegoat Hill** on 27th May, two in breeding habitat at **Carr Clough, Marsden** on 1st June and two in suitable habitat at **Cop Hill** on 6th June with two at

Laund Road near **Bradshaw** on 8th June. A pair was at **Buckstones** on 15th June and birds were calling here on 24th June.

Later in the summer seven were feeding in **Goat Hill Lane** on 14th July, three at **Pule Hill** on 31st July, in August 25+ at **Bank Top Farm**, ten at **White Hull** and two feeding on **March Haigh Flat** on 9th, one at **Green Owlers Farm** on 22nd and two feeding at **Fair Hall Farm** on the same date. In September four were at **Greystones Farm** on 14th and four at **Cop Hill** on 23rd (TG,JED).

Wessenden Valley -- at **Binn Edge** two on 1st May, three on 5th June and two on 26th July. Three, including a singing male, were above **Blakeley Res.** on 25th May and birds were calling at **Shiny Brook** on 3rd June. Three were just above **Wessenden Res.** on 9th June. On 14th June at least 15, including six in **Blakeley Clough**, were in the valley, increasing to at least 23 on 3rd July, with a minimum of 12 in **Blakeley Clough**. An adult male was at **Wessenden Head** on 22nd July, two at **Wessenden Lodge** on 12th August and flocks of 15 on 15th August and nine on 11th 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 26th, 44 on 27th, 15 on 28th and three on 31st all moving S/SW, followed in November by two on 1st and 16 on 4th (a total of 114 birds) (TG,DH,VLP,SF,MJW,BA).

Hade Edge/Cartworth Moor/Winscar area -- four were near **Cartworth Moor** on 7th May, followed by two birds gathering nest material there on 19th and two pairs on 26th; a pair displayed at **Elysium** fields before flying west on 20th May. Near **Crossley's Plantation** three birds, including an adult male, were feeding by the roadside and two flew west there on 8th July. Four birds flew over **Holme Styes** on 17th and three east at **Harden** on 18th June, with a single at **Winscar Res.** on 28th June and four there on 10th July. At least two were in a mixed finch flock at **Victoria, Hepworth** on 6th September (MC,GMC,HQ,BA,DHP,BBSG).

Records from other sites were three at **Rishworth Moor** on 8th April (HBC), a pair feeding at **Diggle** on 7th May (via JS) and four nearby at **Harrop Dale** on 31st July (TG), four at **Baitings** on 5th June (HBC), birds calling from two sites at **Oxygrains Beck** on 24th June and one there on 7th July (JED,HBC), one near the **Ford Inn** on 16th July (DHP), one on arable land at **Digley** on 10th August (TM), five flying over **Cupwith Res.** on 22nd August (TG), two at **Kilner Bank** (a very unexpected locality) on 16th September (HQ), c.6 at **Scanmonden** on 23rd September (JED) and finally five at **Stanedge** on the unusually late date of 22nd 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 14th, five on 15th February and at least one still on 8th April. At the year end noted from 2nd December (ten) then smaller numbers to 18th.

Dewsbury SF -- two on 14th January, nine on 11th October, 25 on 17th October, all flying south.

Bretton Lakes – 11+ on 14th January, four on 27th January, three on 1st and 15 on 11th February.

Lockwood – a female in a garden on 15th January.

Shelley – one on 25th January and eight at **Shelley Park** on 8th February.

Hinchliffe Mill – 15 by the R.Holme on 28th January.

Harden/Winscar – one flew north on 18th February. In the breeding season 50 on 30th April with several pairs on territory by 5th May, but no accurate counts were possible owing to F&M restrictions. By 12th May there were at least 20 birds in a loose breeding colony and a minimum of four pairs confirmed breeding. On 9th July c.10 juvs. were being fed in a neighbour's garden and two feeding in a hay meadow on 10th.

Skelmanthorpe – 23 in the grounds of Shelley High School on 20th February.

Gledholt – up to six in TP Wood in March.

Stockmoor Common – one calling on 17th March.

Elland GPs – 30 on 21st March, one on 28th April, four on 27th October and max. of six on several dates in December.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – two on 10th April and two in **Orange Wood** on 30th May; in autumn singles on 20th September, 18th and 29th October with two on 22nd.

Holme Styes – five on 21st April, a pair and two singles on 5th May, then regular in the conifer plantations.

Marsden area – singles in **Binn Lane** on 29th April, at **Netherwood** on 8th May and at **Tunnel End Res.** on 9th November, with two by the canal on 16th May.

Langsett Banks – at least two pairs bred.

Bradshaw – a male feeding on 19th June.

Shepley – one on 4th August, six on 8th December.

Scout Dike Res. – two SE on 15th September, 12 south on 13th October, nine on 17th October and two on 12th December.

Dalton – two over on 27th September.

Harteliff Hill – 60 moved S/SW on 6th October.

Royd Moor Res. – five from 13th to 16th October, two remaining to 18th.

Wessenden Valley – in October two on 16th, four on 26th, six on 27th, one on 28th and in November one on 3rd and three on 5th, all moving S/SW.

New Mill – two in a garden on 17th November.

Colnebridge SP – 33 on 17th November.

MEALY (COMMON)REDPOLL *Carduelis flammaea*

Rare winter visitor

In February about five were feeding with Siskins at **Langsett Res.** on 8th (MCW) and two with Lesser Redpolls at **Skelmanthorpe** on 20th (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 28th January (BBSG).

Snailsden – a party of 13, mainly juvs., flew east on 28th June (GMC).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – a party of seven flew south at 0900hrs. on 1st July (MLD) and at least two were calling on 30th July (MLD, TG).

Flouch Inn – a flyover on 23rd August (BBSG).

Wessenden Valley – one flew south on 28th August, two north on 31st October, five north on 2nd and one on 22nd 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 16th 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 16th July), **Dogley** (ad. + 3 juvs.), **Fixby** (male feeding two young on 16th August), **Elland GPs** (ads. carrying food on 21st August) and **Grimescar** (male with two juvs. on 16th September). Nest building was observed at **Dalton** on 30th 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 22nd 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 24th November, eight in a garden at **Near Bank**, **Shelley** on 11th 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 16th 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 31st January and 30th March, **Longwood Valley** on 15th October, **Elland GPs** on 1st December, **New Mill** on 30th 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 3rd, two on 6th, one on 7th, three on 13th, five on 17th, two on 20th and one on 27th; in February three on 1st, at least one on 14th, 5+ on 10th/11th and one on 18th.

At the year end one on 24th November and four on 9th December (AA,DT,DB,SRG,BA,PDB).

Scout Dike Res. - four flew into the trees surrounding the new housing development on 27th May (BA).

Salendine Nook ... two flew west at 1425hrs. at a height of c.30 feet and a range of c.25 yards on 29th July (JED).

SNOW BUNTING

Plectrophenax nivalis

Rare winter visitor

One was at **Scammonden** on 24th February (JB) and a male fed on the top of **Shooter's Nab, Deer Hill** on 16th 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 1st January to 75+ on 20th and peaking at 150 on 4th February. A flock on stubble at **Royd Moor** held c.50 birds on 2nd and 7th January decreasing to c.30 on 15th February, otherwise six at **Lower Cumberworth** on 5th 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 4th November to the year end, the next highest count being four at **Ingbirchworth** on 31st 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 Yellowhammer, 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 10th November), **Cubley** (one in a garden on 19th February), **Deer Hill**, **March Haigh**, **Blackmoorfoot conduit** and **Oldfield Hill Farm**.

On v.m.w., birds were observed at **Harden** on 15th March one NW and on 21st April three north, and at **Holme Moss** one south on 13th October.

The largest numbers reported were in **Jos Lanc**, **Shepley**, three on 1st and ten on 20th January, nine (one male) on 5th March and four on 22nd December, at **Horbury** a minimum of ten on 18th February, 7+ at **Horbury Wyke** on 19th July and nine at **Dewsbury SF** on 6th December.

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

2001

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*
Blackmoorfoot Res. – two on 23rd August (TG).

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*
See Classified List

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*
Wessenden Lodge – one on a dry stone wall on 12th August (VLP,DH via TG).

2000

BAHAMA (WHITE-CHEEKED) PINTAIL *Anos bahamensis*
Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 19th September (DHP).

1999

PARAKEET sp *Psittacula sp*
Elland GPs – one “small green” individual on 31st May (DSI) and 16th November (HBC).

1998

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*
Ringstone Edge Res. – one on 17th April (HBC).

MANED GOOSE *Chenonetta jubata*
Elland GPs – one on 12th 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	DenbyDale, 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	Holmirth
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
Total	903	49	483	1345	723	12747	1795	889	288	231	19453

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	2	1	
Greylag	1	4	4	30-Sep
PFG	2	243	147	03-Nov
Wigeon	1	2	2	01-Nov
Goosander	1	2	2	31-Oct
Hobby	1	1	1	27-Oct
Peregrine	1	1	1	31-Oct
Sparrowhawk	2	2	1	
Snipe	3	16	11	09-Nov
Dunlin	2	13	12	09-Nov
Golden Plover	3	14	12	04-Oct
Lapwing	1	681	681	18-Oct
Wood Pigeon	14	2506	850	27-Oct
Stock Dove	3	12	5	16-Oct
Skylark	14	239	42	24-Oct
Meadow Pipit	30	1099	160	30-Sep
Spinoletta pip	1	1	0	03-Nov
Alba Wagtail	19	93	17	15-Oct
Grey Wagtail	4	6	3	02-Oct
House Martin	4	84	66	02-Oct
Sand Martin	2	3	2	30-Sep
Swallow	8	68	23	03-Oct
Mistle Thrush	10	49	21	27-Oct
Fieldfare	23	7557	4043	27-Oct
Redwing	23	5896	3400	27-Oct
Song Thrush	5	8	2	
Ring Ouzel	2	3	2	24-Oct
Goldfinch	17	158	50	15-Oct
Linnet	11	95	31	03-Oct
Twite	6	114	44	27-Oct
Redpoll	9	24	6	27-Oct
Siskin	22	271	38	03-Oct
Chaffinch	28	665	124	27-Oct
Brambling	15	323	90	31-Oct
Bullfinch	1	3	3	01-Nov
Greenfinch	11	69	18	27-Oct
Crossbill	3	8	5	02-Nov
Reed Bunting	6	8	2	
Jay	1	1	1	01-Nov
Starling	7	126	39	18-Nov
Total	34	16971	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
Roughbirchworth	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
Stocksmoor Common	275152
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158
Storthes Hall Woods	183118
Stubbin Clough	124072
Swinden Plantation	190002
Taylor Hill	135145
Thornton Lodge	135161
Thorpes	235095
Thunderbridge	188115
Thurstonland	165104
Tinker Hill	163048
Townhead	166028
Upper Cumberworth	210087
Upper Denby	238072
Upper Longdendale	095005
Upper Windleden 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 Cnmon	192056
Whitley Willows	196166
Windle Edge	152017
Windleden 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	Melndious 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



BIRDLINE NORTHEAST

09068 700 246

FOR ALL THE LATEST REGIONAL NEWS

Calls cost 60p per minute (inc. Vat)



e-mail: infofocus@netcomuk.co.uk

in focus

**THE BINOCULAR
AND TELESCOPE
SPECIALISTS**
FLORIS TELESCOPE FOR COMPANY
LTD 1978/1979



in focus RUTLAND

Anglian Water
Biodiversity Centre
Sutton Reservoir
Rutland Water
Rutland MK6 8BT
Tel: 01572 770606

OPEN SEVEN DAYS

in focus LANCASHIRE

The Willford
& Watnolds Trust
Marble Hall
Barnesworth Grange
Lancashire LA9 6UN
Tel: 01704 697620

OPEN SEVEN DAYS

in focus GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Willford
& Watnolds Trust
Shardings
Gloucestershire
GL2 7HT
Tel: 01453 699976

OPEN SEVEN DAYS

Huddersfield BVC: boundaries of Club area: 

 gmy 82

