

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 1990



ANNUAL REPORT

Huddersfield BWC : boundaries of Club areas

• MAY 82

SE12

SE22

Calder
River.

200

M62

HUDDERS

SCAMMELTON
S.C.

A. Colino

Slatkwaite

blackmoo
iguanas

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131

1

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MOLM

8

20

104

100

100

ADDITIONS TO 1990 REPORT

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Blackmoorfoot Res. A pair were present on 30th March. (MLD et al)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Ringstone Edge Res. 2 on 21st October (NC)

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Blackmoorfoot Res. 4 males and 3 females on 30th April (MLD)

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 30th July and 13th August.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 in summer plumage on 19th July (MLD et al).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 adult on 4th March (MLD, JMP, JP).

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 immature on 14th March and an adult on 23rd April.

The revised total for species seen in the area in 1990 is 172.

BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1990

Report of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

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Front Cover	Black Tern - Stuart Brocklehurst
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1990 proved to be a time for change on our committee, with further changes envisaged in 1991 all of which will undoubtedly bear fruit in future years. Brian Armitage, who had held office in various capacities in all but two years since 1977, had already resigned his post as secretary, and was replaced by Lynn Stanley, whose first year was certainly not an easy one. Brian has served the club well and with loyalty through many years, and I take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the members.

Peter Martin, after a brief two years at Treasurer resigned following ill-health at the year-end. Peter had also given considerable help for three years in preparing the report manuscript for the printer.

John Reynolds again provided a wealth of variety for our evening meetings in finding some new, and some familiar faces amongst the guest speakers. In January Mike Densley gave us a typically well structured talk on 'Birds of Soviet Asia' concentrating in particular in little known areas in the south. On 20th March, Ian Rotherham gave us an insight into the problems of 'Wildlife and Conservation in the Peak District'. Amongst the most delightful, informative and judging from audience response, interesting and thought provoking talks was given on 25th September by Bob Spencer (formerly of the B.T.O. Ringing Office) on 'Birds in Winter'. 'The Short Summer of the Common Sandpiper' summarised the mammoth amount of work put in by Derick Yalden for a dozen years or more studying this species in its Derbyshire breeding sites. Two weeks later on 6th November, Tony Marr in a talk on 'Birding in Britain and Ireland' gave an interesting picture of changing styles and trends of the birdwatching scene over the last thirty-five years.

On 20th November we had an account from Andre Farrar of a two week visit to Trinidad and Tobago. Gordon Langsbury made this now almost annual visit on 11th December, and gave us more examples of his excellent photographic work showing us all the regular waders plus a few rarities, that visit Britain in 'The Way of a Wader'.

The Charnock family offered to sponsor annually a lecture in memory of Lester Charnock, who for almost fifteen years had enjoyed every aspect of the clubs' activities. The committee were delighted to accept this offer, and the first talk selected was most appropriate as on 6th March, John Wilson gave us 'Twenty-five Years at Leighton Moss' a locality club members have long enjoyed, and in the later session on 9th October, Gordon Yates returned after a few years absence to talk in particular about Islay in 'Hebridean Raptors'.

Our Field Trips are reported elsewhere, but I thank David Butterfield for keeping things going during a lean period for support.

Mike Denton and myself have been involved during the year in representing the Club on the Kirklees Wildlife and Landscape Advisory Forum. Progress has seemed to be slow, but in conjunction with other local naturalists we are endeavouring to pin point the most important sites within Kirklees; and should be able to report more fully on this work next year.

Clifford Disbrey, a founder member of the club, and its recorder for the first four years, died during the late spring. No one who knew Clifford as I did is ever likely to forget him. He had a straight forward, gentlemanly but no nonsense manner, and myself and others who continue to compile records for the club, owe a great debt to him for laying the foundations of our record system and club reports.

He was well known to other Huddersfield naturalists, and gave considerable assistance to the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union being its Treasurer for some years. The members who knew him well certainly miss him.

FIELD TRIPS REPORT FOR 1990

21 January 1990

East Coast Tour.

Scalby Mills, Scarborough (North Bay & Harbour, Bridlington Harbour and Barmston Beach.

A number of quite noteworthy species were observed during the course of the day but on the whole the field trip was a little disappointing. The areas visited were rather quiet - a reflection, perhaps, on the exceptionally mild weather and lack of any appreciable winds. That which we had came from the wrong direction, being light SW'ly, as it had done so for the previous few days.

Up to 2 (max) Red-throated Divers were on the sea off Barmston (with one earlier close inshore at the base of the cliffs at Scalby Mills) along with 2 Great Crested Grebes and one Red-necked Grebe, the latter coming quite close in to shore. Very good views were had of Shags at close quarters at rest on moored boats within Scarborough Harbour, where we had called with the express hope of adding Glaucous Gull to our day's tally. A few within our party were successful, but not all. The surprisingly elusive bird was to be seen, at times, in the air above the houses and other buildings lining the South Bay Promenade.

Bridlington Harbour as usual provided very good opportunities for close scrutiny of Kittiwake and Purple Sandpiper (3), and also provided less expected but equally good views of Sanderling (40). A Razorbill floated quietly on the water just over the sea wall.

Other species observed along with those outlined above brought our total for the day to just 49 species which is rather low for the areas that we visited.

25 February 1990

CORS CARON

Dyfed, W. Wales.

Despite unfortunately arriving over 1½ hours late at our destination -- due to our coach taking a wrong turn and resulting in a scenic but rather time consuming detour north through the Cambrian Mountains and into Gwynedd, eventually passing Ynys-hir and along the Dyfi estuary, leading us through Abcrys-twith before heading south again -- I do not believe that the day turned out too badly! On the way down the sun had shone and the coach was hot, but, to add insult to injury, shortly after our arrival, the sun disappeared, a strong wind sprang up, and we had driving rain to contend with.

Things began to look up when, within sight of the reserve, the passing coach flushed a male Merlin from the hedgerow at the side of the road!! Then, as we arrived, and whilst our coach was parking up in the lay-by, a Red Kite appeared over the adjacent hillside and showed itself very well. This bird, and another, was to be seen at that locality at all times during the course of the day. They proved to be the first and second of at least ten individuals in the vicinity of the reserve. The maximum seen together today was four.

Buzzard numbers in the area were much greater: maximum together seven, with possibly as many as twenty individuals on the reserve and adjacent hillsides. Birds were seen on up to around fifty occasions, involving individuals, pairs or other small groups. (Buzzard sightings were, indeed, so frequent that it became difficult to assess numbers with accuracy).

There was at least one pair of Hen Harriers on the reserve, with every possibility of an additional 'ring-tail'. The best views of these came from an area of wetland overlooked by the elevated tower hide.

At least one pair, probably two, of Peregrine Falcons were seen on or over the reserve. These, along with Kestrel, gave us our 5th and 6th raptor species for the area, and it was to see birds of prey in these numbers that constituted our principal reason for making the journey.

Other bird species DO occur!! We have come to expect from the area such favourites (of mine at least) as Stonechat, and we had good views from a minimum of two pairs, and Nuthatch was also seen again. From the same area as the last came a party of c16 Redpolls.

Final word goes to the area's Ravens: again good views were had of individuals in the air over the reserve, but they were more frequently noted over the adjacent wooded hill-sides, and on the ground on the rock-strewn slopes beside them. At least three pairs might have been holding territories, and one known nest site had the appearance of being occupied.

25 March 1990

ANGLESSEY

Newborough Warren, Newborough Forest, Malltraeth Pool, the Cob and Malltraeth Sands.

The reserve area of Newborough Warren and Newborough Forest covers an area of over 3000 acres. The tree-less SE section of the Warren and its coastal strip is an NNR of 1565 acres managed by the NCC. For birds it is best to visit in winter and during the periods of passage, but the area is noted also for its' flora and especially its butterflies.

Newborough Forest is managed by the Forestry Commission. The dominant tree species is the Corsican Pine: much of it is mature and very well established, and criss-crossed with open rides and other smaller footpaths allowing a walker a great deal of access. Some parts of the area is young plantation which is actually growing over dunes (where the woodland meets the sea) and this adds another dimension to the habitat on offer.

Malltraeth Pool, situated at the head of the Cefni estuary and the extensive Malltraeth Sands, and separated from the latter by the embankment known as the Cob, is an excellent area for wildfowl and passage waders. There is also a small area of salt-marsh along the estuary's S. shore, which too, in places, almost meets the forest edge.

We were fortunate in that almost the first birds we encountered (in the sheltered waters SW of the dunes and beside the Ynys Llanddwyn peninsula) proved to be three divers: one was identified as Red-throated and the other two proved to be Great Northernns. Here also were Fulmar, Cormorant, and Shag, and on the sea were Shelduck and Common Scoter.

On the connecting strip of heathland and sand joining the tiny island of Ynys Llanddwyn to the mainland upto three pairs of Stonechats and one pair of Wheatears were encountered.

The Forest, whilst magnificent to walk through, held few birds. Out of the ordinary additions to the expected coniferous forest avifauna were Crossbills and Ravens, whilst Peregrine Falcon was noted overflying an area of grassland on the forest edge, where early Chiffchaffs (3) were heard singing.

Malltraeth Pools and the head of the Cefni Estuary around the Cob probably had the greatest concentration of birds within the areas visited consisting of 7 species of duck, and 9 species of wader, most noteworthy of which were Goosander (5m) and Whimbrel (!).

22 APRIL 1990

SOUTH WALNEY NATURE RESERVE
Walney Island, Cumbria

The Club first paid a visit to this locality way back in June of 1973, and to my knowledge has not been back since. I felt that a return visit to the area - a SSSI in spite of its rather unprepossessing appearance, and the location of probably the largest Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gull breeding colony (c9000 pairs each) in the country - might be worthwhile.

Small numbers of terns also nest on the shingle banks along the Spit. Common Tern attempt to breed. Disturbance at this time of year is a great problem. When a breeding attempt is suspected or attempted, the breeding areas are closed off completely from the landward side, but, unfortunately 24 hour coverage cannot be maintained, nor guaranteed to prevent boat-owners landing from the sea. And one boat at the wrong time is all it takes to make this very nervous bird desert!. In discussion, the warden(s) have informed us that this is increasingly becoming a problem and I suspect that they feel that this species might already be lost as a breeding bird on the island. However, a success story for the area is that of the continuing expansion of the Eider, here in their southern-most colony in Britain: from one nest in 1949 to over 1000 in 1986.

As I have previously said, no Little Terns here today but Sandwich Terns were recorded with upto c6 birds on the wing over the sea from the Groyne Hide, and I was told of the presence on the island of a Little Gull, but I do not know of anyone in our party who might have seen it.

Another that was seen - on the sea also from the Groyne Hide, and in association with Great Crested Grebes (2), was a Black-necked Grebe. The bird had not yet acquired breeding plumage.

Including Eider, 9 species of wildfowl were recorded, and this excludes the Pink-footed Geese (3), Grey lag Goose (1), and Canada Goose (1), all of which were probably not of wild origins.

Ten species of wader were recorded, the most spectacular - and that is the only word to describe it! - being a single, summer-plumaged Grey Plover. The rarest no doubt was the Spotted Sandpiper, which was seen on St. George's Dock, in Barrow-in-Furness. We were given quite precise instructions by the Observatory staff as to how and where to find this bird, which we duly followed, calling in on our way home. Sure enough, there it was - a summer dressed adult, obligingly in association with a Common Sandpiper to facilitate easy comparison.

20 May 1990

BEMPTON CLIFF AND FLAMBOROUGH HEAD

With only ten people participating in this trip, the last of the Spring season, we decided, on this occasion, to use cars (my thanks to the drivers) which gave us a little more latitude regarding time and venue, and in addition it allowed us an opportunity to broaden the outlook of the day and cater more for the specific interests of the various individuals.

Our first port of call was Wharram Quarry - a disused chalk quarry of 4 hectares, now administered by the YWT. It is an area of chalk grassland and scrub of importance for its Flora (Wild Thyme, Salad Burnett, Woolly Thistle, Clustered Bellflower, Weld and Orchids among others) both on the cliff face and on the quarry floor, where an even richer community of plants had developed. Here also we encountered a single individual of a butterfly which was later identified as Dingy Skipper, which is, I understand, somewhat rare.

After an hour at Wharram Quarry, we pressed on to Bempton, where we had good views of all the usual species that one might expect to encounter in a BIG sea-bird 'city' during the breeding season. If you only have the opportunity to visit one sea-bird breeding colony, visit THIS one .. the sights, sounds, smells and sheer excitement generated by and in such a place at this time of year is a birdwatching experience that one can never tire of!!!

In the afternoon we move on to Flamborough and set out in search of Black Redstart and Red-backed Shrike which we soon learned had been in the area. We missed the first and found the second quite by chance just as we had decided abandon our search for it.
C'est la vie!

We finished off what proved to be a longer day than usual with an hour spent in the woodlands of Dane's Dike, where such species as Chiffchaff, Treecreeper, and Bullfinch brought our day's tally to 65 species of birds and wildflower such as Leopardsbane brought the wildflower total upto I don't know how many!.

23 September 1990

SPURN POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY Humber side

My overall impression at the end of the day was that this trip would not compare favourably when set against previous visits, so I was a little (but pleasantly) surprised to find that, after compilation of all the results, our party had recorded 87 species in the area over the course of the day.

9 species of wildfowl were recorded, with high spots of 10 Pintail, along with an undetermined number of Common Scoter observed in a line over the (North) sea, moving south. There were sightings of Kestrel, Merlin and one of the day's best birds - a Hobby, seen from the new hide alongside the road between the Reserve's entrance and the Bluebell Cafe.

17 species of wader were seen - here probably the 'best' bird was a single Jack Snipe, seen in the vicinity of the Warren.

A single Short-eared Owl was observed (I think in the vicinity of the Beacon Ponds) by a few of our party, but everyone saw the excellently - marked Wryneck that posed for us, at times, in the buckthorn scrub, again in the vicinity of the Warren.

21 October 1990

FLAMBOROUGH HEAD
Yorkshire

A good day had by all today!. Those who have a yen for sea-birds and sea-watching were set fair as wind speed, wind direction, light conditions and visibility were all excellent. An hour or two spent in the pursuit gave results of over 20 Red-throated Divers, a single Black-throated Diver and 2 Great Northern Divers (heading north). Both Manx Shearwater (!) and Storm Petrel were also recorded, along with Brent Goose (25), from a sea-watching point near the light.

Nine species of duck were recorded on or over the sea, with very agreeable numbers of Common Scoter (c70), Eider (c30), a female Long-tailed Duck and 3 female Red-breasted Mergansers.

A flight of 6-7 Whooper Swans was, I thought, (perhaps wrongly?), out of the ordinary!. Skua sightings, whilst not high, were interesting as three species were recorded: Arctic Skua (6-10), Long-tailed Skua (1) and Great Skua (4). Finally Auks: 4 species recorded, the vast majority being Guillemont, but also Razorbill (2), Puffin (1) and - best of all - Little Auk (4-6).

Those whose preferences tend towards scrub and wooded areas and their accompanying birds were also in for a good day. A visit to the wooded ravine at South Landing, and onto the more open, more mature woodland at its head gave sightings of a late Redstart, Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff, and an early (single) Brambling, but it was in the scrub that one had to look to find the real 'gems'. This scrub seemed over-run with birds: Goldcrests were everywhere, with numbers being counted into several hundreds. Fieldfare and Redwing were also much in evidence, and with them were at least 1-2 Wax-wing! Crossbills (1-2) were also found in this locality. The bird of the day must be said to be the Dusky Warbler that was lurking in low-lying scrub at the foot of this ravine. (This bird was the subject of a 'twitch' after information regarding it had been put on 'Birdline'). It was not showing well (possibly because of the number of people after it?) but most people managed to get some sort of view of it, notwithstanding how badly.

In an area of open field with (hawthorn) hedgerow system (with an area of marshy wetland towards one end) and situated near the woodland edge there was considerable activity. Many birds, mostly common stuff, but showing well, but here also we had prolonged sightings of at least 3 Ring Ouzels - adult male, adult female and 1st winter female, which was almost taken by a female Sparrowhawk, which hunted along the hedge bottom. Overflying this area were upto three Woodcocks, and in the wet areas of the field could be seen Common Snipe.

Finally, the open grassy areas along the cliff tops also had its specialities. Both Lapland Bunting (3) and Corn Bunting (1), and in close proximity to the Old Lighthouse, in a walled garden, a few people located a Black Redstart.

18 November 1990

FILEY BAY AND BRIGG

Not all trips can be as 'successful' as the last, and one like today's helps you to appreciate more the better ones!. It wasn't all bad, but much of what we saw were those species that could have been expected.

However, it seemed to me, that even these were considerably down when compared to previous visits. However, 2 Great Northern Divers, a lone Red-necked Grebe, a Long-tailed Duck and a male Goldeneye, and about 15-20 Common Scoters in Filey Bay were all nice birds, and worth seeing.

Purple Sandpiper numbers were few: for some reason this species seems to be decreasing at this locality. Why should that be ?.

Amongst the passerine species of the area a female Blackcap in trees down Church Ravine, where also were seen 3 Treecreepers together, and a small party of c6 birds in flight along the grassy cliff tops north of the Brigg thought to have been Twite were the most noteworthy.

9 December 1990

WASHBURN VALLEY RESERVOIRS & GOUTHWAITE

This trip did not take place: unfortunately a combination of circumstances led to insufficient numbers of participants for the trip to be viable. This, and a couple of feet of snow, forced cancellation.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST

The early months were relatively mild though wet, and an unusual feature was the persistence of strong winds, mainly from the west quarter, which reached gale force on at least six days from 25th January to 27th February. From mid-April conditions became more settled and mild leading on to a generally warm spring, and a dry, hot summer. Most reservoirs in the area fell to very low levels for the second successive year, but showed signs of recovery during the last two months. Conditions during December were more seasonable with may days of frost, considerable snowfall on 8th and 9th, and considerable rainfall in the last ten days.

I must apologise for an error in the 1989 Report. The number of species recorded should read 173 not 193. During 1990 ~~172~~¹⁷³ species were recorded, including White-rumped Sandpiper at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 19th and 20th July, a new species for the area list. A Spotted Sandpiper at Elland Gravel Pit from 31st May to 2nd July was the second for the area. Other relatively rare species to occur were Red-necked Grebe on 6th January and Great Northern Diver on 5th November, both at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir; a Gannet over the Ingbirchworth area on 19th September, a Dotterel near Broadstones in early May, and a Black-necked Grebe on Bretton Park Lakes in late September.

Pied Flycatcher bred at several sites two of which were 'new'. Stonechat numbers during autumn and winter maintained the 1989 level after several lean years. An incredible Black Tern passage through east coast counties in early May brought record numbers to many parts of Yorkshire including Huddersfield.

A considerable invasion of Crossbills from the Continent was well represented, with long staying flocks near Langsett from late spring, and Holmbridge from early autumn. The autumn passage of Fieldfare was more in evidence than usual, with particularly high numbers during October. Willow Tit and Tree Sparrow remain scarce and all records of these species will be welcomed. The same can be said for Corn Bunting, which for the first time since regular compilation of records began over thirty years ago was not actually reported. However at the time of writing birds are known to be present in the Kirkheaton area, one of some five traditional localities.

As this will probably be my last year as Recorder for the Huddersfield Birdwatcher's Club I thank once again all those who have contributed so much in the last twenty years. The several individuals who annually summarised the mass of information in the Blackmoorfoot Log, in particular Paul Bray, Martin Yates and for the last seven years Mike Denton, made the task easier. At times my additional recording activities for the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union meant that I found it necessary to step down on two occasions, and Paul Bray (for one year) and Brian Armitage (for three years) became recorders, and brought their own particular ideas into the work. Stephen Hey will take over from 1991, and I hope he finds the duties as enjoyable and interesting as I have, and that he will receive the support of all members.

J. E. DALE MAY 1991

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

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

Resident Breeder
Partial Migrant
Passage Visitor

Migrant Breeder
Winter Visitor

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

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

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

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

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

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

Many of the more common breeding species have been listed without further comment than an indication of their status. For further details of these and their habitat preferences, readers are referred to the 1975 Report. A complete list of all species recorded in the area up to the end of 1980, and notes on their status, appeared in the Report for that year.

Many breeding records for 1989 were received by the Atlas recorders that do not appear in the species summaries. It was considered unreasonable to give them the task of producing separate summaries for each breeding season, and therefore readers may find certain breeding records omitted from this report.

THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Cavia immer* Rare Visitor

An immature at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th November (MLD).
Eighth record for the reservoir.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Resident Breeder (1)

Recorded during every month at Ingbirchworth Reservoir, with a maximum of 10 during August and September. Three pairs bred, but only three juveniles seen during August. Regularly at Scout Dike Reservoir from 14th January to 18th November. Two pairs attempted breeding, but no juveniles seen. 17 on 16th September.

A pair at Royd Moor Reservoir raised one young.

Pairs reared young at Boshaw Whams (two), Bilberry Reservoir (one), Digley Reservoir (three, on 29th July only) and Gunthwaite Dam (two).

Present from January to November on Bretton Lakes, with a low maximum of four from 21st January to 3rd February. No breeding evidence due to lack of coverage.

One to three on various dates at Broadstones Reservoir, Booth Wood Reservoir, Cannon Hall, Castle Dam, Eiland G.P. and Meltham Mills.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* Resident Breeder (1)

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Singles on two January and four December dates, and one to three on six November dates, but otherwise present continuously from 14th February to 31st October. Peak numbers of 10 to 17 from 6th June (10) to 16th July (17), and 10 to 11 on 15 dates, and 13 on 18th May.

A pair nested on the bank in the north-west corner. The nest held one egg on 28th May and was plundered by Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone*, on 29th.

Bretton Lakes Present throughout the year. Monthly maxima never less than 12 and peaks of 22 on 16th March, 22 (eight juveniles) on 23rd September and 21 on 14th October. At least four pairs bred, and at least six broods were hatched but not all the young survived.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Present from at least 3rd March (one) to 16th September (three). A maximum of six on 8th April, but otherwise two pairs present in the breeding season which built nests, but no young were ever seen.

Present at Scout Dike Reservoir from 11th March (five) to 18th November (one), with up to eight regularly in July and August, but only two pairs earlier and only one juvenile reared. A pair raised two young at Boshaw Whams, and a pair were sitting during March at Brookfoot Lake, but the outcome is unknown. Singles at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 25th February; at Scammonden Dam on 11th and 14th April and 3rd May, and at Booth Wood Reservoir on 23rd April.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*
Rare Visitor

One in winter plumage at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 6th January (JMD et al).
Ninth record for the area.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*
Rare Visitor

An immature on Bretton Lakes from 21st to 26th September (JBB et al).

GANNET *Sula bassana*
Rare visitor

An immature flying south-east over the Royd Moor area on 19th September (NEP).
Eighth record for the area.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Scarce passage and winter visitor.

An adult showing characteristics of the Continental race, *P.C. Simensis* at Bretton Park on 17th March (GC). Two west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th March, and three departed west from there on 14th April, as did four on 28th. Singles over Blackmoorfoot on 20th and 25th April flying north and west respectively, and singles on the reservoir on 1st and 16th May. Three south-west over the Broadstones area on 29th April.
At Blackmoorfoot singles departed west on 4th September, and east on 14th September, and another was there on 5th November.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*
Resident breeder (2)

On the islands of Bretton Lakes 26 pairs bred laying a total of 86 eggs from which 70 young reached the flying stage. As last year the continuation of mild weather during the winter months aided the survival rate of this population. This still relatively new colony has continued to expand. 51 young were ringed with a colour combination of yellow above white on the right leg, a further five young being ringed with B.T.O. metal rings only.

I am indebted to G.M. Carr of the Barnsley Ringing Group for the above information.
Present at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 34 days in the first six months including eight on 15th June, and 103 days in the last six months including six on 30th July. One to two at a further 20 localities.

Six flying from the south-west over Rishworth Moor on 13th June, returned after being mobbed by Peregrines, *Falco peregrinus*. Four at Scammonden on 22nd July.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*
Resident breeder (1)

Two males at Cannon Hall until at least 9th May, and one there later in the year. An adult and an immature at Wildspur Mill, but no sign of breeding there, and an immature on Brookfoot Lake on 4th December.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*
Scarce winter visitor

An adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th October (MLD), and the same or another at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 20th (JMP).

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*
Scarce winter visitor

An adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th November.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*
Uncommon to common passage visitor

52 were feeding on rough pasture in the Broadstones area on 20th January, and 121 were at the same site on 9th February.

During January skeins of 24 west over Lindley Moor on 14th and 47 east over Blackmoorfoot on 20th. On 10th February skeins of 60 over Penistone and 220 over Ingbirchworth flying west, and on the same date three skeins of 'grey' geese over Marsden in one hour totalled at least 250 birds. At least 80 unidentified 'grey' geese flew north over Wooldale on 13th January.

An early autumn record of 19 in from the east to Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 21st September then departed west after a five minute stay. 22 feeding near Broadstones from about 15th to 19th November.

Westerly movement over Blackmoorfoot of one on 4th and 19 on 17th November, and 28 on 31st December. 74 east over Crosland Hill on 25th November. One, possibly of feral origin, at Bretton Park on a few dates late in the year.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Uncommon passage visitor

One at Bretton Park on 25th April.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (2)

Far fewer counts made at Bretton Park than in the past, the only three-figure peaks being 123 on 14th January; 142 on 11th March and 320 on 15th October. At least 26 goslings were reared here although population control was again carried out (per D.P.).

Small numbers at 17 other sites during the breeding season; including a pair with a nest at Blacker Dam (Silkstone) during April; a pair with three young on Wessenden Head Reservoir on 14th June; eight young apparently from three broods at Black Moss on 6th July, and 15 adults, with seven juveniles, on Winscar Reservoir on 19th July.

Higher counts than usual at four waters during the autumn/winter months, with peaks of 27 in October and 26 in November at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir; 36 on 19th September and 25 on 31st December at Scammonden; 27 during August at Ringstone Edge Reservoir, with some evidence to suggest interchanging between these waters, and finally peaks at Broadstones Reservoir of 34 on 23rd August, and 47 on 16th September. Over 30 north-west over Booth Wood Reservoir on 1st June.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor. Feral birds breeding in recent years.

At Bretton Park seven to eight during the early months, with a pair of these rearing two young, and up to seven seen during the autumn. A single bird noted on many dates from 12th August to 31st December with Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*, at Ringstone Edge and Blackmoorfoot Reservoirs, and Scammonden Dam was doubtless the same individual throughout.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

A lame bird (left leg) at Brookfoot Lake from at least 4th March to 22nd April, also visited Blackmoorfoot on 14th April. One at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 11th August may have been the same individual.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor

A party of five first at Royd Moor Reservoir and later at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 21st January, may have been the same five that spent half an hour at Boshaw Whams during that afternoon. Two each at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 6th and Winscar Reservoir on 9th February. The remainder of the records in the early months were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with in February, one on 1st, four on 6th, five on 8th, and one on 23rd; in March, one on 11th, two on 24th, and four on 22nd April.

Blackmoorfoot also had two on 4th July; 15 on 31st August; 11 on 1st, four on 12th, and one on 13th September; one on 4th, and from 9th to 11th, and three on 17th October, and one on 6th November.

One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 12th October, and six on 25th November.

Nine west over Booth Wood Reservoir on 7th May.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Six on 2nd and four from 7th to 10th January otherwise three up to 7th February. Two on 20th April. A good autumn, with three on 25th and nine on 29th August; one to nine on 10 September dates plus exceptional 46 (all males) on 6th; one to eleven on 29 October dates; one to nine on 14 November dates plus 18 on 11th and 25th, and three on 1st, and seven on 6th December

Ingbirchworth Reservoir One on 31st May and 1st June. One to five frequently during September, October and December, but 35 on 14th September.

Small numbers (one to six) mainly in September and October at seven other waters including Digley Reservoir which had nine on 13th October.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

Two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 8th January and three at Bretton Park on 3rd February. At Blackmoorfoot two on 24th and one on 25th August; two on 13th September and one 11th November. Two at Bretton Park on 16th September and Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 13th October, and one there on 4th November.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor

Occurred on 10 waters in the early months, with generally only single figures, but 14 at Gunthwaite on 7th and 30 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 14th January.

Pairs present at six probable breeding localities (mainly upland), including a pair with three juveniles on Scout Dike Reservoir on 3rd July.

Good numbers during the Autumn, with birds regularly on at least 11 waters. 28 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th August and 22 on 14th December. All other maxima during December including 18 at Scammonden, 20 at Ingbirchworth and 27 on Bretton Lakes, but exceptional numbers at Royd Moor, with 64 on 1st, and many remaining throughout the month increasing during the last week to 105 on 29th.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeder (3). Common winter visitor

Early maxima of 98 on Bretton Lakes on 14th January, and 49 on Royd Moor Reservoir on 11th February.

Good numbers in the Ingbirchworth area from August onwards, with at Royd Moor Reservoir 83 on 26th August; 98 on 14th October; 80 on 18th November, and 159 on 29th December, and at Ingbirchworth Reservoir peaks on 137 in August; 104 in September, and 73 in December.

A build-up during the autumn at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir peaked at 111 on 10th October, and monthly maxima at Bretton Lakes of 201 on 14th October; 171 on 18th November and 196 on 22nd December. Five other waters had peaks on 28-58 during the autumn.

PINTAIL. *Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Most records in the first half of the year were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with two on 26th January; three on 18th February, and singles on 12th March, 7th June, and 22nd June. One at Broadstones Reservoir on 31st March. One at Blackmoorfoot on 26th August; 20 on 6th and two on 7th and 13th September; singles on 12th, 29th and 30th October, and eight on 10th November. Only singles elsewhere during second half of the year being at Elland G.P. on 27th August; Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 17th and 30th September and 13th October and at Royd Moor Reservoir on 24th and 27th December.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th January, and two at Hill Top Reservoir on 22nd April. Autumn records also confined to two waters, with at Blackmoorfoot two on 26th July; one on 3rd and 28th, seven on 19th and six on 24th August; three on 12th and one on 26th September, and two on 30th October, and on Bretton Lakes one on 16th, six on 22nd and three on 26th September; 10 on 14th October; and in November one on 4th and two on 18th, and finally two on 5th December.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*
Common passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Six on 8th January, and one to two on six other dates upto 5th May. One on 14th and eight on 16th July, then from one to five on nine dates from 29th August to 3rd October, and from 8th October to 31st December present on all but two days. During that period peaks of 41 on 11th and 12th October, and upto 21 in early November.

Bretton Lakes Recorded regularly to mid-March and from late-July. Normally double figures present, with low peaks of 19 on 11th February and 23 on 21st December.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Noted regularly to early-April and from October. Double figures fairly frequently peaking at 18 in February and 20 in December.

Small numbers at Royd Moor Reservoir in the early months, but more in the last two months including 22 on 18th November and 1st December. 11 at nearby Scout Dike Reservoir on 14th October, but otherwise only one to five here on a few days, and similar numbers at Cannon Hall and Boshaw Whams at both ends of the year.

A hybrid male on Ingbirchworth Reservoir present from 27th March to 20th April, was probably a Tufted Duck X Pochard and superficially resembled Scaup *A. marila*.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder (1) Common passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Virtually daily throughout the year. Maxima of 11 during January and March after which single figures until early-July. 31 on 31st July, 34 on 17th August, 18 on 1st September, but mainly single figure counts after that date.

Bretton Lakes Present throughout the year. Maxima of 42 on 14th January and 34 on 11th February; 64 on 5th and 91 on 22nd December.

At least one pair bred.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Present throughout the year. Highest monthly maxima of 25 in January; 26 in March; 32 in April; 65 in July (18th) and 43 in August.

Bred at Scout Dike Reservoir (at least four pairs with 18 young); Bilberry and Digley Reservoirs (one or two pairs), and Deanhead Reservoir (one pair).

Recorded at nine other waters, generally only in single figures, the exception being Scout Dike with 70 on 3rd July; 83 (including young) on 14th August, and Royd Moor Reservoir with 40 on 1st December.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*
Scarce passage and winter visitor

A female on Scout Dike Reservoir on 18th November (BBSG).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*
Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Only occurred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with two on 7th June, two on 10th and one on 26th August, and four on 13th September.

GOLDFENEYE *Bucephala clangula*
Regular but uncommon winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir One to three on 20 dates up to 18th March. An immature male on 3rd September, and recorded on 32 dates from 8th October, highest counts being 11 on 5th and eight on 28th November.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir One to three up to 8th April. Eight on 3rd November, then one to four to the year-end.

One to three during the first three months on Bilberry and Digley Reservoirs; up to three at Ringstone Edge Reservoir to 14th April and occasional singles at Deer Hill, Royd Moor and Scout Dike Reservoir (last on 24th April).

One to two at five waters from 3rd November including birds regularly at Ringstone Edge, with three on 11th November.

RED-BREASTED MEGANSER *Mergus serrator*
Rare visitor

A female at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th November (MLD).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*
Scarce passage and winter visitor

Brookfoot Lake Up to nine in March and two in early-October.
No other records received.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Singles on 10th September, 18th, 22nd, and 25th November; three north on 4th November, and three on 16th December.

Bretton Park Two to three from 13th to 27th January; four on 1st and 18th February, and regular records from 18th November (five) to 30th December (six), with a maximum of nine on 5th December.

Two at Boshaw Whams on 13th January; four on the River Calder at Cooper Bridge on 4th March, and one on Scammonden Dam on 15th December.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*
Scarce Visitor

Fewer records than last year.

A male at Scout Dike Reservoir on 22nd July, and a female or immature on 23rd September and 11th November.

At Bretton Park five throughout August and September, but six on 23rd September including five males. A party of five on 7th October included only one adult male. One on 14th October.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*
Sporadic breeder and rare visitor

Singles (all males) over Cawthorne on 20th January (JED); Oakes on 30th January (JMD); Scammonden and Ringstone Edge, an immature, on 12th October (JED); Langsett on 28th October (NEP), and Greenhead Park on 7th November (JED). A pair at a locality in the early spring.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nissus*
Resident Breeder (2)

Recorded in at least 60 localities, with breeding evidence from at least 12 of these. Noted at Blackmoorfoot on 76 dates.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*
Rare visitor

On 28th April a bird claimed as buzzard sp over Lepton in the early morning, and another (or the same) over Linthwaite in the evening (JRB).

One south over Rishworth Moor on 29th April (M Hill, D Jones). One flying north-east over Cawthorne on 29th May (NEP).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*
Rare visitor

One, attempting fishing, at Brookfoot Lake on 9th April (JER). Singles at Dovestones on 22nd (per BA) and Broadstones on 27th April (BBSG). One flying over the M62 and River Calder at Clifton on 10th May (JED). One at Winscar Reservoir on 19th May (DJS).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*
Resident breeder (2)

Recorded at about 70 localities with positive proof of breeding at nine of these. Although 136 records were received the species was probably under-recorded. In addition to these records one to two on 111 dates at Blackmoorfoot, and 65 dates at Lindley Moor.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*
Resident breeder (1) and scarce visitor

A female and an immature at one locality on 15th July presumably bred locally, and a pair bred at a second site and successfully reared young. A pair at a former breeding site from 18th March were not seen after 23rd April.

Singles at Broadstones on 20th; Ingbirchworth on 21st, and at Denby Dale on 28th January. Recorded later in the Broadstones and Ingbirchworth area on 1st, 2nd and 5th May; 28th August; 17th September and 23rd September (a female), and a male at Whitley Common on the last date, when another female or immature was at Digley. Singles at Black Moss on 6th and Deer Hill on 28th July.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*
Rare visitor

An immature was on the north wall of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir briefly on 14th September (JE & SMD). First record for the site.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*
Resident breeder

The pair at Booth Dam Quarry (Derby Delph), present for the fifth year, reared two young. The R.S.P.B. carried out round the clock surveillance, and the site was opened to the public in early-May and remained open until the first week of July.

Pairs present at two other sites at which breeding was successful. A few sightings over moorlands near breeding localities in the autumn and winter months. One over Golcar on 7th August, and singles in the Broadstones and Whitley Common areas on 14th August and 6th September.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*
Resident breeder (3)

Bred in moorland localities, but no records of any significance received.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*
Resident breeder (1)

At Digley two on 12th March, 13th April and 1st May, and one on 11th July. Two at Hade Edge on 21st April. A pair near Stocksmoor Reserve on 3rd May. One found dead on the road near Wills O'Nats, Blackmoorfoot on 2nd June. One at Wilberlee on 2nd September; three at Broadstones on 7th November, and two at Lumb Lane, Almondbury on 13th December.

A Chukar, *A chukar*, found dead at Blackmoorfoot on 11th September.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*
Resident breeder (2)

Bred at Bretton Park and Thurlstone. Other likely breeding localities from which records were received included Scammonden, Blackmoorfoot, Lindley Moor, Ingbirchworth, Silkstone, Defford Wood and Almondbury. 10 at High Burton on 5th and 10th September and 11 at Scammonden on 25th October.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*
Scarce summer visitor. Occasional breeder.

Birds calling at Blackmoorfoot on 12th June (TD), Bretton Park on 16th June (PS, WNS) and near Broadstones on 1st July (NWA, BBSG).

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*
Resident breeder (2-3)

Introductions and releases continue on a considerable scale. Examples of pairs breeding in the wild located near Castle Hill, at Stocksmoor Common and south of Cawthorne.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*
Scarce winter visitor

The only records were from Bretton Park during December, with at least one there seen to the west of the upper lake and on the river.

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

Bred at Blacker Green (Silkstone), Cannon Hall (eight young), Castle Dam, Gunthwaite Dam, Ingbirchworth (10 young), Royd Moor and Scout Dike Reservoirs, and at Bretton Park and probably at many more other localities.

COOT *Fulica atra*
Resident breeder (2)

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Present throughout the year, with monthly peaks of 21 - 29 from February to September, but only single figures in the last three months. Several pairs bred and 19 young were counted in mid-August.

Bretton Lakes 24 on 11th February; 72 on 23rd September, and up to 23 regularly in the last three months. At least six pairs bred.

Pairs nesting at Hill Top Reservoir, in the Longwood Valley, at Gunthwaite Dam, Cannon Hall (four young), Royd Moor Reservoir, Castle Dam (seven young), Scout Dike Reservoir (three pairs, six young), and much of the year at Boshaw Whams (11 on 20th October).

Maxima of 27 at Cannon Hall on 9th March, and 29 at Scout Dike on 11th March. Recorded on 139 dates at Blackmoorfoot, mainly up to 30th March and from 24th August, usually one to two, but five on 30th November.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*
Uncommon passage visitor

At Broadstones Reservoir one from 30th March with a second bird on 29th April, and both apparently there regularly until at least 29th May. Singles during May at Whitley Common on 1st; Booth Wood Reservoir on 2nd and 20th (and on 16th June); at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 3rd; Langsett Reservoir on 13th, and flying east over Rishworth Moor on 27th. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir three on 6th May and two on 23rd June, and one at Winscar Reservoir on 10th June. Blackmoorfoot had singles on 10th, 11th and 18th July; 1st and 5th August and 18th September, and two on 16th and 22nd August; three on 7th September, and three flew west on 23rd November.

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

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 13th and 18th April, and birds present regularly from 12th May to 17th August. A pair became established during late-May, laid four eggs, and ultimately reared three young which remained until 5th August. A second pair from mid-June also raised three young which were not seen after 14th August when fledged. A juvenile present from 25th to 27th August.

A pair at Broadstones Reservoir from 23rd April to about 20th May.

Pairs displayed at Ingbirchworth in early-May, and at Winscar in late-May, and a male displayed at Deer Hill but did not attract a mate. Up to four at Elland G.P. late-May to early-June. Two adults and two juveniles at Langsett Reservoir on 18th June, and two adults and one juvenile at Scout Dike Reservoir on 3rd July. One at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 17th May.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*
Uncommon passage visitor

During the spring, singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th and 14th April; 4th and 29th May, and two on 13th April; singles at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 1st, 2nd and 6th May and three on 5th; singles at Broadstones on 13th and 14th May and at Deer Hill on 14th May.

Two at Blackmoorfoot on 7th July, and one to three on 12 August dates, and one to two on 17 September dates up to 21st, plus four on 16th August and seven on 26th August.

Two at Deer Hill Reservoir on 10th and 26th August, and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir from 31st August to 3rd September.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*
Scarce passage visitor

One in the Broadstones area from 1st to 3rd May (GJS et al).

Three flew west from Slaithwaite Moor on 11th May (per J. McLoughlin).

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

Numbers in the first two months were quite low counts of 48 on 26th January at Blackmoorfoot and 155 at Broadstones on 1st February, being the highest.

Increased numbers in March included 100 on 9th near Grimes Lane, and 147 on 26th at Blackmoorfoot.

Many birds of the northern cline during April which included the flock feeding west of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with high counts of 353 on 5th; 167 on 6th; 173 on 25th and 137 on 26th; and 105 on 8th at Grimes Lane, and 143 at Ringstone Edge on 23rd. Small parties remained (non-breenders ?) in the Blackmoorfoot and Digley areas during May and June, with over 70 at the latter site on 15th May.

Autumn numbers were not exceptional with a build-up commencing in the first week of July, and reaching 140 at Broadstones on 18th, and 120 at Blackmoorfoot on 25th. Numbers lower during August, but over 300 were on Whitley Green, and 162 at Ringstone Edge on 10th September. Birds remained at Ringstone Edge peaking at 180 on 12th October, and 250 on 11th November. During December the last two mentioned localities only held about 50 birds, but 85 were at Blackmoorfoot on 14th, and 80 at Wholestone Moor on 16th.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*
Rare passage visitor

One at Broadstones Reservoir on 1st and 2nd May (JIM et al).

One flew south over Blackmoorfoot on 19th July (MT). Six south over Scout Dike on 14th September (JCS, BBSG). One south from Langsett on 25th November (JH).

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

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

A large flock of 1,360 at Broadstones on 13th January, but other counts in the area, and near Ingbirchworth, during the first two months varied from 150 to 442. The Blackmoorfoot area had 412 on 7th January and 310 on 3rd February, and at Ringstone Edge 220 on 13th January and 250 on 6th February, and 130 were on Whitley Common on 9th March. Widespread evidence of breeding particularly in upland areas, but information on success rate limited in a rather dry spring.

The summer build up began in late-June, with 367 at Blackmoorfoot on 25th, and 350 at Ringstone Edge on 28th. Numbers at Blackmoorfoot peaked at 1,100 on 22nd July, with maxima in last five months of 580 (2nd), 420 (12th), 356 (7th), 300 (3rd) and 210 (24th) respectively.

In the general area of Ingbirchworth maxima included 550 at Broadstones on 18th July and 350 there on 10th November, and 512 at Royd Moor on 23rd August.

Over 400 regularly at Ringstone Edge from mid-August including 480 on 30th November, and well over 200 at Whistlestone Moor on 16th December.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Rare passage visitor

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th, 8th and 19th August, and at Scout Dike Reservoir on 28th September.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage visitor

One at Ringstone Edge Reservoir from 8th to 10th September (SH et al).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

Rare visitor

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 19th and 20th July (MLD et al).
The first record for the area. Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce passage visitor

An adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd September (MT), and an immature on 24th (MLD).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*
Migrant breeder (1-2) Uncommon passage visitor

No winter records, the first being at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th and 12th April; one to two here on many dates from 28th April to 11th October, higher counts on nine dates including eight on 4th August and five on 2nd October. Last one flying west on 27th October. Small numbers on high moorland mosses during May. One to four on various dates during May at Broadstones, Deer Hill, Ringstone Edge and Winscar Reservoirs. Three at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 23rd September.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*
Scarce passage visitor

One at Broadstones on 2nd May, and possibly the same feeding with Bar-tailed Godwits, *Limosa lapponica*, in a field near Ingbirchworth Reservoir, later in the day. Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 20th July, 28th August, 8th, 24th, and 26th September and 1st October.

JACK SNipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*
Scarce passage and winter visitor

One at Deer Hill on 2nd and 10th February (TD), and three at Elland G.P. on 20th February (MT, DMO). One at Deer Hill on 29th September (TD).

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*
Resident breeder (1-2). Common passage and winter visitor

Small numbers at Blackmoorfoot during January peaking at 21 on 12th and 13th. Birds displaying at Scammonden, Slaithwaite Moor, Digley, Blackmoorfoot, Deer Hill, Broadstones, Whitley Common and Langsett. Autumn numbers were quite small, with maxima of 13 at Ingbirchworth on 28th October; 18 at Royd Moor Reservoir and 10 near Will's o'Nats, Black Moor on 27th December.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*
Resident breeder (2) Uncommon winter visitor

Very few records received. Sightings of one at Meltham and two at Langsett in January. One roding at Stocksmoor on 3rd May. Singles at Blackmoorfoot on 4th September and 10th November; at Gunthwaite on 30th October, and over Cowcliffe on 8th December. Five reported to have been shot at Yateholme on 26th November.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*
Rare visitor

One in summer plumage at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th July (AD).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*
Scarce passage visitor

Four at Broadstones on 1st May, and at Ingbirchworth on 2nd May, down to three on 3rd, and one on 5th May.

Eight flying west over Lindley Moor on 8th July with a Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*. One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 10th July departed westwards.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*
Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Seven feeding in a field near Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 3rd May, with Bar-tailed Godwits, *Limosa lapponica*.

One flying west over Lindley Moor on 8th July. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during July; two on 6th; one on 8th; four on 11th (west); and one on 23rd (west) and 29th; and during August one on 2nd and nine west on 3rd.

At Broadstones one on 17th and three on 18th July, and one heard overhead on 14th August. Singles south over Deer Hill on 26th and west over Penistone on 31st August.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*
Migrant breeder(2) Common passage visitor

One west over Blackmoorfoot on 23rd February before a typical March influx. One at Broadstones on 3rd March, and six at Digley on 5th, appearing at a dozen sites by 31st March. 18 at Broadstones and five at nearby Whitley Common 9th March, and 42 near Nont Sarahs', Scammonden on 16th, and at least 25 there on 25th were the highest counts.

Birds in song and other breeding evidence from at least 15 sites.

Westerly movement over Blackmoorfoot included 10 on 10th July and 11 on 24th August. Few records after August, the last being one at Blackmoorfoot on 13th September.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*
Migrant breeder (!) Uncommon passage and winter visitor

No records during the early or late months this year.

Two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th March, and one to three regularly during the breeding season. One at Broadstones on 18th March, and four on 27th April; birds present regularly for three months, with at least one pair breeding. Others in breeding season at Black Moss and Deer Hill. In general either under recorded or possibly scarcer than usual in the dry conditions of late spring. Four at Blackmoorfoot on 10th July and at Royd Moor reservoir on 5th August. Last one at Blackmoorfoot on 7th and 8th October.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*
Uncommon passage visitor

Singles during May at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 3rd, and north-west over Broadstones on 11th.

One at Royd Moor Reservoir on 14th July; for a few days during August at Ingbirchworth and at Deer Hill on 26th August. Four at Broadstones on 23rd and 24th August.

One to two at Blackmoorfoot from 17th August to 4th September, with nine on 19th and four on 20th August, and three on 1st September, then singles on 7th, 9th and 15th September and 3rd October.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*
Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Only recorded towards the year-end, with singles at Broadstones from 21st October to late December, and possibly the same at Scout Dike Reservoir in the last week of December. One in the Elland G.P. area in November and December.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*
Rare passage visitor

One at Broadstones Reservoir on 19th May came in from the west (DJS).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*
Migrant breeder (2)

Early singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th and at Booth Wood Reservoir on 24th April, then on 29th three at the former site, and singles at Ingbirchworth, Digley and Brownhill Reservoirs.

Present during the breeding season by reservoirs at Booth Wood, Black Moss, Broadstones, Digley, Langsett, Ringstone Edge and Wessenden, and probably bred at all these. Also regularly at Blackmoorfoot apart from June, with a maximum of seven on 16th July. Last one at Ingbirchworth 12th September.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularia*
Rare visitor

One in full summer plumage at Elland G.P. from 31st May to 2nd July (N.C.Dawtrey, A. Zabukas). Displayed and associated with a male Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*, for two weeks from 31st May.

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*. Second record for the area.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*
Scarce passage visitor

Three in summer plumage at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 2nd May (SH).
At Blackmoorfoot one west on 30th July, and two west on 8th August (MLD).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*
Rare visitor

A first-winter first seen at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th December 1989 was present on at least 28 days between 5th January and 16th March (MLD et al).
An adult in full summer plumage flew west over Lindley Moor on 24th July (JE & SMD).
An adult at Blackmoorfoot on 1st December (JMP), and a first-winter on 29th and 30th December (JP, MLD, JMP).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*
Scarce passage visitor

An adult arrived at Ingbirchworth Reservoir during the evening of 2nd May, and four adults and three immatures were present the following morning (JED et al). A total of 13 at the reservoir by the end of that day (RD & SEH et al), and then singles on 4th and 7th May (BBSG). These numbers were associated with unprecedented numbers of Black Terns, *Chlidonias niger*, in the area. An adult at Elland G.P. on 1st July (GBS), and two adults west at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th October (MLD).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*
Resident breeder (1) Numerous passage and winter visitor

Continue to roost at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir in large numbers during the winter months, but no counts made apart from 770 on 14th August. Peaks elsewhere included during January, 500 at Ingbirchworth, and 100 to 200 at Ringstone Edge and Digley during the early months. No evidence of breeding at any site including Black Moss.
228 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 14th August and 230 at Ingbirchworth in September.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*
Common winter and passage visitor

Recorded in every month at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.
145 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 17th December, and 80 feeding on Croft House Moss (nr Outlane) on 19th.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage and winter visitor

Regular counts made throughout the year at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir showed after a typical situation of single figures up to 17th February, a slight increase thereafter, but a maximum of only 32 on 12th March and no spring influx/passage. After 149 on 3rd July, and peaks of 289 on 10th and 337 on 31st July; fluctuations during August with 262 on 27th; 231 on 6th September; 361 on 20th and 436 on 30th October; 423 on 1st November, 134 on 13th then a quick decline, with mainly singles figure counts during December.

60 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 14th; 57 at Brookfoot Lake on 26th and 154 at Broadstones on 27th August, and 124 there on 21st October.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *L.f. intermedius* at Scammonden (two) on 25th August (JED); at Broadstones (two) on 27th (JMP), and at Blackmoorfoot (one) on 31st (MLD).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor

Regular counts made at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir gave 386 on 5th and 266 on 27th January; 127 on 4th March down to single figures by 19th March. None after 11th April until 19th July (one) when regular, but no double figure totals until 1st November (11).

203 on 28th November; 406 on 5th and 268 on 13th December.

115 at Broadstones Reservoir on 20th and 21st January.

A yellow-legged bird at Ringstone Edge and Scammonden on 25th August, 27th September and 2nd October (possibly the same individual) showed characteristics of the nominate race *L.a. argentatus* (JED). One yellow-legged showed characteristics of the race *L.a. michahellis* at Blackmoorfoot from 24th to 26th October.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucopterus*

Scarce winter visitor

A first-winter bird at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 5th to 7th, and on 9th January (MLD et al). A second-winter at Royd Moor Reservoir on 26th March (NEP).

A white-winged gull, possibly Glaucous *L. hyperboreus*, or this species flew over Blackmoorfoot on 19th January (MT, DMo).

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

Common winter visitor

Regular counts made at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir gave 182 on 3rd January (116 - 170 on seven dates) down to 76 by 27th January; 28 on 15th February; 41 on 3rd March, down to four by 30th, and then no more until single on 17th August. Recorded regularly from 26th October (two), but no more than 12 until an unexpected peak of 206 on 28th November (a day of light north winds), then 103 on 13th, 117 on 14th and 177 on 29th December. Only small numbers of up to 15 reported from other places.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*
Scarce passage visitor

All sightings at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, and all were adults. One on 28th and 29th April, four on 11th May and one on 16th November.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*
Rare passage visitor

Three at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir which departed west on 13th July, and one west on 13th August (MLD).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*
Uncommon passage visitor

Present at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 2nd May from midday (five); through the afternoon (two); and evening with numbers varying from 12 to 15, eight of which departed east at 20.00 hours, then four there on 3rd May.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir six on 2nd May, one on 10th and 27th and six on 20th; two on 10th and 19 on 17th June; one on 3rd and 25th and five west on 24th, and the last one on 1st September.

Two west over Booth Wood Reservoir on 2nd June; one at Brookfoot Lake on 1st July, and one north over Scout Dike Reservoir on 20th July.

Two adults on Bretton Lakes on 8th July where an adult and juvenile (probably reared at nearby Pugney's G.P.) spent much of July and August.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*
Uncommon passage visitor

Only two records, both of birds flying west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during August, one on 19th and two on 30th.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*
Scarce passage visitor

An exceptionally heavy passage of this species through Yorkshire and other eastern counties during early May gave record numbers for the area.

On 1st May, six and later 20 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir had all departed before dusk (BA). On 2nd May five at Bretton Park (per DP); 12 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (MLD); and 16 at Broadstones Reservoir (for about an hour from 10.00 hours, BA). At Ingbirchworth Reservoir, six at 09.00 hours, up to nine by 09.35 hours, and 29 by midday (JED); then 38 an hour later (BA), and 52 by 16.30 hours (DWB); with 62 at 19.00 hours (JED) and a maximum of 83 at approx. 20.00 hours (DMP, SP), but none after 21.00 hours when the last 19 departed (BBSG).

On 3rd May, four at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (MLD); 15 at Ingbirchworth during the early morning (NEP); then 12 up to midday (JED), and six by the late afternoon (BBSG).

On 4th May, two at Ingbirchworth (BA), and an immature (all others were adults) over Bretton Lakes which was picked up dead on 5th (JBB, MT), when the last one was at Ingbirchworth (NEP).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*
Resident breeder (3)

A recently fledged juvenile with some down still visible was at Thornton Lodge on 5th April, which means egg laying was about 15th February (MLD).
Over 250 in Elland on 29th August.
A total of well over 400 at three locations in the Town Centre in late December.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*
Resident breeder (2)

22 at Broadstones on 9th March was the largest flock recorded which is relatively small, although similar to maxima in recent years. 11 at Black Moor on 12th April. Reports from only 15 localities most of which would be (or be near to) breeding sites.
Either scarcer than during the 1970's or under-recorded.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*
Resident breeder (4) Numerous winter visitor

No large flocks reported during the early months or during the autumn. During December however larger numbers recorded. 100 at Farnley Tyas on 5th; 120 north over Crosland Moor, and 250 south to south-west over Lindley Moor on 7th; over Blackmoorfoot northerly movement of 160 on 19th; 220 on 22nd and 280 on 29th may have been from a roost, and over Lindley Moor over 70 south on 23rd, and 200 north on 28th. Parties, not counted, moving south-west regularly over Deffer Wood and Bretton Park during 4th December.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*
Resident breeder (3)

No change in status. The only record of interest is of 29 flying west over Bretton County Park on 19th January.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*
Migrant breeder (1)

Only two records - surely under-recorded.
Primaries and scapulars found in the larder of Peregrine, *Falco peregrinus*, at Rishworth Moor on 18th May (MLD). One between Cannon Hall and Deffer Wood on 21st August (SMD).

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (2)

Singles calling at Marsden Clough, Digley on 7th May and at Blackmoorfoot on 8th, and Black Hill (all the same?) on 29th April, and at Scammonden on 30th. Noted again at three more places between 10th and 13th. Apart from regular records from the Digley area, with a total of up to four birds including females, records were rather sparse despite being in 13 localities during May, and nine during June.

One at Royd Moor on 3rd July; one to three at Digley in July to 16th, and one at Blackmoorfoot on 22nd July.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Former resident breeder

Remains a subject of rumour from the general public.

One visited a barn at Goat Hill regularly during September (per JED).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred at Almondbury, Castle Hill, Emley Moor, Lindley Moor and Scammonden and probably at Digley, and were present in the breeding season near Blackmoorfoot and Thurstonland. Birds present at nine more possible breeding sites between early-April and mid-July.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred at Boothroyd Wood, Bretton Park, Defford Wood (several), Digley, Meltham (at least two) and Quarmby, and probably at Woodsome (two). Reported from five more areas in the breeding season.

This relatively common bird remains under-recorded.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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

Very few records this year.

One near Scout Dike on 27th January; one at Deer Hill on 10th and 14th February, and one on Slaithwaite Moor on 25th March.

Three sightings in the Digley area from 11th April to 15th June. One at Crosland Hill on 18th July, and one at Croft House Moss (west of Outlane) on 15th December.

A pair bred successfully at a site in the south of the area.

SWIFT *Apus apus*
Migrant breeder (2)

Two or three at Meltham and one at Crosland Moor on 1st May, then two at the latter site on 2nd, and six at Blackmoorfoot. Four at Lockwood on 4th, and 30 over Ingbirchworth on 6th; 23 at Blackmoorfoot on 7th; 25 over Clayton West S.F. on 9th, and 200 to 250 at Ingbirchworth on 13th May, by which time generally distributed in small numbers along the Holme and Colne Valleys.

Three pairs nested on David Brown's buildings at Lockwood.

Up to 40 over a recently cut field at Deer Hill on 17th June; over 50 feeding at Black Moss and Swelands Reservoirs on 6th July. 95 south-east at Ossett in 15 minutes on 26th July, and several small flocks west-south-west over Issues Road, Digley on 30th July.

Three at Scout Dike on 26th and one at Broadstones on 30th August and one at Scammonden on 11th September.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*
Resident breeder (1)

Fewer records than in the last two years which is probably a reflection of a change in observers activities rather than numbers of birds. Breeding sites in three main areas not checked.

Recorded throughout the year at Bretton Park where one pair bred. Few sightings along R. Colne apart from at least four in the Bradley area on 2nd April; six records between Aspley and Longroyd Bridge in the months of January (two), March (two), May and September, and three records in the Lockwood area near the R. Holme. Sightings of singles at a small dam at Meltham on 7th April; at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 26th and 29th August; at Langsett Reservoir on 23rd October, and more sightings than usual at Blackmoorfoot, with singles on 13 days between 19th July and 25th November. A pair bred between Elland and Brighouse, and one to two were present all the year near Thurgoland.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*
Resident breeder (1-2)

A pair bred in the Digley area, but otherwise proof of local breeding was limited to sightings of immatures at Hinchliffe Mill in mid-July, and at Scammonden on 18th August. A pair probably bred in Deffer Wood where two were seen regularly from 20th March to 24th May. Sightings during the breeding season in six more woodlands, and during the winter at three others.

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

Bred at Beaumont Park, Digley and Meltham (two pairs). Birds present at 12 other localities during the breeding season, including Bretton Park and Silkstone where breeding probably occurred.

A female regularly attacked a nest box in an Edgerton garden, during late May, that was occupied by Blue Tit, *Parus caeruleus*, with young, making hole in the box sides and eventually taking the young despite the owner (NL) attempting running repairs.

Recorded at nine localities in the early months and 12 in the late months, and continues to visit garden feeders in several areas.

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

One pair each bred in Bretton Park and Elland Park Wood.
Singles at Mag Wood on 15th April; near Meltham on 20th and 26th May, at Yateholme on 16th October, and at Langsett on 28th October. Two in Molly Carr Wood on 23rd October.

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

Birds began to move back to upland areas about 17th February, with some singing on territory by 25th and many more during early-March.

23 west over Blackmoorfoot on 2nd March.

Over 30 at Crosland Heath on 18th September, 30 flying west over Lindley Moor on 29th October. 16 near Wills' o'Nats on 28th November.

SANDMARTIN *Riparia riparia*
Migrant, rare breeder

About 12 in the Brookfoot Lake/Elland G.P. area on 18th March.

Three at Blackmoorfoot on 6th April; five at Ingbirchworth on 14th and two at Bretton Park on 18th April.

One to two on 10 more dates at Blackmoorfoot (last 18th September); on three dates at Ingbirchworth; one west over Lindley Moor on 1st August; two at Elland G.P. on 26th August; four at Cannon Hall on 21st August, and during September four west at Scammonden on 8th; two at Ringstone Edge on 9th, and one at Royd Moor on 24th.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*
Migrant breeder (4). Numerous passage visitor

Two at Bretton Park on 18th April; one at Blackmoorfoot on 21st and one each at Hill Top and Booth Wood on 22nd; one at Outlane and three at Cannon Hall on 24th; then one to five at 10 more places between 27th and 30th April, including Ingbirchworth with 36 on 27th. High counts included 220 at Ingbirchworth on 18th May; over 150 at Royd Moor between farm and reservoir on 26th August; over 100 at Yateholme on 4th, and about 200 between Gunthwaite and Scout Dike on 23rd September.

About 50 over Hinchliffe Mill on 6th October battling into a strong westerly. Present at five other places during October including last, five at Yateholme on 13th.

HOUSEMARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Migrant breeder (3)

First records were relatively late with two each at Ingbirchworth on 27th April, and at Blackmoorfoot on 29th April. Slow to arrive after these dates being noted at only five places during the next two weeks, although on 9th May over 50 were feeding at Clayton West S.F., and at the same time over 100 were over the woods of Bretton Park.

14 pairs bred on waterworks buildings at Blackmoorfoot. Breeding confirmed during Atlas surveys at several hitherto unrecorded localities.

80 at Ingbirchworth on 6th July, and 150 on 16th August. Over 60 at Blackmoorfoot on 10th and 15th August. Over 100 at Ringstone Edge on 9th September, and between Gunthwaite and Scout Dike on 23rd September.

Only one October record, a party of three flying south over Yateholme on 16th.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (3)

Singing males at Mag Wood on 15th April; Deffer Wood on 22nd; Bretton Park and Scammonden (two) on 25th, and Kirkburton on 29th. Singing males located at about 15 places during May.

Evidence of at least 10 pairs in the Snailsden/Holme Styes area; seven in Deffer Wood, and six at Scammonden in late-May and early-June.

Last one at Blackmoorfoot on 28th August.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Resident breeder (4-5) Partial migrant

Rare in the area during the winter months away from the main river courses, thus three near Broadstones on 6th January and 14 at Lindley Moor on 31st are of interest.

Modest flocks of 60 at Scammonden on 13th March, and 25 to 30 at Langsett on 20th and Digley on 24th.

Forty flew south-west over Ellentree Brow on 7th October. A few remained in upland sites towards the year-end including one near Cupwith Reservoir on 30th November; 22 on 28th November and 13 on 21st December near Wills' o'Nats, and 45 by Annat Royd Lane, Ingbirchworth on 1st December.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*
Migrant breeder (1)

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th and 30th April. Further singles at Broadstones and Derby Delph Quarry on 2nd May. Singles at Ingbirchworth on 9th and 12th May, and at Oakes on the 12th.

One holding territory at Royd Moor on 24th June, and at nearby Scout Dike two on 12th, and an adult with two juveniles on 14th August. One to two at Blackmoorfoot on 16 dates between 17th July and 2nd September, and three near Wills' o'Nats on 18th July.

Two at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 27th August, and one over Oakes on 1st September.

A male of the race *M.F. thunbergi*, known as Grey-headed Wagtail, was at Elland G.P. on 10th and 11th June (A.G.Gough, P.J.W. Smith, M.Cunningham, J.D. Elvidge).

Accepted by the Y.N.U Reports Committee.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*
Resident breeder (2)

Rarely seen away from lowland valleys during the winter, thus records at Crosland Moor on 6th January and 14th November, and Blackmoorfoot on 19th December are of interest.

Pairs bred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, near Booth Wood Reservoir, Honley Bridge, Scout Dike, Silkstone S.F. and village, Thurstonland and West Vale. Probably bred at Aspley, Gunthwaite, Langsett Reservoir, Meltham Mills and Yateholme, and birds were recorded at seven more sites in the breeding season.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*
Resident breeder (3)

At least 25 on filter beds at Brockholes S.W. on 25th February. At least 160 roosting on trees at the Civic Centre on 14th December.

One at Blackmoorfoot on 26th July was sooty black throughout save for pale tips to greater coverts, and pale outer tail feathers (MLD).

Birds showing the characteristics of White Wagtail, *M.a. alba*, at Ingbirchworth on 27th and Silkstone S.F. on 29th April, and Digley on 3rd May.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*
Uncommon winter visitor

One at Cannon Hall on 10th February (NL).

One to four on various dates from approximately 19th December onwards at Cowlersley (DS).

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*
Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred at Hill Top, Oxygrains Beck and Slaithwaite, and probably at Black Brook, Digley, Little Don Valley, Longwood Valley and Meltham Bar.
Present in winter months at Linthwaite on the canal; at Hinchliffe Mill (R. Holme - January and November), at Scammonden and near Meltham.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Resident breeder (4) DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*.
Resident breeder (3)
ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*, Resident breeder (4-5)

No records of any special significance for the above three species.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Rare visitor

Derby Delph Quarry had its third spring record in eight years with one, probably female, on rocks on the south side of the reservoir on 2nd May (RSPB).

REDBREAST *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Migrant breeder (2)

A female at Digley and a male at Bilberry on 28th April, then two males at Digley, and one at Lindley Moor on 29th April. Singing males at Windy Bank Wood on 3rd and Helme on 4th May. At least 12 pairs in territory to the west and south of Meltham and Holmfirth, but none reported from any other area in the breeding season. At least six juveniles at Digley on 28th July. Last one, and immature male at Lindley Moor on 1st September.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Migrant breeder (2)

The first at Ingbirchworth on 30th April, and others at Booth Wood Reservoir, Deer Hill and Digley on 1st May, and at Helme, Scammonden and Broadstones on 2nd May, all were males. Bred in the Booth Dean, Oxygrains Beck, Deer Hill, Digley, Wessenden, Meltham Moor, Holme Styes, Snailsden, Scammonden and Ingbirchworth areas.
Late birds at Ingbirchworth on 12th, Blackmoorfoot on 16th and Broken Cross, on 23rd September.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Occasional breeder (1). Scarce passage and winter visitor

One at Winscar on 14th January (JMD).

A male at Scammonden on 22nd January (JED). A male and female at Deer Hill first noted on 9th November 1989 apparently wintered being reported as present in late-December 1989 into 1990 (DP), and present throughout February (TD). Another male and female at Meltham Cop throughout February (TD).

A female at Scammonden on 27th September; a male and female on 2nd October, and another male with a female on 25th October and 3rd November (JED).

A male at Meltham Cop on 29th October.

At Broadstones in the general area between the Lodge and the reservoir five on 4th October (JED), one on 25th October (RD & SEH); two on 4th and one on 24th November (NEP), and a male and female on 27th November (JE & SMD). Probably at least seven birds involved.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder (2)

Very good numbers in the area in late March commencing with nine at Whitley Common 17th; singles at Buckstones, Derby Delph and Holt Head, and three at Scammonden on 18th; one at Blackmoorfoot on 20th; five at Lindley Moor and four at Digley on 21st, then further birds at some of these sites, and one to two at Bilberry, Deer Hill, Wills' o'Nars, Elland G.P. and Broadstones from 25th to 31st, and 14 at Ringstone Edge on 25th.

Three males probably of the Greenland race, *O.o. leucorrhoea*, at Lindley Moor on 29th April (JED).

Bred at Oxygrains Beck, near Booth Wood Reservoir, Scammonden, Ringstone Edge and Digley. Present in the breeding season at March Haigh and near Blackmoorfoot.

Very late singles near Wills' o'Nars on 25th October and at Scammonden from 25th October to 3rd November.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder (2)

One at Digley on 18th March and seven (five males) by 30th March, and one at Black Hill on 31st.

Probably at least three pairs each in the Royd Edge Clough, Wessenden Valley and Digley areas. Breeding proved at those sites except Wessenden where probable. None recorded in the Rishworth Moor (apart from two Derby Delph 19th - 20th April), Scammonden or March Haigs areas, and no information from the Langsett and Dovestones or Crowden areas.

Two adults and a juvenile at Digley on 11th September.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor

No records of particular interest received apart from a party of 30 feeding on holly berries near Longwood Reservoir on 16th December.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Occasional breeder.

Moderate numbers in the first two months included counts of 576 on 3rd January; 181 on 4th and 308 on 24th February at Ingbirchworth; about 200 on 12th January at Holmbridge, and 200 east over Bretton Park on 28th January, and 150 there on 3rd February.

Higher numbers during March including some evidence of early movement. 100 west over Cropland Moor on 3rd; 80 north over Scammonden on 18th, and 80 west over Lindley Moor on 20th, and up to 600 through the Digley area on 25th.

Flocks of about 100 each at Broadstones and Upper Midhope on 17th March. Four flocks between Oxspring and High Green on 20th March totalled over 300.

90 at Digley on 24th March, 200 near Rishworth Lodge on 3rd April. The last report was of 20 in Bretton Park on 25th April.

An adult ground feeding with Mistle Thrushes, *T. viscivorus* on Lindley Moor on 14th September. Five at Scammonden on 2nd October. Good numbers moving west on 9th October included 655 over Lindley Moor, 68 over Elland and several 100 over Edgerton. Over 200 at Blackmoorfoot on 10th and 11th October and 126 on 12th. 125 west over Lindley Moor on 10th. 1,350 flew into the Scammonden valley in several large flocks between 14.00 and 14.45 hours on 12th October, with many dropping into trees and bushes for a few minutes to feed on the prolific berry crops, before moving on south-westwards. At Yateholme several flocks of over 100 flying west all day in a continuous movement on 13th October, and more again on 14th. Over 200 at Digley on 20th October.

On 21st October at Ingbirchworth one observer noted 954 coming in from the east (in one hour), then turning south presumably to find a break through thick mist on the hills, whilst another observer had about 2,000 thrushes, including many Redwing, *T. iliacus*, between there and Penistone.

On 25th October 480 west at Scammonden in one hour; many were passing over Dalton, and 256 flew south over Blackmoorfoot, (with a further 54 south on 26th), and 200 were at Deer Hill. 250 west over Thick Hollins Moor on 29th October.

During November some westerly movement including 88 over Scammonden on 3rd. Flocks of 470 at Ingbirchworth on 3rd, and 142 at Blackmoorfoot on 5th, with others of 30 to 100 at seven places in November.

100 at Farnley Tyas on 5th December, and at Royd Moor on 19th. Westerly movement of 80 over Langsett on 19th, 400 over Lindley Moor and 70 over Scammonden on 29th December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Resident breeder (4)

No records of special significance received.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*
Numerous passage and winter visitor

Very few recorded during the early months. Small numbers at Blackmoorfoot and Lindley Moor in January; 30 on 7th January at Norcroft (Cawthorne); 15 on 27th and 10 on 16th February in Bretton Park, and during March, 16 at Digley on 3rd; five at Blackmoorfoot on 5th; two at Gunthwaite on 9th; over 50 between Langsett and Upper Midhope from 14th to 17th, and five west over Lindley Moor on 20th.

Two heard over Meltham on the night of 30th September.

Eight at Scammonden on 2nd October. Four at Bretton Park on 7th October. On 9th October 751 west over Lindley Moor and several 100 west over Edgerton. 145 west over Lindley Moor on 10th October. Flock of about 2,000 thrushes of this species and Fieldfare, *T. pilaris* stayed in the Penistone/Ingbirchworth area for a few days from 21st October. 250 west at Scammonden in one hour on 25th October; on the same date numbers were passing over Dalton.

55 west over Lindley Moor on 29th and over 30 on 30th October. Small flocks of 10 to 30 at several localities during November and December. 42 at Blackmoorfoot on 22nd December.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*
Resident breeder (3)

Over 50 feeding at Pike Law (Scapegoat Hill) and in Heath House Wood on 7th February. An unusual date as birds are usually in territories at this time. Possibly severe and windy conditions during the previous two weeks had led to the build-up of the flock.

Flocks of 16 at Scout Dike on 14th, and in an Ossett garden on 18th August; 25 on 26th August and 21 on 5th September at Blackmoorfoot; 45 on the football pitch at Bretton on 2nd September; 26 at Scammonden on 2nd October, and 34 west over Lindley Moor on 20th October.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*
Occasional migrant breeder

One singing in the Houses Hill/Whirley Willows area on 13th May (MM).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobenus*
Migrant breeder (1)

Singing male at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 29th April and 8th May, and one caught and ringed on 31st July.

Two males singing regularly in the Elland G.P. area during May and June, and one on 1st July.

Bred at Scout Dike Reservoir where birds were present from at least 3rd June (two males singing) to 26th August. On the last date adults were food carrying to young not seen, and four fledged juveniles were nearby (NEP).

Certainly two broods, from either one or two pairs.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Rare passage migrant

One caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd August (M.I.D.).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*
Migrant breeder (1)

A very poor year in the area.

Two males singing at Stocksmoor Common on 25th April. A male, singing briefly, passed through a field and garden area at Oakes on 27th May. One at Forest Road, Dalton in field and garden areas giving alarm calls on 28th May and 1st June, and singles in a garden on 15th July, 8th and 9th August.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*
Migrant breeder (2)

A singing male at Bradley Park G.C. on 30th April. Two males in territory in the Elland G.P. area during May and June, and two birds still there on 26th August. Pairs in territory at Deffer Wood and Thurstonland. Singles at Scout Dike on 22nd July and 14th August, and at Royd Moor on 12th August and 23rd September.

A poor year or perhaps under-recorded.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*
Migrant breeder (2)

A singing male along the western edge of Bretton Park on 4th and 5th May, and another in the park on 5th and 6th.

Most records were of singing males mainly from mid-May into June but some up to 3rd July, as follows:- Bretton Park (three); Deffer Wood, Royd Moor, Storthes Hall and between Holmbridge and Digley (two at each of these sites); Elland G.P., Scout Dike, Hoyland Swaine and near Langsett (one each), and on one date only at Thick Hollins, Meltham on 26th May, and Kings Mill Lane on 7th June.

Singles caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 1st, 29th and 30th August.

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

Two males in song at Bretton Park from 3rd to 5th April, and one at least there on 22nd April. Two in Deffer Wood and one at Silkstone S.F. on 7th April, and one at Elland G.P. on 9th. Became widespread by 1st May.

Although full coverage of the area was not achieved singing males at regular breeding localities included in the 10 K.M. squares three in SE01, eight in SE10, 11 in SE11, 15 in SE20 and 12 in SE21.

Last one near Royd Moor Reservoir on 23rd September.

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

A singing male in the woodland below Digley Reservoir dam on 28th April, increased to two on 14th May, and three on 17th, and on many later dates. At least two pairs bred successfully in this wood.

One at Meltham on 29th April, and one singing in Windy Bank Wood on 1st May, then four there on 3rd May, and for the remainder of the month. Presumably bred in that area.

Males in song at Orange Wood, Blackmoorfoot on 8th May; Guyder Bottom, Hoyland Swaine on 24th May, and other singles at Holme Styes on 13th June; Langsett Banks on 16th July and at Digley on 28th. One caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 29th July.

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

Two singing males in Bretton Park on 16th March and four by 21st, with five regularly in the breeding season. One singing in Deffer Wood on 17th March; at least five during April, and three during May. Singles at six other places during March.

Singing males located during May totalled one each in SE10 and SE01, nine in SE11 and 10 each in SF20 and SE21.

Eight caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot from 20th July to 9th September.

One each at Royd Moor on 8th and Holmbridge on 20th October.

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

One each in Deffer Wood and at Royd Moor on 1st April; in Bretton Park on 5th, and at Hill Top on 9th. In three Meltham woodlands on 14th April, and small numbers at nine places up to 22nd, after which a significant influx from 24th to 30th April.

Only reported from seven places during September, with singles at Scammonden on 23rd and Oakes on 25th, and the last at Royd Moor on 1st October.

GOLD CREST *Regulus regulus*
Resident breeder (2-3) Common passage visitor

No high counts in the early months, and little evidence of spring passage apart from eight sightings at Blackmoorfoot from 17th March to 6th April.

At least three singing males at Bretton Park, and widespread in coniferous plantations elsewhere in the breeding season.

An obvious increase in sightings from late-September to early-November away from breeding areas indicating birds on passage, and dispersion of local breeders. Over 20 at Yateholme on 16th October, but only single figure counts elsewhere.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*
Migrant breeder (2)

One at Beaumont Park on 12th May, and one at Helme on 13th and 14th May. One to two at nine other sites during May. Breeding proved at Lockwood, Meltham, Blackmoorfoot, Digley, Gregory Spring Wood and Gunthwaite. Present at six places during August, and during September singles at Oakes on 8th and Blackmoorfoot on 9th.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*
Migrant breeder (1)

A male in Windy Bank Wood on 3rd May, and up to four males singing there and at Meltham Mills throughout May. At least two pairs nested, but the outcome for these is not known. Nesting sites vacated by 9th June. Three males singing at Cliff Wood, Langsett and a pair in the Upper Little Don during May, but no further information from these sites. A male at the 1989 breeding site at Holmbridge from at least 6th to 24th May seen entering a nest box on several occasions. Pairs at two new sites. A pair bred in a nest box in Menagerie Wood, Bretton Park successfully rearing five young. A male in song at Holme Castle Country Hotel on 22nd May and 3rd June had a mate, and according to the owners, they were nesting. Other males at Beaumont Park on 12th May; Marsh Lane, Shepley from 6th to 21st May, and at Helme on 14th May. Singles during August at Blackmoorfoot on 15th, Scammonden on 20th and Lindley Moor on 24th.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*
Resident breeder (2)

A party of nine in Bretton Park on 4th February, the only larger flocks being during the autumn and late winter. Flocks of 10 to 15 on various dates from 30th September to 30th December, at Almondbury, Blackmoorfoot, Aspley, Beaumont Park, Bretton Park, Holmbridge and Royd Moor. Over 30 at Thurgoland during December. Breeding proved in 12 localities including Bretton Park which had at least seven pairs.

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*
Resident breeder (2)

Bred at Scout Dike, Royd Moor and Bretton Park (two pairs). Very few records. Four at Stocks Moor Common on 7th April; singles at Blackmoorfoot on 24th June and 26th August; at Cannon Hall on 21st August and Deffer Wood on 4th December, and three in Wilderness Plantation on 23rd September.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*
Resident breeder (3)

Appeared to have a successful breeding season, with large parties of adults and young in coniferous plantations at Scammonden, Deffer, Yateholme, Langsett and Scout Dike. Probably some movement in the area, with increased numbers away from breeding sites during October.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*. Resident breeder (5)
GREAT TIT *Parus major*. Resident breeder (4)

No records of any significance for the above two species.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*
Resident breeder (1)

A pair bred in Beaumont Park where the fledged young were being fed by the adults on 30th May. A pair bred in Windy Bank Wood, using the same nest hole as in 1989, and were feeding young on 2nd June. One in Slate Pits Wood on 6th April. One present in Bretton Park throughout the year. One at Thurgoland occasionally.

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

Several pairs bred in Bretton Park, and other pairs bred at Gregory Spring Wood, Upper Park Wood, Langsett Banks and probably at Edgerton. Records from a further 12 locations all suitable for breeding.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*
Rare visitor

One in Bretton Park on 2nd and 3rd December (D. Young).

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*
Resident breeder (2)

Nests found in Orange Wood, Blackmoorfoot and at Kirkburton, and birds reported during the breeding season at six other localities.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*
Resident breeder (4)

Roost counts at Blackmoorfoot of 72 on 16th and 86 on 21st January, 37 on 24th February, and 43 on 30th December.

Breeding throughout the area apart from the high moorlands, over which they do scavenge frequently even in the winter months.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*
Resident breeder (4)

Although widespread in the area few records of any significance received.
A flock of about 250 at Wooldale on 8th December.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*
Resident breeder (5)

A check on rookeries in SE20 in late March produced some interesting comparisons with surveys done in 1973 and 1975. Six rookeries were no longer occupied :- Bentcliffe Hill and Tanyard Beck (both near Cawthorne), Upper Denby, Upper Cumberworth, Thurgoland Church and Penistone Green. Most of these had been relatively small (less than 50 nests), and it was of interest that a rookery at Tivy Dale, Cawthorne had increased considerably.

12 rookeries previously recorded were still occupied, and three 'new' rookeries were found (all of less than 50 nests), which were near Noblethorpe (about one mile west of two large long established sites); near Clayton West, and at Thurlstone, again to the west of a traditional site still occupied (JED).

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*
Resident breeder (3)

No flocks of more than about 20 birds were reported, and no information on roost numbers. One at Hill Top on 5th May had white bases to secondaries and primaries.
A Hooded Crow, *C.c. cornix*, at Digley on 2nd July (NL). An unusual date as previous records have all been autumn/winter.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. Resident breeder (5) Numerous winter visitor.
HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. Resident breeder (5).

No records of any significance for the above two species.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*
Resident breeder (2)

Pairs nesting at Almondbury, Emley Moor, Gunthwaite and Ossett.
One at Thurstonland on 10th May; 13 on 26th August and 23 on 4th December at Elland G.P.; 14 at Lumb Lane on 11th September, 16 at Broken Cross, Almondbury, and seven at Royd Moor on 23rd September. One at Bretton on 21st and 22nd December.

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

A total of about 100 in Bretton Park on 24th January, and 40 there up to 11th February. 70 south-west over Ellentree Brow on 7th October. 40 at Ingbirchworth on 21st and 27th October; over 50 at Scammonden on 10th November, and 110 at Cannon Hall on 27th November.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*
Uncommon to common winter visitor

A flock of up to 60 in Bretton Park during January peaking on 24th and 27th, and 50 on 3rd February, with two to 30 on other dates up to 12th February (five). A flock at Mag Wood, Netherton had a maximum of 80 on 4th March; up to 40 from 28th January to mid-February, with birds remaining up to 19th April. One to three at Hinchliffe Mill (garden) from 10th January to mid-April.

Singles at Crimble Clough on 28th January; Digley on 1st March and Lindley Moor on 11th, and two at Windy Bank Wood on 9th March. 25 at Clayton West on 10th March.

Small numbers at Ingbirchworth from 13th October (13) to 7th November (one). Four in Bretton Park on 30th October, and one on 4th and 5th December. 15 at Scammonden, and two at Blackmoorfoot on 10th November, then one there on 24th December, and one in Greenhead Park on 19th November.

A mixed flock with Chaffinches, *F. coelebs*, on Digley Lane on 31st December.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*
Resident breeder (4)

Only relatively small flocks reported compared with much higher numbers in the 1970's. 21 at Blackmoorfoot on 6th January; 20 at Cannon Hall on 9th March, and 30 at Defford Wood on 4th December.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Over 40 moving west at Scapegoat Hill on 9th February, but elsewhere only single figure counts before the breeding season.

Autumn flocks of 30 at Ingbirchworth on 19th August, and 80 between there and Royd Moor on 23rd September. 32 at Lindley Moor on 3rd September, 45 at Scammonden on 2nd October, 40 at Broadstones on 3rd November. Smaller parties at six other places.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1) Uncommon winter visitor

A large flock of 140 in Bretton Park on 6th January, with smaller numbers from 4th January (30) to 6th March (2). Regularly in a Netherton garden during the first three months, with eight on 13th February, 20 near Langsett on 20th March, and 40 at Elland G.P. on 20th February. One to six at five places between late-February and mid-April.

One south over Blackmoorfoot on 19th July and singles there on four autumn dates. Large numbers at Yateholme from 29th September (20) to 16th October (85), with over 150 on 13th, and probably present after these dates. Five south-west over Ellentree Brow on 7th October, and eleven over Oakes on 13th. 29 in Deffer Wood on 4th December, and 20 at Bretton Park on 16th.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Resident breeder (3) Partial migrant

None reported before the last week in March, but widely distributed in breeding sites by the end of April.

Over 45 at Blackmoorfoot on 30th July; 30 at Ingbirchworth on 26th August, and over 220 near Wills' o'Nats on 11th and 12th September, but none there by the 16th.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Resident and partial migrant breeder (2-3)

36 west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th January.

A steady return to various parts of the area from 11th March, with during that month peaks of 53 on 26th and 28th and 40 on 30th near Wills' o'Nats. Birds regularly at this site throughout April peaking at over 40 on 5th, with a second peak of 20 on 25th.

Widely reported along moorland fringes and in breeding locations during April (seven places), with 52 in Derby Delph quarry on 22nd. Small numbers in breeding areas such as Rishworth Moor, Deer Hill, Wessenden Valley, Slaithwaite Moor and Digley during May and June.

35 at Derby Delph on 3rd July; 37 near Wills' o'Nats on 17th July; 30 at Digley on 10th August; over 60 on the edge of Slaithwaite Moor above Merry Dale on 26th August, and 25 at Ingbirchworth on 1st September, a typical autumn showing.

18 near Wills' o'Nats on 28th November.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Resident breeder (2) Uncommon winter visitor

None recorded until 4th April (nine at Holme Styes) after which small numbers at three places, and described as numerous at Digley on 28th April, and over 70 flying south-west in small parties over Meltham on 29th. Present during the breeding season at Scammonden, Deffer Wood, Lindley Moor, Crossley's Plantation, Meltham, Snailsden, Blackmoorfoot, Royd Moor, Millhouse and Penistone.

Small numbers at Yateholme, with Siskin, *C. spinus*, during early to mid-October, may have included up to six Mealy Redpoll, *C.f. flammea*, on 14th, but unfortunately this could not be confirmed. 12 south-west over Ellentree Brow on 7th October.

Only two December records, two at Blackmoorfoot (9th) and six at Bretton Park (21st).

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1) Uncommon passage visitor

Singles at Bretton Park on 20th February, and near Langsett on 17th March (GC), where a mixed flock including juveniles through much of June totalled 45 on 20th June (MT,RT). 14 west over Royd Moor on 1st July (NEP), and one to four, at or moving over six other places during July.

Five north over Crosland Moor on 28th August (MLD), and a similar party over Oakes on 26th (JMD). A small number at Yateholme on 4th September but up to 12 on 29th, and regularly observed up to 16th October (HQ,ME,JE & SMD,DMo), with a peak of over 70 on 13th (TD). Three at Yateholme on 19th November (JED), and probably present through much of the autumn/winter.

Others during the autumn mainly passing over the area. 11 north at Crosland Moor on 17th September (MLD); 10 west at Langsett on 23rd October (JED); 11 west at Lindley Moor on 27th (JMD), and 26 south at Blackmoorfoot on 29th October (MLD).

18 in Swinden Plantation on 20th November, and four in Deffer Wood on 4th December (JED).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2)

Reported from about 12 localities where breeding occurred.

A party of nine at Royd Moor was the largest recorded.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce to uncommon visitor

Three in Bretton Park on 14th January (per DP) and two at Cannon Hall on 10th February (NL).

Primaries found in Peregrine's, *Falco peregrinus*, larder at Rishworth Moor on 16th May (MLD).

In Bretton Park eleven on 26th and one on 29th September, and one on 1st October (MT). Four at Cannon Hall on 27th November (JE & SMD).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*
Scarce winter visitor

Four on Wessenden Moor on 17th November (BJC).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*
Resident breeder (3)

Small flocks of 22 at Gunthwaite on 7th January, and 25 at Ingbirchworth on 27th December were the largest recorded. All breeding records were from the east, apart from one at Lumb Lane, Almondbury.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Resident breeder (2)

Breeding pairs/singing males located as follows:- Booth Dean/Rishworth Moor (four), Scammonden (two), March Haigh (two), Deer Hill (one), Blackmoorfoot (two), Royd Edge Clough (one), Wessenden (one) and the Ingbirchworth area (ten).
No winter records.

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RINGING REPORT

The rather damp weather conditions and, at times, gale force winds made mist netting almost impossible during the first winter period. Consequently very few attempts were carried out and the consequent reduction in birds ringed is obvious.

The work by Yorkshire Water, which entailed the laying of a large pipe along the west bank of Blackmoorfoot, reduced the amount of nesting habitat and because of the resulting disturbance most species nested in lower numbers than normal. Thanks to the abilities of Tim Duckworth, however, several difficult to find nests were located in other areas and the resulting young ringed. A total of 154 pulii were ringed: Little Ringed Plover (7 - Blackmoorfoot), Curlew (1 Blackmoorfoot), Meadow Pipit (5 Helme), Grey Wagtail (4 - Blackmoorfoot, 4 West Vale), Pied Wagtail (11 Blackmoorfoot), Dipper (7 Hill Top, 2 - Rishworth Moor, 3 West Vale), Dunnock (9 Blackmoorfoot), Robin (5 Blackmoorfoot), Whinchat (6 Deer Hill), Blackbird (12 Blackmoorfoot, 8 Crosland Moor, 4 Helme), Song Thrush (4 Helme), Mistle Thrush (16 Blackmoorfoot, 4 Helme), Willow Warbler (5 Blackmoorfoot), Magpie (5 Blackmoorfoot, 6 Crosland Moor), Chaffinch (9 Blackmoorfoot, 5 Helme), and Greenfinch (12 Blackmoorfoot). It is envisaged that the reduction in habitat at Blackmoorfoot will have little effect on breeding numbers in years to come.

Due to changed personal circumstances it was possible to set nets on most mornings during the autumn passage period. Such coverage resulted in a larger number of birds being handled and hopefully the reward will be a greater number of interesting recoveries in years to come; it only remains to be seen! It must be added, however, that despite this continuous autumn coverage the numbers of several commoner caught species did not reflect the man-hours involved.

Several factors, mainly climatic, governed netting efforts during the second winter period and very few birds were handled during this time. A total of 1080 birds were ringed during the year.

RINGING RECOVERIES

KEY TO SYMBOLS AND TERMS USED.

- Age: 1 Pullus (nestling or chick).
 2 Full Grown. Year of hatching quite unknown.
 3 Hatched during the calendar year of ringing.
 3J As 3, but still in juvenile plumage.
 4 Hatched before calendar year of ringing, exact year unknown.
 5 Hatched during previous calendar year.
 6 Hatched before previous calendar year.

Sex: M = Male F = Female

- Manner of recovery: V Caught or trapped and released with ring.
 VV Ring number read in field or sight record of
 identifiable colour marks.
 X Found dead or dying.
 XL Found dead (not recent).
 + Shot or killed by man.

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

All recoveries of five kilometres or more are published.
The recoveries of Merlin (EP93952), Swallow (EI92827) and
Meadow Pipit (BO16561) were received too late for inclusion in
earlier reports.

RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDS

HERON

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 89	Bretton, nr Wakefield. 53 37'N 1 34'W
	VV	25.3.90 to 16.9.90 (37 sightings)	Blackmoorfoot, nr Huddersfield. 53 37'N 1 52'W 18 Kms W.

The above mentioned bird had also been seen at Blackmoorfoot on 8 occasions between 12.8.89 and 6.9.89.

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 89	Bretton.
	VV	26.3.90 to 25.4.90 (6 sightings)	Blackmoorfoot.

18 Kms W.

1199110	1	3.5.89	Bretton.
	X	8.4.90	Armitage Bridge, Huddersfield. 53 37'N 1 48'W 15 Kms W.

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 90	Bretton.
	VV	11.6.90 to 9.9.90 (15 sightings)	Blackmoorfoot.

18 Kms W.

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 90	Bretton.
	VV	27.6.90	Slaithwaite, nr Huddersfield. 53 37'N 1 52'W 19 Kms W.

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 90	Bretton.
	VV	Late June to late Aug 90 Linthwaite, nr Huddersfield.	53 37'N 1 51'W 18 Kms W.

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 90	Bretton.
	VV	Nov. to early Dec. 90	Lockwood, Huddersfield 53 37'N 1 48'W 15 Kms W.

MEADOW PIPIT

BO16561	1	14.6.89	Rishworth Moor, nr Ripponden 53 39'N 2 0'W
	X	22.11.89	Kenitra, Morocco. 34 30'N 6 45'W 2160 Kms SSW.

GOLDCREST

9P6683	3F	21.09.89	Blackmoorfoot.
	V	30.03.90	Portland Bill, Dorset. 50 31'N 2 27'W 347 Kms S.

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD**MERLIN**

EP93952	1M	04.07.89	West Mainland, Shetland, Scotland. 60 15'N 1 30'W
	X	02.12.89	Lower Common, Hepworth. 52 33'N 1 43'W

SWALLOW

E192827	3J	19.08.87	Wintersett Res. nr Wakefield. 53 38'N 1 26'W
	X	30.05.88	Millhouse Green, Penistone. 53 31'N 1 40'W 16 Kms SW.

TWITE

Colour rings	4	Between 18.10.86 and 14.02.87	Butterwick Marsh, nr Boston, Lincs. 53 58'N 0 6'E
	VVF	31.03.90	Blackmoorfoot. 157 Kms NW.

M.L. DENTON.

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

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

A number of retraps are also handled, some many years after ringing. These are tabulated below. The top lines show the approximate period between ringing and either retrap (Table 1) or death (Table 2). The figures show the number of individuals retrapped or found dead near their place of ringing.

TABLE 1 - Retraps

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	TOTAL
ROBIN	1								1
BLACKBIRD	2	1						1	4
WILLOW WARBLER	2								2
GOLDCREST	1								1
BLUE TIT	1		1						2
GREAT TIT				1					1
CHAFFINCH	1								1

TABLE 2 - Recoveries

	1yr	2yrs	TOTAL
BLACKBIRD		1	1
BULLFINCH	1		1

M.L. DENTON

RING TOTALS LIST - 1990

Little Ringed Plover	7	Whitethroat	1
Curlew	1	Garden Warbler	3
Kingfisher	1	Blackcap	4
Swallow	5	Wood Warbler	1
House Martin	1	Chiffchaff	8
Meadow Pipit	5	Willow Warbler	414
Grey Wagtail	8	Goldcrest	12
Pied Wagtail	14	Spotted Flycatcher	2
Dipper	12	Willow Tit	1
Wren	23	Blue Tit	219
Dunnock	28	Great Tit	39
Robin	53	Treecreeper	3
Redstart	1	Magpie	12
Whinchat	6	Chaffinch	33
Blackbird	30	Greenfinch	100
Song Thrush	6	Goldfinch	2
Mistle Thrush	20	Bullfinch	3
Sedge Warbler	1		
Reed Warbler	1	GRAND TOTAL	1080

M. L. DENTON

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