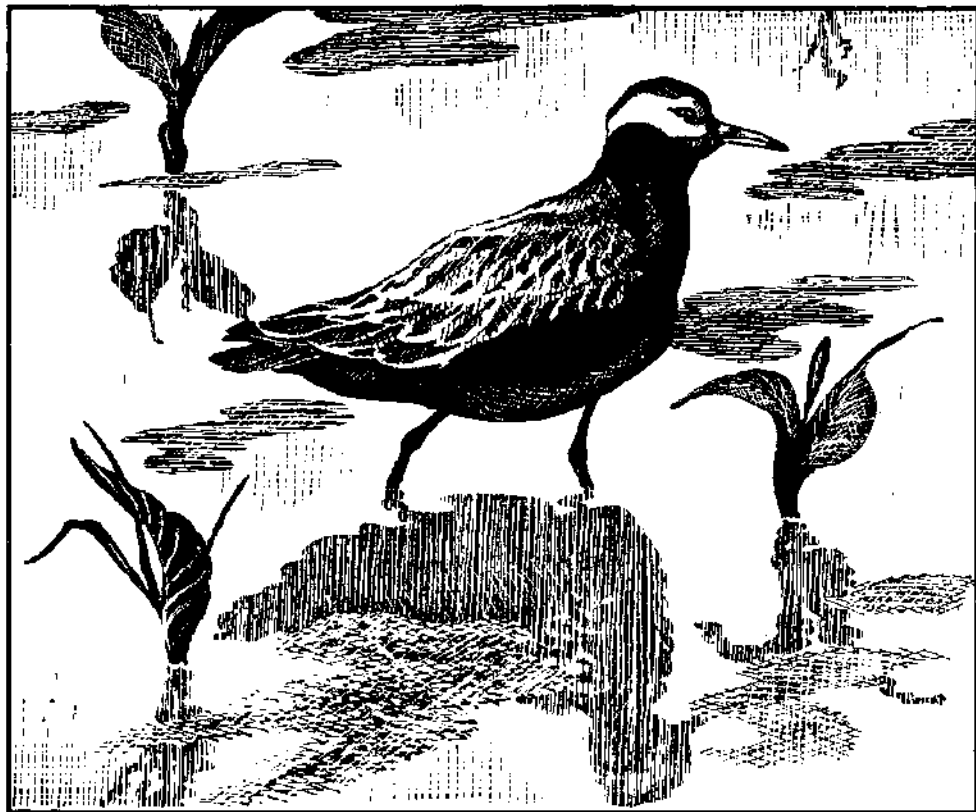
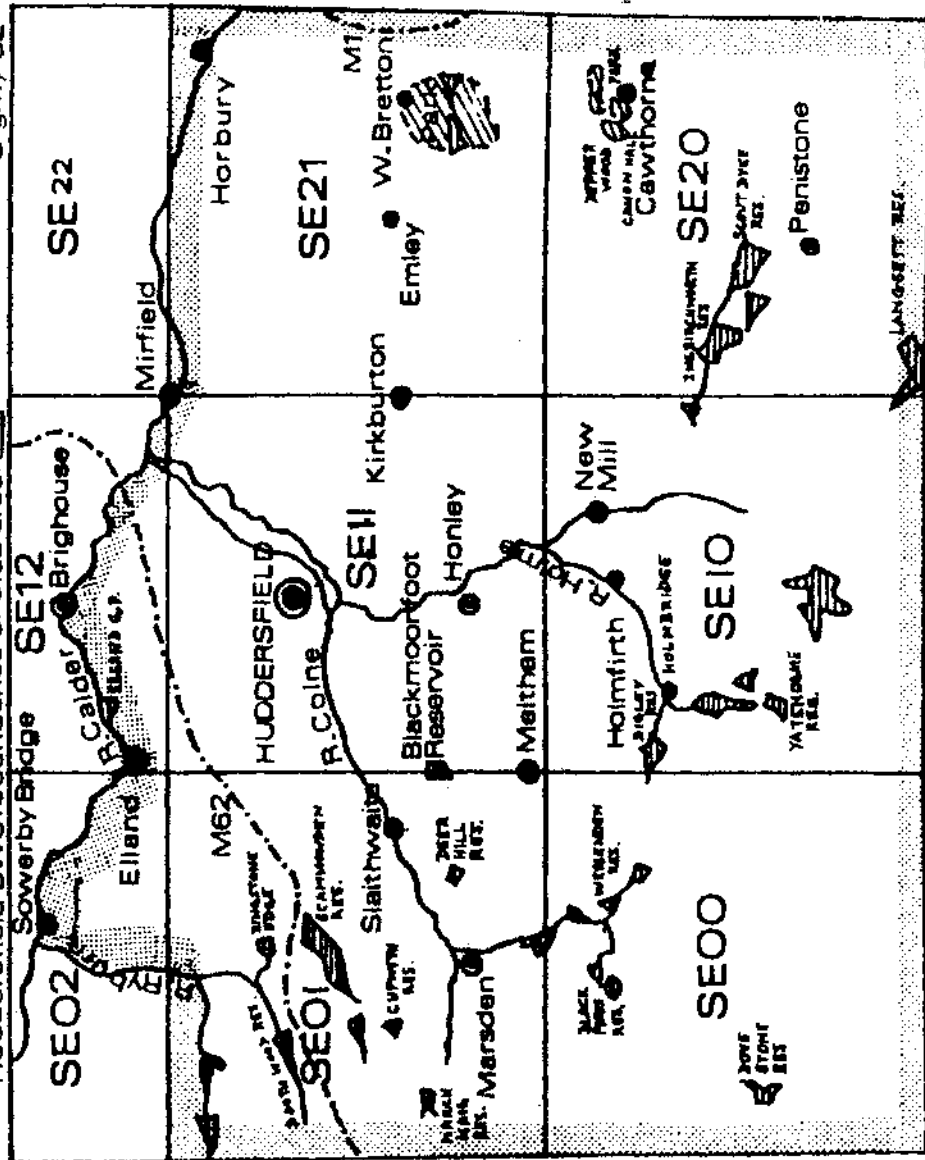


Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 2000



ANNUAL REPORT



BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 2000

Report of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

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by Stuart Brocklehurst

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2000

It was a great honour for me to be once more invested with the Presidency of the Huddersfield Bird Watchers' Club at the AGM last autumn. I wish to take this opportunity to thank President Mr. David Holloway for the manner in which he has brought the Club into the twenty-first century and the effectiveness of his office. On a personal note I thank him for graciously inviting my daughter Holly Z.L. Charnock to present me with the Presidential Chain of Office. This moment will long live in my memory.

In February we were awakened to news of the fact that Foot & Mouth Disease had broken out in parts of the country. Little did we realise just what an effect it would have upon the lives of people in both business world and private one. With the countryside all but closed down, access to many of our most important birdwatching sites was restricted to prevent the spread of this hideous disease. Where travel was possible there was a strange and pensive mood. Now as the footpaths are reopened there are some new and interesting sights. Flowers, plants and grasses that have not been seen in over a century are once more growing and meadows which have in recent years fallen victim to modern farming practices now stand tall and uncut as though they are speaking out from the heart of Mother Nature herself and pleading for a greater understanding of that which is really happening to our countryside. There will be both pluses and minuses following in the aftermath of this outbreak. My wish is for the many pluses and my prayer is that we as a nation finally learn just what a sacred and fragile world is this place called Earth.

This year has seen the publication of "An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area". The enormity of such an undertaking can only be realised by those dedicated people involved. I wish to record here my total admiration for their achievement and do most sincerely thank them all. The task they undertook in its production has rewarded us all with a publication, the significance of which may not be realised for some years to come. With the decline in the numbers of many of our beloved common species of birds, let alone those rarer ones that have graced our Club area, the Atlas will be there as an irreplaceable portfolio of the avifauna we have been privileged to enjoy; not to own a copy may I believe be a most regrettable mistake.

The position of Honorary Treasurer has been held for over ten years by Mr. David Shore and as our season drew to a close he announced his wish to retire. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the fiduciary and judicious execution of his office; he has served us well. I extend the good wishes of the Club to him for the future. Stepping into this office is Mr. Mike Wainman who I thank for coming forward and filling this vacancy. I feel sure we are to continue in good and safe hands.

A very new and exciting programme of lectures has been planned and arranged for the 2001/2002 season and I would expect this to be more than enough of an incentive for you to come along and join with us all again. Bring a friend, neighbour or colleague along so they too may experience the sheer enjoyment of this Club.

We live in ever changing times and I hope that this will not distract you from being a part of the finest and friendliest bird club that there is. Birds seldom change, they may have to adapt to man's interference with their environment but otherwise they go on. Long may our Club do the same, let it be adaptable but let it be.

To all my associates who serve on the committee and do so much to promote the aims and objectives of the Club my warmest thanks on behalf of all the membership.

Be you a Twitcher, an Ornithologist, a Lister, a Birdwatcher or a person who just likes birds, there is always a place for you within the membership of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club.

From me your President good birding and God Bless You All.

Malcolm Charnock July 2001.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST

With 179 species reliably reported, the year was the second most productive on record, being surpassed only by the 183 species in 1998. One new species was added to the list in the form of a Shorelark which remained near Ingbirchworth for three weeks in March/April. Also included in this report is another first for the Club area, a belated record from 1998 of a Black-headed Bunting, a major rarity in Britain, totally unexpected but photographed in a garden at Ainley Top. What will the next addition to the list be? Perhaps we should run a sweepstake amongst Club members.

Raptors again figured prominently with all three species of harrier, Red Kite, Osprey, Hobby and good numbers of Common Buzzard (surely a coloniser in the not too distant future) but the highlight was the number of Honey Buzzards reported. Our share in the national influx of this magnificent raptor could have been as many as 22 individuals and totally eclipsed the previous cumulative total of six birds recorded up to 1999.

For those who enjoy the rarer species, the year produced twitchable Slavonian Grebe, Garganey, a female Grey Phalarope in full summer plumage (only the 8th British specimen), the Shorelark of course, the Shepley Little Bunting which remained for almost four months and enabled everyone to get it on their list, although it did require patience, and the very obliging Waxwings at Lockwood in January/February. Great Northern Diver, Common Crane, White Stork and several others were less obliging, showing themselves to only a handful of fortunate observers. What the reaction was of the observer who watched two Razorbills fly up the R.Calder at Dewsbury one can only surmise.

The very wet spring must have played havoc with the breeding attempts of ground nesting birds in particular and was reflected in the low numbers of species such as Golden Plover and Lapwing in the post-breeding season. One of the saddest events of the year however could not be put down to natural causes; this was the deliberate destruction by onsite working at Ravensthorpe of a substantial Sand Martin colony. Of the summer visitors Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat appeared to do well, but many others continued to decline and it seems that even the commonest of them, the Willow Warbler, has begun to suffer.

Later in the year there were unprecedented numbers of Stonechats in the area, including a record Yorkshire count at Scammonden. Visible migration watching continued, this year with the emphasis at Harden and interesting results were achieved, increasing our knowledge of bird movements in the area in relation to weather conditions.

I should again like to thank all those who have submitted records during the year, especially the dedicated patch workers, Mike Denton for his monthly summaries of sightings at Blackmoorfoot and Martin Wells and Nick Dawtrey for extracting records for our overlap areas with Bamsley and Halifax respectively. Stuart Brocklehurst must once more be thanked for providing the illustrations to make this report more attractive.

As you read through this report you will realise that very few reports are submitted for many of our commoner species, particularly with regard to numbers of birds. Without a baseline from which to work it will be very difficult to assess future trends and I would encourage the reporting of some of these species which may be at risk.

Brian Armitage Recorder

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

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

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

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

1. 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

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

Precise locations for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1981) and for some other sensitive species have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication might lead to harmful disturbance.

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

Abbreviations

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

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|--------|---------------------|
| f. | - female | 2 nd S | - second summer | CP | - Country Park |
| m. | - male | 3 rd W | - third winter | GP | - Gravel Pit |
| ad. | - adult | max. | - maximum/maxima | NR | - Nature Reserve |
| imm. | - immature | min. | -minimum | SF | - Sewage Farm |
| juv. | - juvenile | N | - North | Res. | -Reservoir |
| 1 st W | - first winter | S | -South | r.h. | -redhead |
| 1 st S | - first summer | E | -East | v.m.w. | -visible |
| 2 nd W | -second winter | W | -West | | migration watch/ing |

CLASSIFIED LIST

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

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Rare visitor

Harden – on 8th October at 0950 hrs, three, with the lead bird well ahead of the other two, flew NNW, approaching from the direction of Dunford Bridge and proceeding along the moorland ridge at Tinker Hill/Flight Hill until lost behind Harden Edge (MC). The 12th record for the area and the first “multiple” sighting. Later that day three diver sp. flew over Stocks Reservoir, Lancs.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor

Dewsbury SF – one flew east past the hide and over the R. Calder at 0915 hrs on 7th November at the time when the overflowing of the river had created a significant area of flooding on the bank opposite the sewage farm, attracting good numbers of waterfowl (JH). The bird appeared at Pugney's CP later the same day. The 15th record for the club area.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Partial migrant breeder (1)

The species was very scarce in the early months, singles in January at **Elland GP** on 1st and at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 8th and **Langsett Res.** on 8th/9th and three on 6th at **Dewsbury SF** being the only ones reported before March. Breeding was attempted at eight sites.

Boshaw Whams – a pair bred and raised five young; five birds still present on 30th December.

Calder Valley – a pair bred at Elland GPs, with an adult and two small young present on 25th June, single pairs were also on the river at Millbank, Horbury Wyke and Ravensthorpe GPs and probably bred. A nest with eggs was flooded out at Ravensthorpe GPs in early July.

Langsett Res. – one pair bred, hatching two and fledging one young, which was still being fed by an adult on 2nd September. One bird remained to 15th November.

Ingbirchworth Res. – at least three pairs bred, with five young present on 26th July in what appeared to be four broods and there were two broods of two young each on 30th August. No post-breeding gatherings were reported and the last bird noted was on 27th December.

Scout Dike Res. – three pairs held breeding territories from 18th March with two broods present on 26th July and at least three young on 30th August. One bird on 15th October.

Royd Moor Res. – a pair present throughout spring and summer.

Bretton Lakes – up to three birds reported, mainly from the upper lake, between 26th March and 22nd October.

Horbury Wyke – three on 11th March, with one on the R. Calder on 1st October.

Horbury Strands – a pair seen on several dates in April/May.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – singles on 19th and 27th July, one on 15th, three on 18th and one from 19th to 31st August, two on 1st one from 2nd September to 1st October and one on 18th October.

Single juveniles at **Harden Res.** on 16th July, **Winscar Res.** from 24th August to 3rd September and at **Holme Styes Res.** on 25th September could all refer to the same individual, possibly from the brood reared at **Boshaw Whams**.

Dewsbury SF. – three on 6th January and three on the R.Calder on 3rd September, two on 24th September, three on 24th October and one on 17th December.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Podiceps cristatus

Resident breeder (1)

Once again, counts in the early months were low, with at **Blackmoorfoot** eight on 21st February and seven from 12th March to 8th April increasing to 11 on 11th/15th April, five at **Ingbirchworth** on 13th March and a maximum of seven at **Scout Dike** on 18th March.

The very heavy rains of spring and early summer probably contributed to another very poor breeding season, with young birds being observed at only three sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – in June one pair hatched a single chick which reached the flying stage on 20th August. A second pair laid two eggs, but the nest was left high and dry by 18th July. Late season max. were in August 17 on 2nd, with 15 from 4th to 4th September and from 13th September to 3rd October, thereafter decreasing to a max. of five in November and December.

Scout Dike Res. – a pair had three small young on 9th May, but not all survived. Eventually two pairs fledged two young, one of which was present to 22nd September.

Bretton Lakes – up to four adults (two pairs) were present from 26th March and a pair had two juveniles on the lower lake on 3rd September, the only date on which they were reported. Post-breeding max. were 12 all on the lower lake on 22nd and 26th October, six on 9th November and ten on 24th December.

Oak Scar Res., Longwood – a pair bred, rearing two young. 1st site breeding record.

Ingbirchworth Res. – no breeding reported and no birds recorded after a singleton in August. Max. was six on 26th June.

Royd Moor Res. – one on 20th March.

Broadstones Res. – an adult on 5th/6th August.

Ringstone Edge Res. – two on 30th April, singles on 9th May and 22nd October.

Scammonden Dam – two on 18th August, one on 21st October.

Winscar Res. – one on 5th November was unusual at this site.

SLAVONIAN GREBE

Podiceps auritus

Rare visitor

Blackmoorfoot Res. – one remained from 25th December to the year end (TD,MLD,DHP et al) and into 2001. The eleventh for the Club area and the eighth for this site.

CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax carbo

Uncommon passage and winter visitor, becoming more frequent

Birds were reported in all months except January and from an increased number of sites. Most of the flyover birds were moving in a westerly direction.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – one S. on 21st February, two immatures on 6th May and 9th August, an adult on 30th August, one on 4th and a sub-adult on 12th September, an immature W. on 8th October, sub-adult W. on 11th October and one on 4th November.

Horbury Wyke – singles on 5th February, 19th March, 8th and 30th April, 1st May, 1st June, 6th July, 29th October and 4th November, with up to five on 9th December.

Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 22nd May, two roosting in trees on 30th July and an immature on 31st July, singles in August on 14th and 30th, with two on 13th and 25th, followed by singles on 2nd, 3rd, 9th to 11th, 15th and 19th September and on 19th and 26th October.

Scout Dike Res. – singles on 16th July and 3rd December.

Royd Moor Res. – one NE on 9th April, three NW on 3rd September, two NW on 8th October, three on 15th October and singles on 27th October and SW on 16th December.

Castle Dam, Penistone – three on 25th and one on 29th October, with two on 4th, 11th and 12th November.

Bretton Lakes – singles on 22nd and 26th October, with seven together on 16th December.

Harden – in September, seven WSW on 2nd and one W. on 27th.

Dewsbury SF. – two on 9th July.

Ringstone Edge Res. – two on 20th July, singles on 6th and 10th September, four on 17th September, three on 20th September.

Elland GPs – in November, three on 16th and two on 28th/29th and in December singles on 7th, 14th and 30th, with two on 23rd.

Cowcliffe – one SE on 30th September.

Holmbridge – one W on 10th December.

Ravensthorpe – one W on 27th December.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

Birds were reported yet again in all months from over 30 localities in a wide range of habitats. Most reports were of one to three individuals, but larger numbers occurred at **Horbury Wyke**, which had ten on 16th July and 11 on 23rd August and at **Dewsbury SF**, where there were nine on 9th July.

The **Bretton Lakes** colony showed a small increase of four nests on the previous year. This year however there was a shift in the concentration of nests, with 37 on the lower lake island and 18 on the upper lake. On 31st March, 15 nests held young aged between two and four weeks. Overall breeding success is unknown.

The colony at **Scammonden** also increased, with 14 birds and eight nests visible on 11th March. It was confirmed that by 30th April at least six nests were occupied and possibly a seventh.

Breeding was again suspected, but could not be proven due to the inaccessibility of the location, at a private site near **Lepton Great Wood**.

An interesting observation in the **Shelley** area was of birds occasionally landing on house rooftops to inspect garden ponds for prey (SRG).

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare visitor

On 19th March one was seen briefly high over Bridge Royd Wood, **Bretton Lakes** (JED) and later what was presumably the same bird flew north over **Ossett** in the general direction of **Leeds** (JH). On 19th April a bird flew over **Emley** descending towards **Bretton Park** (JMD), where it flew in again two days later on 21st to land in a large beech tree and was seen to engage in a bout of bill-clapping before leaving shortly afterwards to the northwest (DMP et al, via BBSG).

At **Waterloo** on 19th July one got up from the vicinity of the **Fenay Beck** near the old rugby ground, rose straight up on a thermal with scarcely a wingbeat until out of sight to the east over **Lepton** (BA).

All reports probably refer to birds wandering from **Harewood**. The 19th of the month is obviously the date to look for this species!!

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Resident, occasional breeder

The two adult and four immature birds at **Boshaw Whams** remained from 1999 until at least 22nd February, with one adult and four immus. on 11th March and 11th and 16th May, then an adult and two immus. on 22nd, 25th and 26th May.

What were presumably the same individuals were also at **Digley** on 1st January (2ads, 4 immus) and at **Ingbirchworth** on 23rd May (1 ad, 1 imm) and 2nd, 4th and 5th June.

All the remaining records were from sites in the **Calder Valley** and included successful breeding. **Horbury** - one pair bred, rearing three young. At the **Wyke** a pair was present from 11th March, with one sitting on a nest from 8th April and throughout May, but was flooded out during the torrential rains of 4th June. Thereafter, three were present on 4th November and five (2 immus.) on 9th December. At **Horbury Strands** two adults were present on 25th April and 1st May, three adults on 28th May, all in addition to the pair at the **Wyke**. It is likely that these birds included the pair which bred successfully.

Millbank Flash, Thornhill - a pair built a nest, but deserted probably due to predation by foxes.

Elland GPs - up to two adults on the canal on various dates between 5th February and 31st December.

Cooper Bridge - one on the river on 17th April, 10th May, 23rd and 28th August.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce winter visitor

None were reported in the early months.

Scout Dike Res - one flew NW on 20th October (BBSG).

Winscar Res. - nine, including one juvenile, on 10th November (MC).

Ringstone Edge Res. - three on 15th November (HBC).

Ingbirchworth Res. - 21 which flew west at 1410 hrs. on 17th December had earlier been seen flying north at 1400 hrs. at **Wyoming Brook, Rivelin, Sheffield** (BBSG).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Uncommon to common passage visitor

Passage in the early months was noted on 16 dates, with particularly significant movements on 4th January and 6th February. The timing of the passage is interesting, with peaks at approx. 1130 to 1200 hrs. and between 1400 and 1600 hrs., with only one skein occurring before 1100 hrs. Unless otherwise stated the direction of movement was west or northwest. Unidentified grey geese (*Anser* spp.) are also included here.

1st January - c.150 over **Ingbirchworth**.

2nd January - 100 over **Shepley**.

4th January - at least 1400 over **Langsett** between 1130 and 1230 hrs. in groups of 50 to 240 birds; 50/60 over **Denby Dale** at 1120 hrs.; c.175 (grey geese) over **Middlestown** at 1130 hrs.; two skeins of c.30 each (grey geese) over **Honley** at 1145 and 1155 hrs.; a large movement of birds, some flying high, others much lower, over **Deer Hill/Blackmoorfoot** - at 1430 hrs. between 80 and 90 were on sheep pasture below **Deer Hill Res.** but had gone by 1545 hrs. and at least 70 appeared to land in the valley bottom in **Slaithwaite**; also 11 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 1505 hrs. and c.70 west at **Slaithwaite** at 1425 hrs.

10th January - c.50 over **Cooper Bridge** and 75 (grey geese) over **Middlestown**.

16th January - a skein flew over **Slaithwaite** in darkness at 2230 hrs.

17th January - at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** 109 came in from the east at 1650 hrs., six roosted, the rest continuing on to the west.

20th January – 200 over New Mill.

21st January – one at Blackmoorfoot, 250 west at Elland GPs.

6th February – two over Slaithwaite at 1130 hrs., c.300 over Golcar in six skeins at c.1230 hrs., 60 over Skelmanthorpe at 1400 hrs., 250+ over Scout Dike, three skeins of 250, 150 and 50 over Shepley, c.700 over Tinker Hill (Winscar) in two skeins and 190 west at Elland GPs.

9th February – c.120 over Greengate Road between the Ford Inn and Digley at 1445 hrs., c.45 over Oldfield, Honley at 1505 hrs., 42 over Blackmoorfoot at 1515 hrs.

11th February – c.40 over Blackmoorfoot at 1410 hrs.

17th February – 138 west at Dewsbury SF.

18th February – 500 in two skeins over Denby Dale.

20th February – c.100 over Pike Low (Langsett) at 0955 hrs., c.240 over Spicer House Lane in three skeins and c.80 over Ingbirchworth.

21st March – a small skein over Highburton at 2330 hrs.

7th May – 126 flew west on this very late date over Dewsbury SE; a flock of the same number was observed leaving its Norfolk refuge, heading northeast, almost exactly 1.5 hours before this sighting (JH and BINE).

5th May and 25th May – one was at Ringstone Edge Res and was probably either a feral or an injured individual.

The first returning birds of the autumn appeared on 8th October and there were records on a further 11 dates. Smaller numbers were involved than in the early months and the direction of flight more variable. Birds also arrived earlier in the day than at the start of the year.

8th October – 11 left Royd Moor Res. in a NE direction; at Shelley c.100 east at 0900 hrs. and c.90 west at 1045 hrs.

17th October – c.500 ENE in five skeins at Scout Dike Res.

31st October – 21 west over Lindley.

4th November – 30 SE at Slaithwaite at 1700 hrs.

13th November – one at Elland GPs.

21st November – a small skein NW in fog at Bradley Park Golf Course at 1000 hrs, and a small skein, possibly the same, west at Blackmoorfoot also in fog at 1010 hrs.; 350+ over Harden flying between SE and WSW.

22nd November – one at Royd Moor Res.

2nd December – 100 over Shepley and 30 at Ringstone Edge.

14th December – c.230 west at Shelley at 1300 hrs., c.200 NNW over Pole Moor at 1310 hrs. and 24 west at Blackmoorfoot at 1430 hrs.

16th December – c.60 SW over Lepton at 1000 hrs. and SW over Oldfield at 1015 hrs. could relate to the same skein; at Marsden 110 NW at 1030 hrs; three skeins of c.80, 117 and 130 over Bretton.

17th December – c.65 west at Ingbirchworth.

22nd December – 50 over Denby Dale.

24th December – five SE over Harden.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Uncommon passage and feral visitor

Records of this species were again mainly in the first half of the year and the same individuals were probably involved at several of the sites.

Cowcliffe – 25 flying west on 18th February (GBS) provided evidence of passage through the area.
Scout Dike Res. – one from 12th to 25th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – four arrived from the north at 0735 hrs. on 15th April and departed west at 0850 hrs., three on 4th August and 14th November.

Horbury Wyke – one on several dates from 15th April to 5th May.

Castle Dam, Penistone – in April three on 23rd and four on 27th, with two on 12th May.

Broadstones Res. – one on 30th May.

Dewsbury SF – seven on 9th June and 12 on 10th June.

Ingbirchworth Res. – two on 10th December.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (2)

Few counts were received for the early months and were lower than in previous years. Maxima were :-

Scammonden Dam – 106 on 3rd January.

Scout Dike Res. – 130 on 15th January reducing to 10 on 18th March.

Langsett Res. – 120+ flying low to the north on 16th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – 36 on 21st January, 23 on 3rd February.

West Slaithwaite – 46 on the canal on 26th January.

Horbury Wyke – 161 on 20th February and 96 on 5th March.

Breeding was reported from fewer sites than usual and it appears that success was very low due to the very wet spring weather when many early broods were lost.

Royd Moor Res. – a pair reared four goslings.

Horbury Wyke – a pair with four goslings on 1st May, reduced to three on 5th.

Healey Mills – a pair reared four young at Matthew's Pond.

Langsett Res. – eight pairs from early March, but only two pairs bred.

Winscar Res. – 13 pairs present on 25th March, early broods lost, but 32+ young in at least five broods on 5th June.

Deanhead Res. – five pairs sitting on 6th May, but no young seen later.

Harden Res. – two pairs.

Birds were present in the breeding season also at **Dovestones, Yateholme, Wessenden Head and Butterley Reservoirs.**

Presumably as a result of the poor breeding season, post-breeding numbers and those in the later months of the year were also lower than normal, maxima being:-

Winscar Res. – c.100 on 15th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – 37 on 27th July, 31 from 28th July to 1st August, up to 16 in November/December.

Digley Res. – 40 on 1st August.

Bretton Lakes – 100+ on 3rd August, c.250 on 22nd October, 162 on 4th November.

Langsett Res. – 96 on 10th August, 105 on 16th September, 71 on 3rd October, 0 in December.

Royd Moor Res. – 138 on 19th August, 150 on 5th November.

Castle Dam, Penistone – 34 on 25th September.

Ringstone Edge Res. – 64 on 30th September, c.120 on 27th October.

Scammonden Dam – 48 on 22nd October, 35 on 17th December.

Ingbirchworth Res. – up to 48 in October.

Boshaw Whams – c.50 on 30th December.

CANADA GOOSE x GREYLAG GOOSE hybrid

Scout Dike Res. – two on 9th May.

Bretton Lakes – one on 6th July.

Royd Moor Res. - one on 5th and 15th October.

CANADA GOOSE x BARNACLE GOOSE hybrid

Horbury Wyke - one on 9th, 15th/16th and 21st April.

Scout Dike Res. - one on 9th May.

Langsett Res. - a juvenile on 21st June, 6th and 10th July.

Bretton Lakes - an adult on 6th July and 7th November.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor and occasional feral breeder

All records refer to presumed feral individuals.

Bretton Lakes - at least five on 21st January and up to three from 22nd October to the year end.

Langsett Res. - one flew north with 120+ Canadas on 16th January. An adult present, along with Canada Geese, from 6th June to 10th July and 2nd to 16th September.

Winscar Res. - one seen periodically all year with Canada Geese - same as Langsett bird?

Dewsbury SF - one flew in on 23rd April.

Royd Moor Res. - one present on ten dates at least between 6th August and 5th November.

Ingbirchworth Res. - a single on 21st October and 22nd November, probably same as above.

Cannnn Hall - one on 23rd October.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor

Birds were reported in all months except June and October, the majority at just two sites. There was a multiple arrival at four sites on 13th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - two on 9th, one on 13th and four on 15th January, two on 2nd and 28th February, one on 13th March, two on 28th April, in September nine on 12th and one on 13th and one on 4th November.

Horbury Wyke - two flew east on 2nd February, two grounded on 19th and 26th February, 4th/5th March, 16th and 30th April, with one on 21st and a juvenile on 23rd August; two flew east on 3rd September and two juvs. present on 5th - same as Dewsbury SF birds on 3rd?

Elland GPs - seven on 12th February.

Upper Windleden Res. - two on 13th March.

Royd Moor Res. - one on 13th March and one on 26th/27th February which had earlier been at Scout Dike Res.

Scout Dike Res. - one on 26th/27th February later moved to Royd Moor; two flew south on 13th August.

Ringstone Edge Res. - two on 29th May.

Dewsbury SF - a single juv. on 23rd August, with two juveniles on 3rd September and one juv. on 10th September.

Ingbirchworth Res. - two on 23rd December.

Millbank Flash, Thornhill - three on 26th December.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare feral visitor

The long-staying drake continued to be seen at Elland, with sightings on 5th and 21st March, 31st October, 7th, 26th and 27th December (HBC).

WIGEON*Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor

Reports were received from ten sites between 3rd January and 19th May and between 27th August and 31st December. Numbers involved were again relatively low.

Bretton Lakes – a male on 3rd January.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – a very poor showing with in January two on 4th/5th, one on 26th February, two on 22nd March and a male on the late date of 19th May. In the second half of the year present in September almost daily from 12th to 28th, with max. of 13 on 12th otherwise no more than five. In October on 11 dates, max. four on 18th, on 10 dates in November max. five on 4th and on 8 December dates max. just three from 28th.

Royd Moor Res. – 31 on 3rd and 30 on 16th January, 14 on 19th/20th February, a male on 20th March; in August one on 27th, four on 28th and two on 30th, none then until 17 on 13th October, with 10 on 15th and 12 on 23rd; in November 11 on 6th and 10 on 13th and finally 13 on 27th December.

Ingbirchworth Res. – 18 on 15th January and 19 on 2nd February were the only records in the early months. The next was a male on 30th August, followed by 16 on 20th September, two on 15th October, 22nd November and 27th December.

Scout Dike Res. – the only record was of a male and a female on 15th October, probably the same as the Ingbirchworth birds.

Horbury Wyke – this site held the highest numbers in the area in the early months, with 44 on 5th February, 37 on 11th and 27 on 20th March with two still on 9th/10th April. Smaller numbers in the second winter period – three on 29th October, 10+ on 4th November and 18 on 9th December.

Dewsbury SF – in September six on 22nd and four on 23rd, followed by four on 26th October, 12 on 7th November and 46 on 11th November.

Harden – nine were observed flying north during a v.m.w. on 22nd September.

Castle Dam, Penistone – 12 on 25th/26th and 10 on 27th October, then four on 30th December.

Langsett Res. – 34 on 13th October was a high count for this site; a male on 24th December.

GADWALL*Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

A much better showing by this species, with records from nine sites, mainly in the later months.

Royd Moor Res. – male and female on 19th February, three males on 27th December (presumably same as Scout Dike birds) (BBSG).

Elland GPs – two on 13th March (HBC).

Horbury Wyke – a male on 25th April (BA).

Ringstone Edge Res. – four on 27th August (HBC).

Bretton Lakes – a female on 22nd October (BA) and a male on 6th December (SRG).

Ingbirchworth Res. – a female on 14th October, male and female on 3rd/4th November (RD&SEH,DHP,BBSG).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – male on 29th October (DT).

Boshaw Whams – male and female in mid-November (MC).

Scout Dike Res. – four males on 25th December (BBSG).

TEAL*Anas crecca*

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor

Good numbers were again reported from the important wintering areas in the Calder Valley and from Royd Moor Res., but recorded from a total of only 13 sites.

Horbury Wyke – maxima were 100+ on 5th and 34 on 20th February, c.20 on 5th, 30 on 13th and 46

on 20th March reducing to 10 on 10th April. A pair was present on 16th April, with a male throughout May and June to 16th July. In the later part of the year six had returned by 27th August, increasing to c.25 on 7th September and c.75 on 29th October. At least 40 were present on 9th December. At nearby **Horbury Strands** a pair was present on 21st April. Breeding could easily go undetected at these sites. **Dewsbury SF** – early year max. were 180 on 2nd and 36 on 19th January, 48 on 9th, 78 on 13th and 60 on 22nd February, in March 63 on 4th, 28 on 15th and in April 28 on 5th and 26 on 19th. A gradual build-up in numbers in autumn from 23 on 28th August to 59 on 22nd September, 110 on 29th October and 7th November to 180 on 7th December.

Millbank Flash, Thornhill – 167 on 20th February reduced to 78 on 5th March, 26 on 9th and 10 on 10th April. In the later months 12 on 5th September and 70 on 26th December.

Royd Moor Res. – early year max. were 43 on 3rd January, 47 on 19th and 41 on 20th February, 33 on 10th and 25 on 20th March, reducing to 18 on 8th and 11 on 19th April. Returning birds appeared on 8th September (six) increasing to 19 on 14th, 23 on 6th November and 30 on 3rd December.

Bretton Lakes – few records received, but five on 1st and 10 on 13th January, 14 on 22nd February, with a pair on the upper lake on 26th March. None then until December with at least five on 3rd increasing to 10 on 15th/16th.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – recorded on only 23 dates and only two counts were in double figures. In January two on 11th and 19th with one on 17th; six on 19th March, four on 19th April and no more until late August when there were four on 22nd, eight on 24th and one on 28th/29th. In September three on 1st, 17 on 12th, one on 13th, five on 16th, four on 20th and one on 28th. In October one was present on 5th, six on 13th and two on 22nd, followed in November by 18 on 15th and finally three on 14th and one on 15th and 20th December.

Other sites from which birds were reported were **Broadstones Res.** – two on 1st January and 19th April, **Elland GPs** – six on 2nd January, two on 5th February, six on 13th March and five on 5th November, **Ingbirchworth Res.** – two in January, up to four in March, two in April and five on 22nd November, **Ravensthorpe GPs** – 16 on 20th February and 14 on 9th April, **Oak Scar Res.** – six on 4th April, **Ringstone Edge Res.** – two on 6th October and **Castle Dam** – one on 30th December.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeder (3) and common winter visitor

Once again this common species was under-reported, with for example only two counts from **Bretton Lakes** in the whole year.

Breeding was reported from the following sites :- **Blackmoorfoot Res.** – out of 64 ducklings observed, only two reached the flying stage, **Ringstone Edge Res.** – one duckling on 9th May, **Ingbirchworth Res.** – three broods in June/July, **Scout Dike Res.** – two broods, **Castle Dam** – a brood of ten on 3rd May, **Bretton Lakes** – two broods, **Denby Dale** – two broods, **Langsett Res.** – five broods in May/June with an average of only 2.4 young per brood, **Dogley** – two broods on the Fenay Beck, **Dewsbury SF** – eight pairs bred with a party of 22 ducklings on 28th June, **Calder Valley between Ravensthorpe and Horbury Wyke** – at least 12 pairs, **Boshaw Whams** – two broods.

Monthly maxima at sites from which regular counts were received were :-

| | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | |
|---------------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Blackmoorfoot | 37 | 26 | 21 | 19 | 21 | 21 | 31 | 52 | 34 | 33 | 41 | 42 |
| Ingbirchworth | 40 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 119 | 56 | 10 | 76 |
| Royd Moor | 100 | 37 | n/c | n/c | n/c | n/c | n/c | 115 | 115 | n/c | n/c | 66 |

Maxima at other sites were **Scammonden** 32 on 3rd January and 13 on 17th December, the canal between **Slaithwaite and Marsden** 100 on 26th January, c.70 on the Fenay Beck at **Waterloo** on 25th January, 24 at **Lindley** on 1st January and 26th December, 20 all year at **Denby Dale**, 11 on 23rd January at **Cupwith Res.**, 36 at **Millbank Flash** on 5th February, 12 at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 20th February, **Horbury Wyke** 20 on 20th March, 35 on 29th October and 39 on 15th November, 86 at **Dewsbury SF** on 23rd July, **Bretton Lakes** 50+ on 3rd August and c.60 on 3rd December, 56 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 20th August, **Langsett Res.** 38 on 21st August, 94 on 6th September, then an exceptional count of 262, obviously involving birds moving through the area, on 3rd October, down to 17 on 23rd December, **Castle Dam** 20 on 27th October and 20 at **Boshaw Whams** on 13th December. No other sites reported double figures.

PINTAIL

Anas acuta

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

There was just one record in the early months, a male at **Horbury Wyke** on six dates from 26th February to 11th March (JHod, DHP,JRS,BA).

In the later months one was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 17th September, with an eclipse male at **Ingbirchworth** on the same date (BBSG,RD&SEH); at the latter site there were two on 20th September and four on 10th October (DHP). An adult and an imm. male were at **Dewsbury SF** on 25th September (JH), at **Langsett Res.** a female on 31st October and five (3 males) on 17th December (BBSG). **Ringstone Edge Res.** held three birds on 5th November (HBC).

GARGANEY

Anas querquedula

Rare summer migrant

Once again the species appeared in the **Horbury** area in early spring – a male flew upriver from the **Wyke** at 0745 hrs. on 1st April (JW) and was relocated on 7th at a small pool about a kilometre to the west, remaining there to 10th (BA,JRS,DHP).

In autumn singles were at **Dewsbury SF** on 28th/29th August (JH) and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12th September (DHP), with the same or a different bird on the canal at **Linthwaite** on 22nd (KW).

SHOVELER

Anas clypeata

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

A further welcome increase in records with birds reported from nine sites.

Horbury area – two males and a female at the **Strands** on 5th March; at the **Wyke** male and female on 16th/17th April and two on 23rd August (JRS,BA, DHP).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – five (3 males) on 13th March, a male on 5th April, six (4 males) on 19th April, one on 3rd, three on 10th and one on 15th August, with one on 3rd November (MLD).

Elland GPs – a male on 10th April; in December 5 on 18th increasing to 7 on 24th (HBC).

Ringstone Edge Res. – two males on 21st May and 18th July, one bird on 27th August and a male on 22nd October (HBC).

Dewsbury SF – two on 8th June and four on 22nd October (JH).

Scout Dike Res. – a female/juv. on 24th August (BBSG).

Royd Moor Res. – a female on 8th/10th October (BBSG).

Ingbirchworth Res. – a female type on 17th October (DHP).

Langsett Res. – a female on 23rd October (BBSG).

POCHARD

Aythya ferina

Common passage and winter visitor

Birds were present in all months except May, but were very scarce from March through to September. Numbers were very low at both ends of the year. **Blackmoorfoot** and **Ingbirchworth Reservoirs** provided the great majority of the records.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – in January a max. of two on ten dates from 17th to 31st, one on 1st/3rd February and one on 12th and 14th March were the only records in the early months. After a single bird on the unusual date of 1st June and two on 19th July, one was present on two August dates, followed by four on 12th and 15 on 20th September. Birds were present on only three dates in October, but with a good flock of 30 (19 males) on 15th, followed by 28 on 4th November, 16 (14 males) on 6th and one on 22nd November. A single was present on 10 December days.

Ingbirchworth Res. – a party of 23 including 19 males was present on 2nd January, reducing to five on 20th February and a single male in March to 20th. There was just one record of a single bird in October, six on 5th and four on 22nd November and up to ten in December to the year end.

Bretton Lakes – five males were present regularly in January/February and a male and a female on 12th March. The only records in the later months were of two males on 15th October and a single male on 3rd December.

Royd Moor Res. – one on 1st and five on 3rd January, nine on 27th December.

Elland GPs – four on 2nd and three males on 3rd January and a male on 5th February.

Scammonden Dam – a male on 3rd and 15th January, 9th and 13th February and 18th March.

The only other records were of single males at **Boshaw Whams** on 10th January, **Langsett Res.** on 5th February and **Horbury Wyke** on 19th February, five birds at **Scout Dike Res.** on 20th February and a female at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 25th and 27th March.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor

Breeding was confirmed at three sites. At **Bretton Lakes** broods of three and seven ducklings were on the upper lake on 3rd August, two pairs bred at **Scout Dike Res.** raising one and four young respectively and at **Castle Dam**, **Penistone** three ducklings on 27th July represented a first breeding record for the site. Breeding may also have been attempted at **Ingbirchworth**, **Royd Moor** and **Winscar Reservoirs** and at **Horbury Wyke**, where pairs were present in the breeding season.

Birds were reported from a total of 18 waters, but only six of these achieved double figure counts, with a further slight reduction in numbers of moulting birds at the **Ingbirchworth** group of waters.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – had birds on most days, but with a max. of only nine in the first five months of the year, increasing to 10 in June, up to 14 in July/September, then no more than eight to the year end. **Bretton Lakes** – max. were 19 on 18th January, 14 on 22nd February, c.25 on 20th April and 3rd August, with single figures thereafter.

Scout Dike Res. – nine on 15th January, 21 on 20th February, 14 on 5th March, 10 on 16th April, 13th May and 20th August, eight on 6th November and nine on 27th December.

Ingbirchworth Res. – in March max. of 15 on 20th, 20 on 15th April, c.35 on 26th and 25 on 30th July, an August max. of 24, up to 12 in September, 19 on 30th December, with single figures in other months.

Horbury Wyke – a max. of 28 on 4th March.

Langsett Res. – 10 on 8th July and 16 on 6th September were the only double figure counts

Maxima at other waters were nine at **Elland GPs** on 2nd January, eight at **Scammonden** on 3rd January and 18th August with nine on 17th September, up to five all year at **Boshaw Whams**, nine at **Deanhead Res.** on 8th October, two pairs on the **R. Calder** at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd May, three at **Ringstone Edge**

Res. on 22nd October, with up to two at **Gunthwaite Dam**, **Denby Dale**, **Royd Moor** and **Winscar Res's** and a single male on **Harden Res.** on 2nd April.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

Female types occurred at **Boshaw Whams** from 7th to 10th August (MC,BA,JED) and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 17th September (MLD).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Blackmoorfoot Res. hosted a 1st yr male on 12th April, three males on 21st April and a male on 21st August (MLD et al).

At **Winscar Res.** two males, an adult and an imm. present on 10th June (MC,NWA,RD&SEH).

On 23rd September a flock of 30-40 birds, mostly males, flew over **Harden** at approx. 1400 hrs attempting to battle into a strong SW wind. Failing to make progress over **Snailsden Moor**, they appeared to land, but despite a thorough search of all nearby waters could not be located. Some time later the flock was seen to rise and fall again (MC). Is it possible they could have landed on the open moor?

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Regular, but uncommon, winter visitor

This species was reported from 14 waters, but only in small numbers, with no double figure counts. Birds were very scarce in the second winter period with only three sites occupied in October/November. Extreme dates were 1st January to 13th May and 5th October to 31st December. Once again, **Blackmoorfoot** had the majority of the records.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – daily in January, max. six on 19th and in February, with max. of four on 21st. Daily again in March with four from 19th to 31st; in April daily to 21st with max. of eight on 13th and five from 14th to 19th. The first returning birds appeared on 24th October, with a max. of three on this and the following date. In November on 12 dates from 9th, max. seven on 17th but on only 10 days in December, max. five on 16th.

Ingbirchworth Res. – two in January, one in February, two in March and one on 1st April, then none until December, when there were up to nine.

Elland GPs – a male on 3rd January.

Dewsbury SF/Millbank Flash – on the adjacent R.Calder three on 2nd January, two females on 20th February, in October five on 5th, three on 7th and eight on 13th, four (3 males) on 26th December. **Langsett Res.** – up to three (on 19th) in February, a male on 8th April; in December daily with max. of five on 17th.

Winscar Res. – in February a male and a female arrived on 19th, a male on 22nd February, single females on three dates in March and on 5th April and male and female on 14th April.

Harden Res. – an immature arrived with the two Winscar birds on 19th February and a male was displaying on 13th May.

Scout Dike Res. – two males on 20th February.

Ringstone Edge Res. – three on 1st March.

Royd Moor Res. – one on 5th March.

Deanhead Res. – three on 31st March and a female on 17th and 27th December.

Horbury Wyke – six (2 males) on the R.Calder on 26th December.

Boshaw Whams – seen on four dates in November, max. four on 13th.

Scammonden Dam – a male on 17th December.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor

Birds were reported at three sites only, **Blackmoorfoot** again having the lion's share.

Ringstone Edge Res. – the redhead present at the end of 1999 was presumably that seen on eight dates to 14th February (HBC); it or another on 14th April (JED,DHP).

Elland GPs – the Ringstone Edge bird paid a visit here on 17th/18th January (HBC).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – all records refer to redheads unless otherwise stated. One on 3rd January (DHP), a female on 4th May (MLD), a male and a redhead on 20th September (DHP,KW), four on 25th September (MLD,DHP,KW,PDB), two on 5th October (MLD,PDB), one on 24th/25th October (DHP) and one on 1st November (DHP).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Regular passage and winter visitor

Birds were recorded at about 20 waters, mainly in January/February and October- December.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – birds were present on 27 dates between 1st January and 16th April, with max. of five on 1st and 18th January, seven on 26th February and 11th March and four on 9th April. In the second winter period, the first birds (two) appeared on 6th October with four on 11th, then on only four more dates, with no more than two birds on any of them.

Bretton Lakes – max. were in January 35 on 4th and 18 (9 males) on 20th, in February 18 on 6th, 22 on 13th; none after nine on 22nd February until three on 6th December, then four on 16th.

Ringstone Edge Res. – up to four on five dates in January, two on 25th and 28th February and 1st March; in September two on 17th, three on 20th and two on 30th, one on 12th and two on 16th October and finally two on 29th November.

Elland GPs – little information received, consequently counts lower than in recent years, with monthly max. of nine on 2nd January, four on 13th March, one on 30th April, five in November and up to 10 in December.

Castle Dam – two on 25th January and 6th February, one on 27th September, five on 19th November.

Scout Dike Res. – two on 6th February, five flew south on 22nd September and three north on 25th December, with one on 27th.

Ingbirchworth Res. – eight flew west on 5th November; in December one on 17th and two on 25th.

Lower Calder Valley – birds are becoming increasingly frequent and occurring in greater numbers on the river from Ravenshorpe downstream. Ravenshorpe area – six (2 males) on 13th March and eight (1 male) on 30th March. **Dewsbury SF/Millbank Flash** area – two on 23rd January and 13th February, a male on 5th/9th March, 10 on 15th and nine on 23rd March, one on 5th and two on 16th April, three on 7th September and five on 7th November. **Henley Mills** – a female flushed from an island on 30th July. **Horbury Bridge** – four females on rocks in river on 10th April. **Horbury Wyke** – the presence of up to six birds on the river throughout April and into May gives rise to the possibility that birds may be prospecting potential breeding sites; one here also on 9th December.

R.Colne – a male and a female regularly in December near the McAlpine Stadium.

Scammonden Dam – two on 9th February and three on 21st October.

The remaining sites all had records on a single date. **Langsett Res.** – two on 16th January, **Cooper Bridge** – three males on 8th February, **Broadstones Res.** – a juv. on 19th August, **Winscar Res.** – two on 26th October, **Lockwood Brewery Dam** – three on 31st October, **Brownhill Res.** – a male on 11th November, **Magdale Dam** – four on 23rd November and **Royd Moor Res.** – three on 26th December.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Irregular breeder (1) and infrequent visitor

Reported from five sites, at three of them regularly.

Horbury Wyke - first of the year was a male on 1st April, joined by a female from at least 15th. By 25th May two pairs were present and on 27th there were at least four males and one female. After the severe flooding of the area in early June which put paid to any breeding attempt none were recorded until a single female on 4th November.

Scout Dike Res. - singles on 16th and 30th April, two on 13th May, with one on 13th/15th August and 26th September.

Ingbirchworth Res. - after a single male in May and June, three birds were present in July, six in August, eight on 16th September, reducing to four in October and two in November. Despite males displaying in July, no further evidence of breeding was forthcoming.

Elsewhere, single males were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18th March and at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 18th May.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Rare passage visitor

Up to this year, only six Honey Buzzards had been reliably recorded in the Club area in the twentieth century, the last in 1999. The year 2000 saw an unprecedented influx into the country and the Huddersfield area received its share of this welcome and impressive raptor. All reports were within the eighteen-day period from 21st September to 8th October.

Because of the possibility of confusion with other raptor species, particularly Common Buzzard, which were also involved in the influx, the YNU Rarities Committee has decided that only those reports accompanied by written descriptions or photographic evidence will be published. Descriptions have been submitted for the following occurrences in our area:-

Blackmoorfoot Res. - two flew SE at 1420 hrs. on 21st September

Harden/Winscar - on 22nd September at 1020 hrs. two birds, trying in vain to head south into a fairly strong wind, came soaring up from the Carlecotes area and a further bird at 1100 hrs. appeared over the NE horizon and soared until lost to view (MC).

Holmbridge - one, mobbed by Carrion Crows, was over fields above Digley Res. at 1150 hrs. on 23rd September (MC).

Shepley - a dark juvenile flew north at 1555 hrs. on 23rd September (TM).

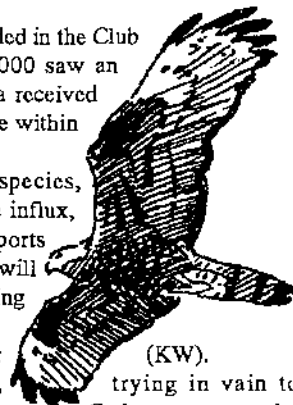
Holme Village - one on 25th September mobbed by a Merlin and a second, different bird on 27th flew south, before returning north (KH).

Ringstone Edge Res. - one flew south on 29th September (HBC).

Dalton/Almondhury - a dark juvenile flew south at 1330 hrs. on 29th September (BA).

Further reports, but without written supporting evidence, came from the following locations and are include for future reference:-

Huddersfield - one south at 1550 hrs. on 23rd September (via BLNE), **Almondhury** - two WSW over Kaye Lane on 26th September and one ENE on 3rd October (via PDB), **Silkstone** - one south on 27th and three south on 28th September (DJS), **Cinderhills, Holmfurth** - singles over on 28th September and 10th October (IC), plus two undated reports from **Colnebridge** and **Waterloo** (JER).



RED KITE*Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor

Following the release of captive-bred birds in the Harewood area, records of this species can be expected to become more frequent.

Thornhill – one over at 0750 hrs. on 7th May drifted slowly towards Huddersfield (JH).

Winscar Res. – a wing-tagged bird, probably immature, flew NW at 1500 hrs. on 14th May (MC).

Silkstone – one over on 11th July (BBSG per JMT).

MARSH HARRIER*Circus aeruginosus*

Rare visitor

A cream-crown over Broadstones Res. on 14th May left to the NE (RJB) and on 11th August one flew north towards Holme village before turning in the direction of Brownhill Res. (KH).

HEN HARRIER*Circus cyaneus*

Rare visitor

A welcome increase in the number of records this year. All were ringtails.

Langsett Res. – one on 16th January had been seen earlier at Barnside Moor (BBSG).

Harden Edge/Sandridge Moss – a juv. quartered the moor on 11th September (MC).

Ringstone Edge – a probable 1st yr male quartered the north side of the res. for five minutes on 17th September before being pushed off by Carrion Crows (JED).

Buckstones – one flew SE over the road on 20th October (DHP).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER*Circus pygargus*

Rare visitor

The first summer male which took up residence at Midhope for several weeks from 10th June to the pleasure of hundreds of observers was seen initially to approach from the direction of the Flouch Inn and Langsett Res., thus overflying our Club area (RF).

GOSHAWK*Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder and uncommon visitor

Birds were seen at two known breeding sites, but with no breeding evidence obtained. Near Langsett a pair was displaying on 16th March (SRG) and at a second site a male and a female were observed on several dates between 4th March and 8th April. At a third site two were displaying on 31st March and single birds were being mobbed by Carrion Crows on 4th May and 16th August.

Also seen in the Winscar area, an adult soaring over Sandridge Moss on 1st April, one flying along the moorland ridge on 22nd April and one on 16th September (MC). At Shepley a male flying over on 17th July (TM), singles over the Dalton/Almondbury area on 2nd (BA) and 10th September (KH) and over Lindley Moor, where a male flew SSW on 21st September (JED).

A female was over Thornhill briefly on 1st October, with one over Dewsbury SF on the same date mobbed by 35 Black-headed Gulls as it moved south (JH).

SPARROWHAWK*Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2)

Once again the species was reported from c.55 localities throughout the area from the moorlands to Huddersfield town centre, but with fewer garden reports (at Almondbury, Taylor Hill, New Mill and Harden) than usual.

The number of dated sightings each month was as follows:-

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | total |
| 20 | 14 | 17 | 11 | 18 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 157 |

A juv. at **New Mill** on 10th June (self-caught in a henrun before escaping) was the only firm evidence of breeding, but displaying birds and/or suspected breeding were noted at **Dalton**, **Boothroyd Wood**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Longwood Valley**, **Lower Stones Wood** and **Yateholme**. Doubtless there were many other such sites. Most sightings were of single individuals, but four were in the **Horbury Wyke** area on 29th October and probable migrants were at **Harden** on 8th October and 5th November (two).

Three birds were present most nights predating Swallows at the roost near **Healey Mills** from 13th to 23rd September (JRS). The only other kill notified was a Great Spotted Woodpecker at **Inghirchworth** on 2nd January (DBut), but on 17th April at **Horbury Wyke** a male was surprised by the observer as it flew towards him and dropped an item which it had just captured. A search of the undergrowth revealed a Kingfisher, apparently dead, but it revived slowly in the hand and after a short time flew off strongly down the R. Calder (BA). Other prey chased unsuccessfully were Redwings at **Denby Dale** on 17th January and a Pied Wagtail at **Harden** on 8th October.

Two birds mobbed a migrant Honey Buzzard over **Almondbury** on 29th September.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Rare visitor, becoming more frequent

Fewer records than in 1999, but still another good year.

In January one which drifted south over **Royd Moor Res.** on 2nd, harassed by Carrion Crows, was not specifically identified but was probably this species (DBut) and was followed on 16th by one which flew NW from **Shelley** towards **Farnley Tyas** and was observed from the Little Bunting site at **Shepley** (DW,JMD,BA,PDB).

One was overhead at **Digley and Harden Moss** on 19th March (SP), one flew NE over **Gunthwaite** on 4th May (BBSG) and one was at **Langsett** on 10th June (SRG).

Three were over **Bretton Park** on 21st July (BBSG) and in August there were two sightings in **Upper Longdendale** on 25th (HQ) and two passed south over **Cawthorne** on 28th (BBSG). One soared over **Margery Wood**, **High Hoyland** on 28th September (BBSG), one was at rest in a sheep field in the **Thornhill/Whitley** area on 30th September (JRS) and finally a dark-phase bird flew west at **Scout Dike Res.** on 1st October. These last three birds all coincided with the Honey Buzzard movement.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare visitor

A below average year with only two records.

One flew south over **Shelley** at 0840 hrs. on 5th April (SRG) and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one circled several times before flying off west at 1540 hrs. on 28th July (KW).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Recorded from over fifty sites throughout the year, with the majority of reported sightings in the early months. Ignoring sightings of birds at known breeding sites, only 132 registrations were received compared with 157 sightings of Sparrowhawk.

Most of the records came from a very small number of observers and it would appear that many send in Sparrowhawk sightings, but not those relating to Kestrel.

Breeding occurred at **Blackmoorfoot** (3 young fledged), **Winscar** (3 young), **Yateholme** (at least 3

young), Little Don Valley, Denby Dale, Ingbirchworth, north of Lindley Moor, Thornhill, Horbury Bridge and Horbury SF and presumably at many other sites.

Apart from family parties, five were in the Winscar area on 23rd April and six were soaring together at Harden Edge on 1st October, on which date 17 were at a site in the Bradford area and probably involved migrants; four were seen at Horbury Wyke on 29th October.

At Harden on 4th November a juvenile caught and ate an earthworm (MC).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Partial migrant breeder (1) and scarce visitor

In the early months a male was at Birdedge on 2nd January, followed by one hunting Skylarks for an hour near Ingbirchworth on 18th January. One flew across the M62 in the direction of Salendine Nook on 14th February.

There was an increase in sightings in March, with males at Shepley on 11th and Digley on 18th, one at Annat Royd Lane (which flushed the Shorelark) on 27th and possibly the same bird at Ingbirchworth on 30th. April saw a female on 15th and a male on 28th in the Whitley Common area and one again at Shepley on 30th. In the same month birds were reported at former or potential breeding sites on 8th, 15th, 23rd and 28th. A female was at Dewsbury SF on 7th May.

Breeding was reported from one locality which was not occupied in 1999, but not from the two sites where breeding did occur last year. At one of these a single female was present in May/June and a male was seen at the second site on 15th May. In another area a pair was suspected of being on territory early in the season, but no further evidence was obtained although birds were seen regularly. Post-breeding season reports came from Spicer House Lane, a female on 13th July, Hade Edge on 23rd July, Blackmoorfoot on 8th August, Kirkheaton on 20th August, Ringstone Edge on 3rd September, an immature at Dewsbury SF on 7th September, Harden Edge a male on 22nd September and one there buzzing a Sparrowhawk on 4th November, Healey Mills one hunting at the Swallow roost on 23rd September and at Holme where a male mobbed a Honey Buzzard on 25th September.

Good views were obtained of a male calling from a tree and in flight near the football pitch at Bretton Park on 19th November, an unexpected location (NL).

The last of the year was one at Elland GPs on 27th December.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Rare summer and passage visitor

Another good year for the species with six records.

The first was one flying south at Shelley on 14th May (SRG), followed in June by one hunting Swifts over Thornhill Park at 1900 hrs. on 20th and presumably the same bird near Emroyd Wood, Thornhill on 21st (JRS), with an additional bird in Dearne Dike Lane on 25th (GBS).

One, possibly the Thornhill bird, was seen briefly at Horbury Wike on 6th July (BLNF) and one chased Swallows at Harden in the late afternoon of 15th July (MC).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

Rare breeder (1), increasing

More information was received this year relating to breeding. At one site a pair raised two young to the flying stage, a second pair had two downy young still in the nest on 30th May but they had vanished by 4th June and were not seen subsequently; it was suspected they were taken during the intervening bad weather as there was no evidence of any corpses at the nest site. The Rishworth pair laid but the nest was robbed and two other pairs failed because the eggs failed to hatch. At two

other known sites pairs were seen in the breeding season but no further indications of breeding were obtained and at another recently successful site no birds were present.

Elsewhere and outside the breeding season, birds were reported as follows:-

Denby Dale – a male on 4th, 7th and 11th January; one on 4th December.

Booth Dam Quarry – a male on 21st January.

Ringstone Edge – one on 21st January.

Shepley – an imm. on 5th February.

Greenfield Road – one on 6th March.

Digley – one on 18th March.

Bretton Country Park – a male mobbed by 3 Carrion Crows on 29th April, a female over on 3rd September.

Harden area – one south on 7th May, a juv/1st yr. attacking a Kestrel before flying west on 30th July, in September two, at least one of which was adult, flew west on 22nd, a day of visible migration, and singles on 23rd, 27th and 29th.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – one on 11th August.

Healey – one circling on 20th August.

Bulleliff Wood – two over on 2nd September.

Dewsbury SF – one overhead on 20th September.

Shelley – a male which attacked a feral pigeon just to the south of the village on 18th October was later reported in a local garden.

Little Don Valley – two on 3rd November.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3)

Reports of this species continue to decrease. There were regular sightings only from the moors above **Bilberry Res.** and in the **Winscar/Harden area**, where on 5th October one was perched on one leg on overhead wires.

The only breeding evidence received was of a female and at least one juvenile in **Harden Quarries** on 1st August.

A total of 47 birds in at least six parties of between three and 11 birds at **Grains Moss** on 20th August was the only record of more than three birds together.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1)

A slight increase in the number of reports, but still very scarce.

At **Whitley Common** on 13th March one ran along along the road for c.100 metres before flying into a field (BA) and one was in the willow plantation at **Dearne Dike Lane** on 29th April (DHIP).

A pair was at **Healey Mills** on 8th May and 15th November (JRS), two at **Millmoor, Meltham** also on 8th May (KW), one near **Cliff Wood, Langsett** on 11th June (BA), one on the west bank at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 8th August (KW), two partridges, probably this species, at **Deer Hill Res.** on 8th September (KW) and five, a first record for the area and probably released birds, at **Denby Dale** on 10th November (TM).

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2)

After the encouraging increase in the number of localities (25) from which this species was reported in 1999, this year proved to be a disappointment, with records from only 16 sites and breeding

reported at only two of them.

Shepley – two birds seen regularly in the fields which hosted the Little Bunting at Jos Lane. Two pairs present in the general area.

Royd Moor Farm – one calling on 20th February.

Hinchcliffe Mill – one on 4th March.

Broadstones – a pair on 14th March and 5th June, accompanied by at least five small young on 17th June.

Scout Dike Res. – one calling on 18th March.

Scammonden – one pair present.

Ravensthorpe Tip – two on 9th April and five on 15th November.

Royd Moor Res. – in April four on 16th and two on 23rd/24th.

Ingbirchworth Res. – a pair on 24th and 30th April, 6th/7th May and 10th December.

Annat Royd Lane – a pair on 8th May and one calling on 21st June.

Lepton Great Wood – one nearby on 8th June.

Windmill Lane – one on 21st June.

Bank Wood, Bentley Springs – three on 16th July.

Dewsbury SF – one on 24th August, six on 18th October.

Crossley's Plantation – a female with two young on 9th September.

Denby Dale – five on 29th September.

QUAIL

Coturnix coturnix

Scarce summer visitor and occasional breeder

At least two and possibly as many as three birds were calling from barley fields at **Annat Royd Lane** from 21st to 29th August (JMD,BA,RDH,JED,RJB et al). Elsewhere in the **Ingbirchworth** area a male was calling on 1st and 30th July and 12th/13th August (MC,RJB).

One was calling at **Royd Moor Res.** on 16th July (BBSG).

PHEASANT

Phasianus colchicus

Resident breeder (2-3)

Reports were received from 17 localities, a considerable reduction on the previous year.

Breeding was reported from **Farnley Tyas**, **Woodsome** and near **Riding Wood Res.**, where a female had 10 small chicks on 23rd May, and probably occurred at several other of the sites.

Generally only single birds or pairs were involved in the sightings, but 4+ were at **Langsett Banks** on 3rd November, c.10 at **Bretton Lakes** on 16th April and up to six all year in the **Millbank** area of **Thornhill**.

GOLDEN PHEASANT

Chrysolophus pictus

Feral introduction

Apparently the occupant of the North gatehouse at **Bretton Park** released eight birds early in the year. On 3rd December two males walked across the Kennel Block car park, one of which was seen later in the **Sculpture Park** (BA,DM).

This species is not included in the year's species count.

WATER RAIL

Rallus aquaticus

Scarce visitor, mainly in winter

At **Bretton Lakes** one showed well on 18th January (per BA) and again on 12th March (DBut), 18th March (DMP,SP,KW,DHP) and 16th April (DBut). At the end of the year singles were present on

2nd and 16th December (DMP,SP,KW,DHP) with two present on 3rd December (NL). All sightings were near the old boathouse at the western end of the upper lake.

Single birds were seen at **Horbury Wyke** on 26th February and 25th March and two were calling on 16th April, with one or more heard regularly to 30th April. On 12th August a swimming bird allowed prolonged views and one was feeding in the open on 14th, giving rise again to the suspicion that summering and breeding may have occurred (DHP,JRS).

Elland GPs had a single bird on 16th January, 19th March and 2nd April, with two on 19th February (HBC).

Two birds were calling from a reedbed during May near **Healey Mills**, another potential breeding site (JRS).

MOORHEN

Gallinula chloropus

Resident breeder (2-3)

Again under-reported, with records from only 20 sites, at 13 of which breeding was proved.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – present almost daily throughout the year but no records in December. Two breeding attempts were made, one pair being predated and a second attempt producing a single chick seen on 12th June but not thereafter.

Bretton Lakes – at least two pairs bred. c.20 on the lower lake on 22nd October.

Lumb Lane, Almondbury – two broods of four and five raised on a garden pond.

Horbury area – bred at both the Wyke and the Strands; a max. of 25 at the Wyke on 26th February and several other counts there of about 20 birds.

Scammonden Dam – a pair fledged two young.

Boshaw Whams – two broods, including both new and well grown young on 8th August.

Waterloo – a half grown juv. on the Fenay Beck near Morrison's Supermarket on 3rd August.

Ingbirchworth Res. – four broods totalling eight young on 26th July. Max. counts were seven in October and eight in December.

Dewsbury SF – nine pairs bred; this site held the area's max. count - 48 on 16th December.

Scout Dike Res. – at least four pairs bred, but a max. of only four young raised.

Royd Moor Res. – at least one pair bred.

Langsett Res. – one pair bred, raising at least one young.

Denby Dale – one pair bred.

Other sites which held birds were waters at **Lepton Great Wood, Shelley, Broadstones Res., Winscar Res., Law Road Farm pond, Castle Dam and Gunthwaite Dam**, where there were at least five birds on 27th March.

COOT

Fulica atra

Resident breeder (2)

At least 10 sites had breeding pairs, a slight increase on the previous year. Once again few counts outside the breeding season were made.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – one pair raised one chick. Max. of five birds on 17th September.

Boshaw Whams – up to six present all year; a pair raised at least one juv.

Bretton Lakes – three pairs present, one half-grown juv. seen on 3rd August. Max. 22 on 22nd February, 40+ on lower lake on 22nd October, c.20 on 3rd December.

Elland GPs – bred, young present on 25th June. Max. 18 on 13th March.

Ingbirchworth Res. – eight pairs held breeding territories and 10 broods totalling 29 young were counted on 26th July. Max., excluding young, were 11 on 20th February and 5th October and nine on 27th December.

Horbury – at least two pairs bred in the area, the first chick being seen on 1st May. Max. at the Wyke was 10 on 23rd March.

R.Calder – three pairs bred along the river between Dewsbury SF and Horbury Wyke. Six on the river at Millbank on 17th October.

Dewsbury SF – two pairs raised five young.

Scout Dike Res. – at least 11 pairs held breeding territories in the spring; a total of 14 young was counted in six broods on 26th July. Max. 22 on 18th March.

Royd Moor Res. – three pairs present on 9th May, one of which bred successfully, rearing two young.

Castle Dam – one pair bred.

Other sites with birds were **Denby Dale** – present throughout the summer from 5th April but no breeding evidence, **Dovestones Res.** where probably bred, **Scammondon** – one on 3rd January and

Gunthwaite Dam – two on 1st January, singles on 27th March and 15th October.

COMMON CRANE

Grus grus

Rare visitor

An adult flew northwest over **Annat Royd Lane** at c.1400 hrs. on 27th March, to the delight of a few fortunate observers who were watching the Shorelark! (DHP).

The third record for the area, following singles in 1987 and 1993.

OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus ostralegus

Rare breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor

At **Winscar Res.**, which hosted the area's first successful breeding in 1999, an adult returned on 29th February and had been joined by a second on 14th March. By 29th May five birds were present, including one on a nest. The single young which was produced unfortunately died and the adults were last seen on 27th June.

Elsewhere birds were reported, mainly in spring, from a further 13 sites.

Highburton – one flew over the village pub at 2330 hrs. on 21st March (BAJMD). It did – honestly!!

Ringstone Edge Res. – two from 15th March to 21st April and on 30th April, with one on 12th and 15th May; four on 2nd and 8th July, three adults on 14th/15th July, an adult on 23rd July and three on 6th September. This must be a potential breeding site.

Nont Sarah's – three adults were present on 14th July soon after the sighting at Ringstone Edge and perhaps were the same individuals.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – single birds on 7th, 10th (moving west) and 22nd April, two on 29th July and one on 1st September.

Dewsbury SF – two on 16th and 25th March, three on 13th and two on 25th April, one from 7th to 13th May and on 29th May and 7th June.

Broadstones Res. – one on 22nd April, probably one of three birds at Winscar on the same date.

Royd Moor Res. – one on 24th April.

Scout Dike Res. – one on 28th April.

Slaithwaite – one flew east on 11th May.

Horbury Wyke – one flew over on 14th May.

Langsett Res. – one on 8th July.

Millbank Flash, Thornhill – one on 20th August.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Charadrius dubius

Scarce summer visitor and irregular breeder

A disappointing year after the successes of 1999. One pair bred and at a second site up to six birds were present and display observed.

Site 1 – a single bird had arrived on 15th April, with a pair present by 30th, the male giving anxiety calls while the female incubated; three birds, including a juv., were present on 21st June, with the last reported sighting a single bird on 26th June. Also bred here in 1999.

Site 2 – the first spring arrival was on 15th March, with two birds present on 17th and display was observed on 5th and 17th April. Three birds, one possibly a juv., seen on 27th May and six on 16th June, the last date notified. Two pairs bred successfully at this site in 1999.

Birds were present at seven other localities.

Dewsbury SF – the first were three on 23rd March, increasing to four on 30th and four were present and displaying on 22nd/23rd May. The only autumn record was of four on 12th July.

Victoria (Hepworth) – a pair in a ploughed field on 15th April had gone the next day.

Horbury area – two at the Strands on 8th April were the first. At the Wyke, a single bird on 13th/14th, 20th, 27th May and 1st June, with two on 25th May; three on 3rd August were the last.

Castle Dam, Penistone – one on 12th May.

Millbank Flash, Thornhill – a singleton on 29th May and 1st June, two adults and a juv. on 16th July, a juv. on 22nd and two juvs. on 25th July.

Upper Windleden Res. – two, including one adult, on 8th July.

Royd Moor Res. – single birds on 18th July and 13th August.

RINGED PLOVER

Charadrius hiaticula

Uncommon passage visitor

Another good series of records from eight sites.

Winscar Res. – one on 12th March, associated with the arrival of Curlew and Redshank (MC).

Dewsbury SF – in March one on 23rd and two on 30th, one on 17th April and then a good presence in May and June, with in May two from 8th to 10th, one from 16th to 26th, two from 29th to 22nd June, then singles on 23rd and 29th (JH).

Ringstone Edge Res. – three on 17th May (DHP).

Millbank Flash – one on 20th and two on 29th May, one on 1st June (DHP).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – two adults on 10th August, one adult on 16th August.

Broadstones Res. – one on 12th August.

Deer Hill Res. – two immatures on 11th September (MLD, KW).

Harden – one flew north calling at 1640 hrs. on 25th September, a day of considerable passerine movement (MC).

GOLDEN PLOVER

Pluvialis apricaria

Migrant breeder (2). Common passage and winter visitor

Birds were even scarcer in January and February than they were in 1999, two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th February and c.70 at **Ringstone Edge** on 25th February the only ones reported in this period. Numbers improved in March, but none appeared until 13th, when c.70 were in fields to the west of **Broadstones Res.**, with a build-up there to c.160 on 20th increasing to a max. of c.200 on 15th April. Birds did not arrive at **Blackmoorfoot** until 20th March when there were 38, followed by 33 on 24th, 22 on 26th, 66 on 29th, a high peak of 173 on 30th, but reduced to 33 on 31st. At **Nopper Road** nearby, c.40 were also present on 30th. The only other sites with flocks of birds in March were **Spicer House Lane** which had c.200 on 20th, **Brown's Edge** where c.35 passed over on 22nd and

Ringstone Edge with 250 on 28th.

Interestingly despite this general lack of birds, display was noted at Tinker Hill, Harden on 21st March.

In April sightings were more frequent but still in low numbers. Blackmoorfoot had birds on 12 dates, with max. of 137 on 5th, 114 on 9th and 63 on 10th otherwise less than 50 and only single figures on five of the dates. Windmill Lane near Broadstones Lodge had c.110 on 14th increasing to 130 on 24th down to seven by 29th; c.50 were at Whitley Road on 8th and 18 at Castle Dam on 10th, with breeding and/or feeding birds in fields at Hade Edge and Flight Hill.

Few flocks were apparent in May, with Blackmoorfoot having a max. of 32 on 6th and up to 19 on 20 dates mainly in the second half of the month. The Broadstones area held from 6 to 18 birds between 25th May and 13th June.

Little breeding information was received but at least five pairs were located in the West Nab/Deer Hill area and one nest with eggs was found, as was one at Black Mnss. Two pairs bred at Tinker Hill and at Snailsden/Wetshaw Edge with a further pair at Little Lad. Unfortunately no details were received from two strongholds of the species at Dunford Bridge/Grain's Moss and Featherbed Moss/Birk's Moss.

Away from breeding areas just three sites reported birds in June/July – Blackmoorfoot had six to nine daily in June to 10th, followed by two to four to 30th and up to 17 on 14 days in July, while Broadstones had just six on 7th June and five on 16th July; one at Dewsbury SF on 5th July.

Probably indicative of a very poor season, post-breeding reports were well below average, both as regards localities and numbers of birds. Blackmoorfoot had 4 to 15 daily in August, a max. of eight on only 11 days in September, then just one on 27th November. Broadstones had three on 18th August, in October three on 13th and c.100 on 26th and c.40 on 16th December. Single birds flew over Spicer House Lane on 3rd and over Harden on 24th September, with one at Dewsbury SF on 21st September, and over Harden again on 1st and 4th October. The only grounded birds reported were c.35 at Windmill Lane on 24th October, 20 at Ringstone Edge on 27th October, 10 at Castle Dam on 3rd November, with 30 flying over Shepley on 30th November the last of the year.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare passage visitor

One at Dewsbury SF on 12th April was the only record (JH).

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Resident breeder (3). Numerous passage and winter visitor

Numbers were again low in the early winter period with a max. of c.350 in February and no flocks over double figures in March, when many birds had already returned to breeding territories. Post-breeding/passage flocks were at a peak in August/October with few remaining into the last two months of the year.

A clearer picture has emerged of the breeding situation as a result of a partial survey, notably within those parts of the area inside the Peak District National Park, carried out by Club members and staff at the RSPB Regional Office, Denby Dale. A minimum of 235 pairs was located, with concentrations in the Whitley Common/Ingirchworth (35 pairs), Hade Edge/Winscar (50 pairs), Flonch (62 pairs) and Digley (23 pairs) areas mainly on the in-bye on the moorland fringes.

The most significant counts are listed below:-

Blackmoorfoot – Jan max. 120 on 8th, 180+ on 15th; February 150 on 3rd, 164 on 11th, 210 on 13th; July 117 on 20th, 137 on 25th, 178 on 30th; August 242 on 3rd, 215 on 8th, 283 on 18th; September 283 on 5th, 320 on 30th; October 200 on 8th, 270 on 26th; November 160 on 9th; December 110 on 6th/7th, 140 on 28th.

Dewsbury SF – 40 on 2nd January rising to 202 moving SE on 10th February, 130 on 13th February and 28 on 20th March; 49 on 29th June, 79 on 3rd and c.100 on 9th July increasing in August to 148 on 17th and 125 on 25th. September numbers peaked at 141 on 1st and 167 on 25th, then 116 on 26th October with 140 on 29th.

Inghirchworth – c.170 on 22nd January, c.350 on 19th February; July 50 on 22nd and 26th; August a steady increase to c.230 on 13th and c.350 on 19th; December c.30 on 27th.

Scout Dike – c.180 on 6th February, c.120 from 25th July to 6th August, c.150 on 20th October.

Broadstones – February 160 on 20th, c.50 on 26th; July c.70 on 9th; August c.280 on 13th; October 300+ on 20th, c.350 on 26th; December c.60 on 27th.

Royd Moor – three males on territory by 20th February; c.220 on 20th August.

Windmill Lane – 150 on 13th October, 235+ on 13th November.

Ringstone Edge – 85 on 15th January, c.25 on 10th September, c.40 on 27th October.

Horbury Wyke – c.60 on 5th March, c.20 on 16th July, 160 on 3rd August, 72+ on 3rd September, 70 on 1st October.

Millbank Flash – 80 on 16th July.

Castle Dam – c.50 on 5th March, c.100 on 27th October.

Hartcliff Hill – c.150 on 12th November.

Outlane – c.90 on 17th December.

Smaller numbers, up to 50 birds, were reported from another half dozen sites. The only reports of birds overflying the area came from Harden, where 23 moved SW on a v.m.w. on 1st October, followed by 50+ over **Middlestown** the following day.

An interesting observation was of a bird attempting to land on the water with roosting gulls at **Langsett Res.** on 24th December (KC,RH).

A white bird was at **Millbank Flash** on 16th July (JRS) and a very pale buff-coloured individual regularly frequented fields near to **Dewsbury SF** in August/September (JH,BA). One at **Kirkheaton** on 23rd October was completely pale, mottled red-brown and cream (the “red-grizzled” variety of the pigeon fancier) (PF, via MLD). These last two sites are c.5 kms. apart and the same bird could have been involved in the sightings.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1-2). Uncommon passage visitor

Probably the worst year on record for this species, with spring passage noted at only two sites and no reports from breeding localities.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – one flew west on 14th February, three on 20th July and two on 10th August.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 13th April, 7th and 9th May with four on 10th May, then singles on 22nd June, 7th and 11th July.

Wessenden Head – heard on 16th May.

Ravensthorpe GPs – four on 4th June.

Horbury Wyke – a summer plumaged bird on 6th July.

Broadstones Res. – an adult flew in from the east on 16th July and one on 8th August.

Ringstone Edge Res. – one in summer plumage on 19th and 21st July, five on 17th September.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor

Dewsbury SF – a male in partial breeding plumage remained with the Lapwing flock from 5th to 9th July; seven, including five males, on 3rd to 8th September with an eighth bird on 6th, three remaining to 10th (JH,BA,DM,JRS).

Millbank Flash – singles on 16th July and 10th September, probably associated with the above sightings (JRS).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – single juvs. on 10th August (KW), 4th, 11th and 12th September and one on 25th September (MLD,DHP,KW).

Windmill Lane – a juv. with Lapwings on 30th August (BA,DM).

Ringstone Edge Res. – singles on 24th August and 17th/18th September (HBC).

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

There were records from just three sites.

Elland GPs – one on 2nd/3rd January (JB,JED) and 31st March (HBC).

Healey Mills – two flushed on 31st March (JRS).

Deer Hill – one in a nearby field on 19th November (DMP).

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

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

The highest counts in the early months, when birds were scarce, were at **Horbury Wyke** where c.25 were flushed from one small area on 5th February – if birds had been evenly spread over the whole site this would have resulted in a count of at least 100 birds (DHP) and at **Ringstone Edge Res.** where there were 27 on 18th March. **Royd Moor Res.** held 16 on 13th February and 20 on 12th March. Elsewhere eight were at **Deanhead Res.** on 13th February, seven at **Healey** on 31st March, two at **Cubley** on 1st January, one at **Wholestone Moor** on 16th March and one at **Shepley** on 18th March, with five at **Millbank Flash** from 7th to 17th April.

Birds returned to breeding territories from 25th March and display/territorial behaviour was reported from the following sites:- **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th and 15th April, **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 30th April, **Broadstones** in May/June, **March Haigh** (2 “drummers”), **Digley**, **Flouch area** (3 “drummers”) and in the **Winscar/Harden area** at **Tinker Hill**, **Sandridge Moss**, **Carlecotes**, **Snailsden Moss**, **Wetshaw Edge**, **Hade Edge**, **Law** and **Swiner Top** and in the **Little Don Valley** near **Lower Hardron** (two pairs). The only confirmed breeding was at **Fox House Moss**.

Post-breeding season records came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on just five dates, max. two birds, **Dewsbury SF** two on 20th September, **Horbury Wyke** which had 17 on 29th October, **Royd Moor Res.** 15 on 13th November, **Ringstone Edge Res.** six on 20th September and from three sites, **Shepley** (3), **Bretton Lakes** and **Cubley** on 31st December.

Birds moving through or out of the area were noted on v.m.ws. at **Harden**, where six moved SW on 16th September and a total of 27 (3+13+10 in the morning plus 1 in the afternoon) circled up from the moor to the S/SE on 22nd September, a day of considerable movement (MC).

WOODCOCK *Scotopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2) and uncommon winter visitor

Roding birds were reported only from **Crossley's Plantation** (2 birds), near **Kirkburton**, **Storthes Hall Woods** and **Yateholme** (2 birds), a decrease on most recent years. No information was received on the situation in the **Little Don Valley**.

In the first winter period, one was at **Denby Dale** on 14th February and one was flushed from a track at **Holme Styes** on 28th April.

In the later months singles were at **Denby Dale** in November on 10th (dead) and 16th (alive), at **Bretton Lakes** on 17th November and 16th December, in the **Grimescar Valley** and **Longwood Valley** on 30th December and at **Scout Dike Res.** on 31st December.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT*Limosa limosa*

Rare passage visitor

At **Dewsbury SF** five birds came in high from the NW on 17th April and circled for c.20 minutes before continuing eastwards in heavy rainy conditions (JH).

The only other records were of a bird in full summer plumage which flew west at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25th July (MLD) and one at **Horbury Wyke** on 15th August (PDB).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT*Limosa lapponica*

Rare passage visitor

One flew north calling over **Harden** at 0030 hrs. on 27th April (MC) and one in breeding plumage was at **Elysium** fields with two Golden Plovers on 7th May (BA,DM,MC).

WHIMBREL*Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Four which flew west at **Blackmoorfoot** on 22nd April (MLD) were the first for the year, followed in May by singles at **Broadstones** on 8th (DHP), **Scout Dike Res.** flying north on 13th (BBSG) and one also flying north calling at **Harden** on 21st (MC).

In autumn one was at **Ringstone Edge** on 23rd July (JED), two flew south at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th August (DMO) and one SW at **Ingbirchworth** on 17th August (BBSG).

CURLEW*Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (2) and common passage visitor

Very early birds were at **Annat Royd Lane** on 25th, at **Ringstone Edge** (5) on 28th and over **Lepton** on 29th February. As is usual birds then began to appear with greater frequency from early March. In the first half of the month birds appeared at 11 sites as follows:- **Harden** one over on 4th and a flock of 10 on 12th, at **Horbury Wyke** and over **Millbank, Thornhill** on 5th, at **Ringstone Edge** five, **Ingbirchworth** two and **Scammonden** 11 all on 6th, with 27 at the last site on 11th, **Greenfield Road** 11 on 9th, **Digley** on 11th, **Broadstones** six on 10th and a flock of c.40 on 13th, **Blackmoorfoot** two on 14th and one over **Shepley** on 15th.

At the lowland site of **Dewsbury SF** two passed through on 21st and one on 26th March and movement through there was still continuing in April with singles on 9th, 16th and 18th as well as at **Harden** where six flew north on 7th, a day of Fieldfare and Meadow Pipit passage and on 10th and 22nd single birds passed over **Blackmoorfoot**.

Breeding occurred at **Annat Royd Lane**, **Deer Hill** (2 pairs), **Broadstones** (8 territories), **Harden/Winscar** (6 pairs), **Hazelhead**, **Snailsden** (9+ territories) and **Carlecotes** (2+ territories) and probably at **Scammonden**, **Digley/Bilberry**, **Wessenden** and at lower altitudes at **Emley Moor**, **Stocks Moor Common** and near **Clayton West**.

There were no significant post-breeding gatherings, max. being 9 at **Bosbaw Whams** on 8th August, and the only later records were singles at **Royd Moor** and **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th August with another NW at the latter site on 28th August, followed by late singles at **Dewsbury SF** on 1st and 13th October.

REDSHANK*Tringa totanus*

Migrant breeder (1)

A less successful year for this species so far as breeding is concerned, with confirmation made at only one site, although no information was received from the **Black Moss** area where two pairs bred in 1999.

First of the year was one at **Horbury Wyke** on the early date of 5th February, with regular sightings there to 10th April usually singly, but two on 11th March and three on 25th March. Four birds were present at **Winscar** on 12th March and up to four present regularly to 1st May. Other birds occurred in March at **Royd Moor** on 20th and at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd.

In April singles were at **Royd Moor** and **Ingbirchworth** on 1st (same bird?), at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 5th with two there on 9th to 11th, with one also on the 9th at **Millbank Flash** and at **Castle Dam** on 23rd. Away from probable breeding areas the only May report came from **Royd Moor** on 9th and there was one at **Horbury Wyke** on 6th June.

The breeding situation in the **Winscar/Harden** area was unclear. One pair certainly bred, two adults and two newly fledged young being seen near **Harden** on 10th June, but at least one other pair may have bred. A third pair held breeding territory at **Foxhouse Moss**.

In autumn birds were present at five sites – **Horbury Wyke** three on 6th and one on 16th July, **Blackmoorfoot** three on 14th July and one from 13th to 16th September, **Ringstone Edge** a singleton on 15th and three on 26th July, **Royd Moor** one on 1st and 22nd October and **Dewsbury SF** one on 20th September.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage visitor

Reported from eight sites, with just a single spring record.

Millbank Flash – singles on 6th May and 28th August (JRS).

Ringstone Edge Res. – one on 22nd July (HBC).

Broadstones Res. – two on 13th and one flying SE on 27th August (MC,BBSG).

Harden Res. – four on 13th August had departed by first light on 14th (MC).

Royd Moor Res. – one on 15th August (BBSG).

Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 19th August remained to 20th when it left to the southwest (MC).

Dewsbury SF – two on 27th/28th August, one on 30th August (JH).

Langsett Res. – four on 21st September were later seen flying SE over Barnside Moor (BBSG).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

A very poor year for this species with reports from only four sites, all in the Calder Valley, and in contrast to 1999 mainly in spring. The same individual could well have been involved in all the spring sightings.

Dewsbury SF – one remained intermittently from 2nd March to 23rd April; three on 7th July, then one from 24th July to 1st September (JH).

Ravensthorpe GPs – one on 15th and 17th March, 5th, 9th 10th and 24th April (JRS,BA,DHP).

Horbury Wyke – one on 19th March and 16th April (BA).

Millbank Flash, Thornhill – one on 11th April; one on 16th and 25th July could have been same as **Dewsbury SF** individual (JRS,DHP).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage visitor

A single bird was at **Dewsbury SF** on 26th August (JH).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2)

Reports were received from 20 sites, at 11 of which breeding probably occurred. Birds were

present between 15th April and the late date of 21st October.

Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 15th, four on 19th and one on 24th and 27th April; one on 17th and 26th July, 21st August and 21st October.

Dewsbury SF – the first were five on 16th April, followed by four on 18th and 26th April; one on 23rd June, four from 4th to 12th and again on 19th July, then one on 12th August.

Winscar Res. – one on 18th April increasing to at least four by 28th. At least two pairs bred, with a recently fledged juv. present on 8th July. Up to two birds seen throughout July until the last on 22nd August.

Broadstones Res. – singles on 19th April and 25th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – singles on 19th/20th April, 8th and 24th May; in autumn one on 21st, two on 24th to 30th and one on 31st July, one from 1st to 17th August; in September one on 1st to 5th, two on 21st, one on 23rd, four on 24th and one from 25th to 27th.

Ravensthorpe GPs – two on 24th and 29th April. Four were present on 1st May, when display took place and two birds remained to 4th July but there was no further evidence of breeding.

Deanhead/Scammonden – a pair on territory from 30th April; one on 28th July.

Harden Res. – one on territory on 30th April, copulation observed on 14th May.

Deer Hill – a pair attempted to breed but the eggs were predated; one on 8th September.

Wessenden – a pair in the lower valley on 14th May.

Langsett Res. – two pairs bred; last sighting was one on 6th September.

Snailsden Res. – one pair bred.

Lower Windleden Res. – two pairs present, but only one pair bred.

Upper Windleden Res. – two adults with at least one young present on 8th July.

Millbank Flash – singles on 4th June, 23rd July and 19th and 28th August.

Digley – two on 7th June and 17th July.

Yateholme Res. – two birds near the overflow on 8th June.

Dovestones Res. – one or two pairs probably bred.

Ringstone Edge Res. – in July two on 21st, one on 26th and three on 28th.

Royd Moor Res. – singles on 25th July and 4th August.

An interesting observation in thick fog on 6th July was of one on the garden wall and in the driveway of the observer's home at **Harden**, where it attempted to feed from the ground beneath a parked car (MC).

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Rare passage visitor

One was at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 23rd July (HBC).

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare passage visitor

One of the highlights of the year was an adult female in full summer plumage at **Horbury Wyke** on 6th July (BA,DM,JRS). Discovered at c.1100 hrs. it remained until dusk, delighting observers from far and wide, but had departed at first light the following day. Apparently it is only the eighth British record of a bird in this plumage.

The fourth record for the Club area and the first since 1983.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

Up to six birds were reported during the year.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – an adult on 7th, 10th, 16th and 18th January and 11 dates in February. A2ndW. on 18th/19th January and an adult and a 1stW. on 25th February (MLD,KW,JKP,JW,PDB). The same adult may have accounted for all the sightings.

Blackley Tip – an adult on 15th January moved to Ringstone Edge Res. on 22nd/23rd, then was back at Blackley on 12th February, having also been seen at Barkisland on 23rd January (HBC).

Ringstone Edge Res. – a 1stW. present from 1240 to 1330 hrs. on 15th January (JED); the Blackley adult present on 22nd/23rd January (HBC).

Langsett Res. – an adult in the roost on 22nd January (SA,viaBBSG).

LITTLE GULL

Larus minutus

Scarce passage visitor

For the third successive year the species appeared at **Dewsbury SF**, a flock of nine birds flying west up the R.Calder on 23rd January (JH).

Royd Moor Res. hosted three adults on 9th December, two remaining to 10th (RJB,MC).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor and former breeder (1)

This species is now mainly a winter visitor, with significant roosts at **Blackmoorfoot and Langsett Reservoirs**. Few counts were received and the only winter counts at the first site gave a combined total for this species and Common Gull.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – January 6150 on 9th and 6800 on 18th, both counts combined with Common Gull; 181 on 25th July, 357 on 16th August.

Langsett Res. – c.1350 on 2nd January, c.1200 on 16th January and c.1000 on 24th December.

Dewsbury SF – 955 on 2nd January, 2500 on 10th January, 1800 on 9th February and 2000 on 16th March, all counts in the morning shortly after the break-up of the roost at Pugney's CP.

Horbury Strands – c.500 feeding after the R.Calder had flooded the area.

Ingbirchworth Res. – c.200 on 1st January, c.450 roosting on 5th February and c.600 on 6th; max. of c.200 in March, c.160 on 17th October, c.200 on 12th November and c.300 on 2nd December.

Royd Moor Res. – c.320 on 15th January decreasing to 52 on 1st April; c.80 on 16th September.

Scout Dike Res. – max. c.550 on 6th February.

Digley Res. – c.100 on 15th January, c.50 on 5th November.

Bretton Lakes – c. 100 on 21st January and c.100, mainly immatures, on 3rd September; 200+ on 3rd December.

Lindley Rec. – up to 100 in January/February and up to 50 in December.

Scammonden Dam – 161 on 17th September.

Broadstones Res. – c.160 on 23rd September.

Smaller numbers, up to 50 birds, were reported from a further four sites.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor

Few records were received with reports from 13 sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – no specific counts were made in January to March or in the period November/December. See under Black-headed Gull for combined totals of the two species, in which the former is likely to be much the more numerous. Maxima in other months were three in April, nil in May, two in June and July, six in August, eight in September and 42 in October.

Ingbirchworth Res. – c.65 on 1st January, 116 on 5th February, a max. of 23 in March and four in June, a high count of 25 (in nearby Spicer House Lane) on 11th July, 12 on 20th October and up to 38 in December.

Langsett Res. – c.170 on 8th and c.225 on 16th January, in December c.30 on 17th rising to c.150 on 24th.

Digley Res. – c.40 on 15th January, 12 on 5th November.

Broadstones Res. – c.100 on 26th February; first autumn passage birds were two on 16th July and a total of 86 on 16th December.

Royd Moor Res. – 50+ on 13th March, 89 on 25th August and 14 on 20th October.

Dewsbury SF – 309 passed west on 23rd March.

Scammonden Dam – 84 on 18th August.

Smaller numbers, up to c.30, were reported from **Lindley, Scout Dike Res., Kirkheaton, Woodsome** and **Shelley** mainly at the beginning and end of the year.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus fuscus

Common passage visitor

Occurs most frequently between April and October with only small numbers, usually in single figures, in the winter months. There was little evidence this year of spring passage birds. Reported from 13 sites, mainly the reservoirs at Blackmoorfoot, Langsett and Royd Moor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – in January present on 11 dates, max. four birds, in February on seven dates with a max. of six birds, no counts in March; present on nine days in April, max. 167 on 23rd, otherwise less than 90, no counts in May, 37 on 22nd June, July max. of 128 on 30th, in August 453 on 24th, 412 on 28th and 254 on 16th; September 584 on 11th, 266 on 20th and 627 on 25th; in October 314 on 5th, 258 on 12th, no counts in November, then 17 on 2nd December.

Langsett Res. – three in the roost on 2nd January, 23 on 21st June, four on 21st August, 35 on 6th September; 381 flew in from the east in two hours on 11th September. There were daytime roost figures of c.900 on 16th September and c.700 on 17th. Seven roosted on 17th December.

Royd Moor Res. – no reports until 18 on 28th July, gradually increasing to c.450 on 25th August. Variable numbers were then present in September, with max. of 585 on 8th and c.600 on 12th and 27th. In October numbers declined from c.550 on 1st to c.100 on 30th, followed by c.90 on 5th November reducing to single figures by midmonth. On 1st October at least 11 of the Scandinavian race “intermedius” were present (BBSG).

Ingbirchworth Res. – reported in January, March, September, October and November but with a maximum of only seven in October.

Broadstones Res. – c.215 on 17th August.

Harden – small numbers of passage birds moving mainly between south and WSW from early June, increasing in July to August and September.

Single figures were reported from an additional nine locations.

HERRING GULL

Larus argentatus

Common passage and winter visitor

Mainly a winter visitor to the area, with two sites, Blackmoorfoot and Langsett Reservoirs holding considerable roosting numbers.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – max. of 407 on 9th and 437 on 18th January, 488 on 3rd and 407 on 11th February, no counts in March, only four birds in April, a single bird on one date in May, none in June/July, one on two August dates, a max. of two on five dates in September and two dates in October, increasing gradually then to 73 on 9th, 117 on 20th and 142 on 21st November but no counts in December. A leucistic 1stW. was present on nine dates between 17th January and 11th March and a sub-adult with yellow legs of the “not Yellow-legged Gull” variety on 10th/11th July.

Langsett Res. – c.800 on 16th January, one roosting on 17th September, 15 on 10th October, 135 on

17th and c.1300 on 30th December. An adult of the Scandinavian race "argentatus" was found dead on the dam wall on 4th December and a leucistic bird was present on 24th December (BBSG).

Inghirchworth Res. – monthly max. of eight in January, four in March and one in June, with 125 moving NW and one west in eight hours on 23rd January.

Denby Dale – a flock of 40+ flew NW on 4th February.

Small numbers were also reported moving over Shelley, New Mill and Harden.

This is a very much under-reported species, with records from only eight locations.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Birds were again reported from six localities, mainly in the late summer/early autumn period. How many different individuals were involved at each of the three main sites is difficult to ascertain.

Blackley Tip – two adults on 17th January, with one on 19th (JED).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – birds were present on 16 dates between 25th July and 23rd November. Single adults occurred on 25th and 27th July, 3rd August, 4th, 11th, 12th, 20th, 25th and 28th September, 5th October and 20th and 23rd November; a sub-adult on 28th August, an adult and a sub-adult on 1st September, two adults on 3rd October and an adult and a 1stW. on 20th October (MLD,KW,JKP).

Ringstone Edge Res. – an adult on 29th/31st July, 2nd/3rd and 7th/8th August with two adults on 6th August (DHP,HBC); probably only two birds involved.

Royd Moor Res. – reported on 13 dates between 7th August and 30th September, with a minimum of eight different birds in the period 7th August/3rd September, mostly 1st/2nd year birds but at least one 3rd year and a max. of two adults at any one time. Numbers increased from one adult in early August to two adults and 5 to 6 immatures in late August/early September. Details – in August one ad. on 7th, 2 ads. + 1 2ndS. on 13th, 2 ads. on 19th and 25th, at least 1 ad. on 28th; in September 1 3rdW. on 3rd, 2 ads. on 5th and 8th, a different ad. on 9th, 2 ads. on 17th and a single ad. on 24th and 30th. Three different adults were considered to be involved in the September records. Five or six different 1stW./2nd yr. birds were present on various dates from 19th August to 30th September (RUB,MC,DHP,MCW).

Langsett Res. – an adult was in the roost on 24th December (EAF,RT via BBSG).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Scarce winter visitor

Blackley Tip – a 1stW. was present on 9th and 15th January (MC,HBC).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – a 1stW. on 15th/16th January was probably the Blackley Tip bird (MLD,JKP,PDB).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor

After a blank year in 1999, a welcome return to form by this species.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – a single 1stW. on 9th to 17th and 19th February (MLD,KW,JW, et al).

Inghirchworth Res. – a 2ndW. individual on 12th February (PAS via BBSG).

Langsett Res. – a 2ndW. bird on the very early date of 4th November (MCW).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor

Once again the only site from which records were received on a regular basis was Blackmoorfoot where numbers were lower than usual at the year end.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – three counts in January produced totals of 213 on 9th, 231 on 13th and 223 on 18th and in February there were 116 on 1st, 43 on 11th and 34 on 14th. No counts were made in March, following which there were no birds until one on 4th September. In November there was a gradual increase to 23 birds on 20th, after which no more counts were made.

Ingbirchworth Res. – 10 flyovers on 9th January, 18 on 23rd and a single bird in November.

Harden – reported as very scarce, with only occasional birds passing over in the winter months. Single individuals were also reported from **Broadstones Res.**, **Scissett**, **Shelley** and **Bretton Lakes**.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce passage visitor

The only report was of five birds at **Langsett Res.** on 31st October (JMT via BBSG).

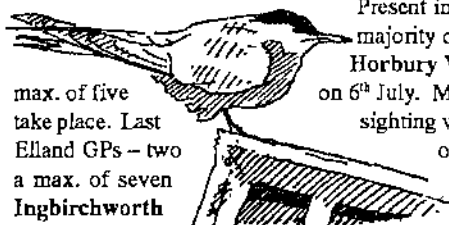
SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Scarce passage migrant

One at **Ringslone Edge Res.** on 24th May (HBC) was the sole record and the first since 1997.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage and summer visitor, increasing



max. of five
take place. Last
Elland GPs – two
a max. of seven
Ingbirchworth
M i l l b a n k

Present in the area from 21st April to 1st September, with the majority of sightings as usual at waters in the Calder Valley. **Horbury Wyke** – one to four regularly from 21st April, with a on 6th July. Mating was observed on 1st May but breeding did not sighting was on 1st September.

on 24th April, then regular sightings to 22nd July with birds on 20th July and the last on 19th August.

Res. – one on 26th April.

Flash, Thornhill – two on 27th April, with two

pairs displaying here from 16th to 22nd June although no breeding occurred. Seven birds present on 16th July included three juvs. being fed by adults and three juvs. and two to three adults were present on 22nd July.

Bretton Lakes – one on 24th June.

Scammonden Dam – two came in from the east at 0805 hrs. on 25th June, leaving at 0900 hrs.

Dewsbury SF – max. counts were eight on 21st July, five on 8th August and eight flying west on 31st August.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – an adult on 1st August.

Four birds which flew south at **Royd Moor Res.** on 19th August were not specifically identified but were either this or the next species (BBSG).

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon passage visitor

The only record was of one at **Elland GPs** on 13th April (HBC).

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Uncommon passage visitor

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** three full summer plumaged birds on 30th April, one on 6th and three on 12th May (DMO, DHP).

Two flew west through **Dewsbury SF** on 7th May (JH).

RAZORBILL

Alca torda

Rare visitor

Dewsbury SF – probably the most amazing occurrence of the year was that of two birds which flew north up the R. Calder past the hide at 0820 hrs. on 23rd September, keeping low and flying directly towards Dewsbury town centre until lost from view (JH).

This is only the second record of this species being seen alive in inland Yorkshire, the first being two at Pugney's CP on 26th April 1999.

[There are previous records of dead birds in the Club area – near Marsden on 2nd May 1906 and again near Marsden on 2nd August 1907 (I suspect that these records may refer to the same bird - BA) and one at Wessenden in November 1911].

FERAL PIGEON

Columba livia

Resident breeder (3)

The only count was 375 in the **town centre** on 16th December (DMO).

STOCK DOVE

Columba oenas

Resident breeder (2-3)

Recorded at 28 sites, with breeding/probable breeding reported at nine of these. Most of the flocks reported were unusually in the late months of the year.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – recorded in only eight months and on only 15 dates, with none in June/July and September/October and a max. of only three birds. This represents a very serious decline at this site.

Broadstones Res. – 16 on 3rd January.

Deer Hill – seven on 18th January, 14 on 2nd May.

Shepley – 13 on 4th March.

Annat Royd Lane – 51 on 28th March.

Ingbirchworth – 33 on 14th April, 30 on 9th December.

Bartin (above Digley) – 11 on 30th April.

Upper Cumberworth/Shelley – c.50 on 17th November.

Scout Dike Res. – max. c.45 on 9th December.

Royd Moor – c.60 on 17th and c.300 feeding with corvids on 27th December.

Numbers elsewhere did not reach double figures.

Breeding occurred at **Penny Spring Wood, Lumb Lane, Emley Moor, Lower Stones Wood, Shepley, Holme Styes and Denby Dale** and probably at **Bretton Park and Lepton**.

WOOD PIGEON

Columba palumbus

Resident breeder (4) and numerous winter visitor

There was a slight increase in the number of records received of this species, mainly at the end of the year, involving birds moving through the area or going to roost. In the breeding season present wherever there is suitable nesting habitat, including heavily built-up areas.

Grimescar Valley – 40+ feeding on 1st January.

Lepton – 50+ on 10th January.

Storther's Hall Woods – "hundreds" roosting in both winter periods.

Harden – a movement of c.340 birds on 4th November, with 160 north on 5th.

Ingbirchworth – c.380 flew E/SE on 5th November.

Bretton Lakes – c.3000 on 9th November and 1200 on 16th December.

Scammonden – three flocks totalling c.350 birds moved south and SW during the afternoon of 10th November.

Lindley Moor – three flocks of 1600, 700 and 35 passed south and SW between 1400 and 1545 hrs. on 24th November, 200 south on 28th, 70+ south on 29th and 50+ south on 30th, all during the afternoon – going to roost?

Dalton – c.1000 moved SSE in four flocks at 1445 hrs. on 3rd December, with c.1500 in the same direction at 1440 hrs. on 4th, presumably going to roost in the Storthes Hall area.

Longwood Valley – 600 flew NW on 13th December.

Shelley – a regular winter flock of c.100.

Digley/Yatcholme – at the end of December, c.30 were the only species in the area after the severe freeze.

COLLARED DOVE

Streptopelia decaocto

Resident breeder (3)

Only 10 records were received from eight localities, including only two referring to breeding.

Ingbirchworth – 78 on 15th January and 63 roosting at the treatment works on 10th December.

Cubley – max. count was a flock of 16 on 15th January.

Hinchliffe Mill – one on 22nd April was the only garden sighting of the year.

Harden – one on wires for c.20 minutes on 9th September was a migrant – birds are not normally recorded at this site.

Royd Moor – one on 20th October and a flock of 15+ on 13th November.

Shelley – up to 10 present throughout.

Bred at **Dalton** and strongly suspected at **New Mill**.

CUCKOO

Cuculus canorus

Migrant breeder (1-2)

There was a slight increase in the number of sites (20) from which birds were reported, between the very early date of 10th April and 5th August. No evidence of breeding was submitted.

Early calling birds were reported at **Denby Dale** on 10th and at **Bretton Lakes** on 16th April, followed on 22nd by singles at **Winscar** and on 24th at **Deer Hill** and a rufous-phase bird at **North America, Langsett**. The **Winscar** bird was also reported at **Dunford Bridge Cycle Track** on 29th April, at **Harden** on 25th May and 2nd June and at the **Winscar Dam** to 6th June.

In May birds were at **Margery Wood, Cawthorne** on 7th, at **Millmoor, Meltham** and **Millbank, Thnrnhill** (rufous-phase) on 8th, **Marsden Eastergate** on 12th and in the **Wessenden Valley** from 15th, by which date three birds including a female were at **Deer Hill**. Up to two birds were in the **Little Don Valley** above **Brookhouse Bridge** in May/early June with singles at **Dnvestones, Cliff Wood, Royd Edge** and above **Bilberry Res.** in June.

Single birds were at **Flockton** and in the **Middlestown/Horbury** area on 6th July. At **Dewsbury SF** singles on 30th June, one remaining from 3rd to 29th July and one on 5th August, the last of the year.

LITTLE OWL

Athene noctua

Resident breeder (2)

Reports were received from 45 localities, many involving pairs of birds, with relatively few records outside the breeding season.

Breeding was confirmed, single pairs unless otherwise stated, at **Broadstones** (2 pairs), near **Castle**

Hill, Royd Moor (2 young fledged), Wooldale, Hazlehead Hall (2+ young fledged), Fullshaw (1+ young fledged), Cranberry (probably 2 pairs) and Cubley/Roughbitchworth (at least 10 pairs, with a minimum of eight pairs breeding successfully).

Additional pairs were present and probably bred near Blackmoorfoot, Skelmanthorpe, Upper Denby, Annat Royd Lane, Lumb Lane, Digley, New Mill, Emley Moor, Farnley Tyas, near Penny Spring Wood, Highburton, Whitley Common, Tinker Hill, near Holme Styes, Whitegate Lane, Victoria, Shepley (2 pairs), Denby Dale and Edge Hill, with sightings of single birds also in the breeding season at Horbury SF, Lindley Moor, Bretton, Wholestone Moor, Kirkheaton, Colnebridge, Flinckton, Grange Moor and Hepworth.

A total of 50 breeding pairs in the area would probably not be an overestimate.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2-3)

In a total of 30 localities from which this species was reported breeding was confirmed at only two sites, Royd Moor Res. and Spring Wood, Netherton.

Pairs were present and probably bred at Denby Dale, Shepley (2), Hinchliffe Mill, New Mill, Storthes Hall Woods, Shelley, Molly Carr Woods, Thornhill (2), Winscar, Langsett and Cliff Wood.

Roadside casualties were found at Kirkheaton in April and Upper Cumberworth in July.

This remains a much under-reported species.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1)

After recent successes this was a disappointing year, with breeding occurring at just one of the sites occupied in 1999. Wing-clapping display and calling were witnessed on 20th March and one young bird was heard late in the season giving the food-begging call, but it is not known if it survived to fledging.

There were no other sightings away from this one locality.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Resident/migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage visitor

The first sighting of the year was on 3rd March in the Harden/Winscar/Snailsden area (MC). A single bird, rarely two, continued to be seen in this area up to mid-June and again from late September to the year end (MC). Two very wet birds were present together on fence posts on 7th October and were probably migrants; one had disappeared by 20th October, the second being seen occasionally to 25th December.

One pair bred and a second pair probably did so at sites in the south of the area.

There were no records away from these localities.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

Migrant breeder (2-3)

The first arrival was on the typical date of 4th May at Ingbirchworth, followed by birds at Shepley, Whitley Willows, Horbury Wyke (3+) and Dewshury SF (35) on 5th, at Dalton, Blackmoorfoot, Crosland Moor and Millbank Flash (75) on 6th, Harden and Dalton (2) on 7th, Hinchliffe Mill and New Mill on 8th and 50 at Dewsbury SF on 9th, with a more general arrival from 10th.

The largest numbers reported in the spring/early summer were c.100 at Ingbirchworth on 27th May, 20+ at Dalton on 12th May, 116 at Dewshury SF on 5th June, where there were 85 on 22nd and 70 at Tinker Hill on 7th June.

Counts at **Blackmoorfoot** were in May up to 26 daily with max. of 70 on 18th, 65 on 22nd, 80 on 23rd and 170 on 29th; in June 90 on 1st, 70 on 2nd and 7th, 78 on 11th and 60+ on 22nd.

Breeding occurred at **Denby Dale**, **Dalton** and five pairs in a housing estate at **Thornhill** and doubtless went unreported at many other sites, but numbers were lower than normal at **Lindley Moor**, **Lockwood** and **Hinchliffe Mill**.

Max. counts in the later months were at **Dewsbury SF** which had 83 on 5th July, 325 on 9th and 80 on 19th. Elsewhere the highest counts were 37 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 24th July and up to 50 regularly in the **Thornhill** area in July.

Most birds had left the area by mid-August, the latest being one at **Stainland** and seven at **Ringstone Edge** on 18th August, singles at **Ingbirchworth** on 27th August and 3rd September, two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th August, two over **Dalton** on 23rd August, one at **Horbury Wyke** on 1st September, then very late singles at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th and flying east on 29th.

KINGFISHER

Alcedo atthis

Resident breeder (1)

There was a decrease of almost 25% from the previous year in the number of sites from which this species was reported. Records were received from all the main rivers and streams in the area but the **R.Holme** was the source of only one sighting above **Lockwood**.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Lakes** (at least one pair), on the **R.Calder** between **Ravensthorpe** and **Horbury SF** (four pairs), the **Fenay Beck** at **Dogley** and **Waterloo** and on the section of the **R.Don** within our area (four pairs). Other sightings in the breeding season, usually of single birds, came from the **R.Holme** at **Mytholm Bridge**, **Lockwood Brewery Dam**, on the **R.Colne** near **Aspley**, near the **McAlpine Stadium**, at **Deighton** and between **Sparth Res.** and **Marsden**, on the **R.Dearne** near **Clayton West**.

Winter records came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (61 dates to 13th March, 17 dates near the year end), **Lees Mill**, the canal at **Golcar** and **Linthwaite**, **Denby Dale** (two dates only), **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Meltham Bar**. No reports were received from the **Elland** area.

Up to five birds were present at **Bretton Lakes** in November/December.

An interesting observation was made on 17th April at **Horbury Wyke** where one was taken by a Sparrowhawk, which dropped the bird when surprised in flight by the observer. The bird was picked up undamaged although apparently dead, but after a few seconds in the hand it recovered and flew off strongly down the **R.Calder** (BA).

GREEN WOODPECKER

Picus viridis

Resident breeder (1-2)

A slight increase to 35 in the number of sites reporting this species but still down on 1998. Several reports were of birds heard calling, but not seen.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Lakes** (one pair), **Digley**, **New House Wood**, with fledged juveniles probably bred locally as this species is regarded as being sedentary, at **Horbury Wyke**, **Scammonden** and **Denby Dale**. Elsewhere in the breeding season birds were seen and/or heard at **Thornhill Park** (pair), **Hill Top Res.**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Woodsume Valley**, **Wessenden Valley**, **Storches Hall Woods**, **Mully Carr Wood** (pair), **Dalton Bank**, **New Mill**, **Carr Wood**, **Marsden**, **Elland GPs**, **Scout Dike Res.** and **Gunthwaite Dam**.

At other times of the year birds were present at **Shelley** and **Emley Moor** (both first records for these localities), **Dovestones**, **Honley**, **Grimescar**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Langsett Res.**, **Lindley** and **Shepley**.

One was in a treeless area near **Winscar Res.** on 15th February (DHP).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Dendrocopos major

Resident breeder (2-3)

Records were received from more than 50 locations with breeding confirmed, often in the form of recently fledged young in late spring/early summer, at Lockwood, Digley, Bretton (3 pairs), Stonycliffe Wood, Gunthwaite, Round Wood (Brockholes), Healey House, Lumb Lane, Molly Carr Wood and New Mill. Pairs probably breeding were also present at Shepley (3), Denby Dale (2), Carr Wood (2), Langsett Banks (3+) and Penny Spring Wood.

Additional sites where drumming was heard were Woodsome Road, Mellor Wood, Royd House Wood, Smith Wood and Deffer Wood. Other localities occupied during the breeding season were West Wood (Hunley), Sharpe Lane/St. Helen's Gate (Almondbury), Silkstone SF, Cliff Wood, Hill Top Res., Horbury Wyke, Thornhill Millbank, Yatcholme (in dense conifers), Little Don Valley, Beaumont Park, Longwood Valley, Storthes Hall Woods, Thunderbridge and Marsden, with a further 15 sites having records outside the breeding season.

Feeding stations were visited at gardens in Hinchliffe Mill (after being absent the previous year), Lockwood (2 sites), Lumb Lane, Salendine Nook, New Mill, Taylor Hill, Dalton, Horbury and Shelley.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Dendrocopos minor

Resident breeder (1)

There was a slight reduction in the number of sites reporting the species this year but breeding evidence was obtained at three sites after just one in 1999. Apart from breeding sites, there were no reports between 1st April and 25th August, illustrating yet again the elusiveness of this species.

Bretton Lakes – a pair together on 4th and a male on 9th January, singles on 12th and 19th March, three (a pair and a second male) on 26th March, one on 8th April, then no records until a single on 26th October, followed by further singles on 3rd, 15th and 16th December. One pair probably bred.

Molly Carr Wood – one pair bred and was photographed at the nest site (SK).

Gunthwaite Dam – present regularly from 25th March and one pair bred.

Lumb Lane, Almondbury – one drumming and calling on 3rd and 13th January and 14th February, possibly same as Molly Carr Wood bird.

Elland GPs – one on 6th February.

New Mill – one on 31st March, then a juv. visited a garden on 12th and 16th July.

Shepley – a male on 1st April, singles on 25th August, 24th September and 11th November.

Denby Dale – one on 16th November.

Hinchliffe Mill – one in Stubbin Clough in a mixed flock was a first local record.

Ingbirchworth Res. – one in willows to the west of the res. on 4th November was a first record for the site; also present on 16th December.

Windmill Lane – one flew into the willow plantation on 13th November; presumed same as Ingbirchworth individual.

SKYLARK

Alauda arvensis

Partial migrant breeder (3)

At just over one hundred the number of singing males reported was very close to last year's total, although some of the areas which had the highest concentrations in 1999 received less coverage this year. The majority of birds were in the moorland fringe areas.

The first singing bird was recorded at **Blackmoorfoot** on the very early date of 21st January, with others in February at **Emley Moor** on 11th and **Shepley** on 20th before many reports in March.

As mentioned in last year's report, winter records are becoming increasingly uncommon, so a flock

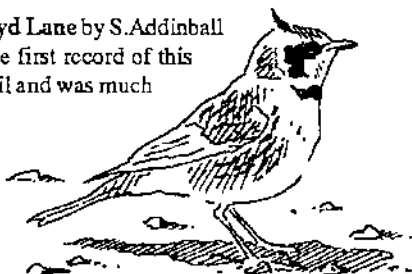
on stubble at **Lepton**, numbering at least 53 on 10th January and c.60 on 29th February was quite exceptional. At the end of the year up to 15 were in **Spicer House Lane** on 19th and 26th October with a similar number, possibly the same birds, in **Annat Royd Lane** from 1st to 13th November at least. One was at **Digley** on 5th November, c.50 on plough near **Bretton Park** on 9th November, four at **Hartcliff Hill** on 12th November and eight at **Shepley** on 22nd December.

Visible migration watching at **Harden** between 28th August and 5th November produced the following totals – in September one south on 13th, two south on 16th and one south on 23rd; in October 47 S/SE on 1st (when birds were also passing over **Horbury Wyke** but no count made), nine SE on 5th, three on 8th and one east on 14th, with seven on 4th November. At **Thornhill Millbank** 17 moved west on 17th October.

SHORELARK *Eremophila alpestris*

Vagrant

One discovered on ploughed/harrowed land at **Annat Royd Lane** by S.Addinball during a search for early **Wheatears** on 26th March is the first record of this species in the Club area. It was last reported on 15th April and was much admired by a great many observers.



SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Partial migrant breeder (2)

The species was present in the area between 21st March and at least 3rd September. Most records are from lowland areas and it is distinctly scarce at higher altitudes. There were breeding colonies at three sites and the species is increasing in the area again. **Dewsbury SF** – six on 21st March; a max. of 120 west on 14th July.

Shepley – one on 25th March.

Elland GPs – two on 25th March.

Bretton Lakes – one on 26th and 11 on 31st March, c.20 on 15th and at least two on 20th April.

Ravensthorpe GPs – the first breeding birds returned on 6th April and numbers increased to 60 on 24th and 120 on 29th April. By 2nd May there were at least 120 nest-holes, possibly as many as 140, increasing later to 168, although how many were occupied is open to conjecture. Unfortunately and inexcusably the contractors on site destroyed the nesting cliff and the birds disappeared and on 9th July there were about 25 nest-holes remaining but no birds. On 13th August c.40 birds were again using the holes and on 3rd September c.25 birds and c.15 holes, several still occupied with adults feeding young.

Note: the contractors finished extracting sand/gravel early in 2001, machinery was removed and the site is now being used for landfill, which should ensure it remains suitable for Sand Martins in the near future.

Horbury Wyke/Strands – c.5 on 8th April then up to 15 regularly, with the last on 23rd August (2) and 3rd September (2+).

Millbank Flash – up to 15 regularly in spring/summer.

Ingbirchworth Res. – c.10 on 8th and two on 18th April; six on 10th August.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – in April six on 19th, one on 20th/21st, four on 24th, one on 25th and six on 27th and one on 4th May; in autumn two on 14th and 27th July and 26th August.

Harden – three flew north on 22nd April.

Castle Dam – five on 23rd April.

Healey Mills – at least two nest-holes were occupied in the bank of the R.Calder on 9th July and

possibly as many as six.

Cawthorne – four pairs bred in the bank of the upper lake of the cascades at Cannon Hall, young being fed on 24th July.

Broadstones Res. – one on 16th July.

Scout Dike Res. – one on 30th August.

SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica

Migrant breeder (4)

The first birds, all singles, arrived simultaneously on 7th April at four sites – **Bretton Lakes, New Mill, Horbury Wyke and Blackmoorfoot**, with birds at the last two sites and at **Horbury SF (5)** and **Ingbirchworth** on 8th. Numbers increased to nine on 9th at **Horbury SF** and additional birds were at **Cawthorne, Oldfield, Ravensthorpe, Horbury Wyke (3), Bretton (c.35)** and **Blackmoorfoot (7)** on 10th and at **Dewsbury SF (13)** on 13th, **Bradley** on 14th, with 16 at **Dewsbury SF** and c.40 at **Bretton** on 15th. Birds were reported from a further 11 sites by the end of the month. The only numbers of significance in May were 50 at **Horbury SF** on 5th and at **Blackmoorfoot** which had 57 on 3rd, 38 on 4th and 46 on 17th.

Few reports of breeding were submitted, but two pairs bred at **Harden**, three pairs on the old school at **Horbury Bridge**, at least five pairs in **Langsett** village despite ongoing building work and at **Pole Moor, New Mill, Lepton, Holme Styes, Shelley and Emley Moor** and doubtless at a great many other localities.

The largest post-breeding gatherings were at **Broadstones Res.** where 2000 were present at dusk on 18th August and at **Healey Mills**, where a roost was established in early September in a willow plantation grown for fuel for the **Ferrybridge Power Station**. Counts there produced 160 on 3rd, 250 on 7th, 1000 on 12th, 1500 on 13th, 2000 on 14th, 2200 on 16th, 1500 on 18th, 1000 on 23rd, then declining to c.150 on 25th with just 16 flying over but not coming in to roost on 27th September.

Aside from these the highest totals were c.50 at **Royd Moor** on 28th July, c.40 at **Langsett** and 60+ near **Skelmanthorpe** on 15th August and in September 130 on 1st at **Horbury SF**, c.50 at **Horbury Wyke** on 3rd, 40 at **Kingstone Edge** on 10th, 30+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th and 50+ at **Yatcholme** on 24th. Several sites had small numbers until late September and birds were still present in October at **Blackmoorfoot** (4 on 1st/2nd, 1 on 3rd, 4 on 11th), **Oldfield** (6 on 11th) and finally at **Royd Moor Res.**, where seven flew SE on 14th.

Results of visible migration counts in autumn were:

Harden – 2 SW on 28th August; in September 4 SW on 2nd, 41 WSW on 3rd, 450 south or SW on 13th, 88 on 16th, 104 W/SW on 22nd, 34 E/SE up to 1400 hrs. on 23rd; in October 64 S/SW on 1st, 5 west on 5th and one WSW on 8th.

Dewsbury SF – 230 west on 30th August and in September 227 west on 10th, 52 west on 20th and 57 west on 22nd.

Royd Moor – 20 west on 3rd September.

HOUSE MARTIN

Delichon urbica

Migrant breeder (3)

One reported over **Lindley** on 27th March (GBS) was the earliest ever recorded in the Club area and preceded by 10 days the next to arrive, at **New Mill** on 6th April, itself a very early date (CDA). After singles at **Ingbirchworth** on 8th, **Horbury** on 9th and **Thornhill Millbank** on 10th it was almost a week before new arrivals were found at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Bretton (c.10)** on 15th and then at **Dewsbury SF** on 17th, **Winscar** on 19th, **Thornhill** on 21st, **Blackmoorfoot** again on 24th, up to 20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 25th and at **Shelley** on 28th. It was not until mid-May that the majority of birds started to arrive.

The highest spring counts were 70 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th, c.50 at **Waterloo** on 19th and c.60 at **Ingbirchworth** on 27th May, with no counts exceeding 25 in June.

Breeding colonies were reported at **Marsden**, **Almondbury** (4 nests), **Skelmanthorpe** (14 nests), **Shelley Park**, **Waterloo**, **Thornhill** (10 nests), **Shelley village**, and two sites at **Lindley** (9+ nests) where young were still being fed in the nest on 29th August.

Following the breeding season, summer gatherings and movements were reported from the following sites:

Ingbirchworth Res. – c.45 on 9th July, c.80 on 18th August and 26th September.

Royd Moor Res. – in July c.80 on 25th, c.150 on 28th and 100+ on 30th.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – monthly max. in July 14, August 23, September 63.

Scout Dike Res. – c.130 on 13th August, c.200 on 10th September.

Dewsbury SF – 550 west on 31st August, 720 east on 7th September, 8 west on 8th October.

Millbank, Thornhill – 210 SE on 10th September.

Harden – 290 SW/WSW on 16th and 21 E/SE on 23rd September, 3 SSE/SE on 1st October.

Yateholme – 100+ on 24th September.

Kirkheaton – c.30 on 28th September.

The last records for the year were one at **Shelley** on 13th October and a very late bird which flew NW over **Cawthorne** on 4th November.

TREE PIPIT

Anthus trivialis

Migrant breeder (1)

This species continues to decline and had a very dismal showing this year, being reported from only six sites in the breeding season. Present between 24th April and 5th October.

Little Don Valley – five males held breeding territories including one at **North America** and two at **Swinden Plantation** (where five males were located in 1999).

Holme Styas – singing males were located at **Fox Clough**, **Reynard Clough** (2) and **T.Kirk Forestry** (2) with the first bird heard on 28th April.

Scammonden – two birds on 1st and 22nd May.

Farnley Tyas – a singing male at the top of **Wood Lane** on 16th May, but not subsequently.

Denby Dale – a singing male from 30th May to 16th June only.

Presumed migrants flew over **Harden** north on 29th May, two SW on 28th August, singles on 4th and 27th September and finally one WSW on 5th October, the latest ever in the Club area (MC). In addition one flew ESE over **Holme Styas** in fog and drizzle on 25th September.

MEADOW PIPIT

Anthus pratensis

Partial migrant breeder (4-5)

The recent tendency for birds to occur in midwinter gathered pace this year, with an increased number of sightings and greater numbers of birds present, particularly at the end of the year. The spring passage began in the first week of March and continued to mid-April at least, with birds still moving through when local birds had already established territories.

At the beginning of the year four were at **Grimes Lane**, **Maythorn** on 1st January and singles on 3rd at **Royd Moor**, **Broadstones** and **Skelmanthorpe**. One at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th February could have been a wintering individual or an early passage bird as could one at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 19th.

Obvious spring passage started with 62 at **Dewsbury SF** on 4th March with 80 on 21st March, 65 on 5th and 56 on 19th April at the same site. 17 were in fields at **Salendine Nook** on 5th March, five on 11th March at **Scammonden** where the number of singing birds increased from two on 18th to 10 on

22nd March. 20 were at **Brown's Edge** on 14th March and passage birds were noted at **Shelley** and **Yateholme** from 22nd. Two were near **Farnley Tyas** on 28th March and birds were well established at **Deer Hill** by 31st March. Up to 25 moved north at **Harden** on 7th April, while on 10th a flock of 40+ was at **Lepton**, numbers at **Castle Dam** peaked at 19 and several were at **Horbury Wyke**.

Apart from the singing birds at **Scammonden** no information was received for the breeding season. Autumn passage was reported from mid-July onwards, with good numbers observed on v.m.w.s. at **Harden**. The 1st October was a day of significant movements at three sites, involving 1000+ birds. **Harden** – from mid-July onwards low numbers moving south and west in “mizzly” weather, then 41 NE on 25th in drizzle and muck, nine NE in sunny weather on 29th. In August 200+ moved mainly SW in 2.5 hrs. on 28th, then regular passage in September, mostly W/SW at first, but then predominantly E/SE near the month end. Details:- 40 east on 2nd, 63 W/SW on 3rd, c.100 S/SW on 9th, 200+ SW/SSW on 13th, 173 on 16th, 235 W/SW on 22nd, 96+ E/SE on 23rd, 10 E/SE on 24th, 46 SSE on 27th, 75 on 28th, 40 north on 30th. The largest movement was 751 birds S/SE on 1st October, followed later in the month by 51 west on 5th, 32 WSW on 8th, 22 south on 9th, 26 west on 14th and 25 on 19th, with in November 18 on 4th and five south on 5th, when counts ceased.

Winscar – a migrant flock of 10-15 feeding on 22nd August.

Royd Moor – c.30 on 27th August, c.20 west on 3rd and c.30 on 17th September and 200+ S/SE on 1st October.

Gilbert Hill, Langsett – c.250 on 8th September.

Dewsbury SF – 28 on 20th September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 72 flew west and 80 grounded birds on 1st October.

Holme Styes – 22 were held up in bad weather on the morning of 8th October.

Scout Dike – c.40 on 15th October.

Late birds were recorded at 12 sites in November/December. In November two at **Castle Dam** on 3rd, four at **Digley** on 5th, 20 at **Brown's Edge** on 13th, three at **Scammonden** on 15th and one on 19th, 13+ at **Kirkheaton** on 21st, with 10+ on 27th and 30th; in December one at **Wood Nook** until at least 8th, at **Kirkheaton** 13+ on 5th increasing to 25+ on 21st, **Meltham SF** one on 7th December, then two on 15th increasing to 10 on 29th, singles at **Crosland Moor** and **Crosland Hill** on 20th and 30th respectively, a very large flock for the time of year of c.80 at **Lower Maythorn** on 27th, one at **Blackmoorfoot** from 29th to 31st and c.15 to the year end on **Emley Moor**.

ROCK PIPIT

Anthus petrosus

Rare passage visitor

Singles on 2nd March and 30th August at **Dewsbury SF (JH)**, where the species is of almost annual occurrence, particularly in autumn.

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Motacilla flava

Migrant breeder (?) and passage migrant

The species continues to decrease and is probably now only a passage migrant, breeding not having been confirmed since 1989. Even as a passage bird it is only recorded with any regularity at one site.

Dewsbury SF – one flew west on 17th April, then reported almost daily with two on 23rd and three on 24th April. Singles present throughout May to July, then three on 5th August and the last singles on 9th and 12th September (JH).

Scammonden – one on 25th April (HBC).

Millbank Flash – a male on 1st May (JRS).

Ringstone Edge – in May one on 14th and two on 21st (HBC).

Maythorn – one in a boggy field near the Victoria Inn on 18th June (MC).

Skelmanthorpe – one in a wet meadow near Thorpe Dike on 25th June (DBut).

Ingbirchworth Res. – a juv. on 5th and 6th August (BBSG).

Broadstones Res. – a juv. on 22nd August (MC).

Harden – single passage birds SW on 28th August, WSW on 2nd September and SE on 23rd September (MC).

Langsett – one on the dam wall on 23rd September (BBSG) and one reported flying over on the very late date of 13th October (SRG).

Holme Styes – one flew ESE on 24th September (MC).

GREY WAGTAIL

Motacilla cinerea

Resident breeder (2)

Remains common in the area wherever some form of water is found; reported from some 50 localities. Breeding occurred at **Denby Dale** (2 broods), **Bretton Lakes** (2 family parties present on 3rd September), along the catchment near **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **King's Mill Lane**, **Ramsden Res.**, **Dogley NR**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Millbank Thornhill** (three young), **Ravensthorpe** (three young) and **Lockwood**, with additional pairs seen and probably breeding at **Eastergate**, **Honley**, **Milnsbridge**, **Dunford Bridge**, **Armitage Bridge**, **Gunthwaite Dam**, **Elland GPs**, **Deighton**, **Hnrbury Wyke**, **Healey**, **Thunderbridge**, **Digley**, **Bilberry**, **Cliff Wood** and the **Little Don Valley**.

At a further 20 sites birds were seen outside the breeding season, mainly singly, but up to five were at **Meltham SF** throughout December. Ten birds at **Scout Dike Res.** on 29th August was the largest concentration reported. There were regular sightings in **Huddersfield town centre** and gardens were visited at **New Mill** on 4th January, **Lockwood** on 5th and 12th January and **Marsh** on 8th October.

Although not normally regarded as a migrant, passage birds were recorded regularly at **Harden** with one south on 28th August, in September one south and three north on 2nd, one SW on 16th, one SW on 22nd, six E/SE on 23rd, and in October three S/SE on 1st and one west on 14th (MC).

PIED WAGTAIL

Motacilla alba

Resident breeder (3) and passage migrant/winter visitor

More records were received this year, relating both to breeding and passage birds, but unfortunately no reports were received relevant to the town centre roost.

Breeding occurred at **Denby Dale**, **Royd Moor**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Bilberry**, **New Mill**, **Emley Tx**, **Jagger Lane Emley Moor**, **Shelley/Emley**, **Harden** and **Broadstones** with additional pairs at **Oakes** (up to four) and **Horbury**.

The largest concentrations reported were at :-

Kirkheaton CC – 15+ on 16th January, 20+ on 12th September and 16 on the bowling green on 21st September.

Annat Royd Lane – c.15 between 26th March and 8th April and a max. of 19 on 16th April.

Castle Dam – 13 on 30th March.

Ingbirchworth – 15 migrants on 8th April, 10 on 1st August and 26th September, 24 on 3rd October.

Millbank Thornhill – c.28 feeding on cricket field on 3rd September.

Langsett Res. – nine on the dam wall on 17th September, with 18 on 23rd.

Holme Styes – 10 during heavy rain and fog on 25th September.

Meltham SF – increased in December from c. 15 on 7th to c.50 at the month end.

V.m.w. at **Harden** produced in September 20 north and 15 west on 2nd, four S/SW on 13th, three SW

on 16th, eight E/SE on 23rd, six on 24th, six SSE on 27th and one north on 28th and in October 55 moving SE on 1st (see also Meadow Pipit), when 14 moved west at **Pule Hill, Marsden**, 12 WSW on 5th, four (one of which was chased by a Sparrowhawk) south on 8th, 10 south on 9th with low single figures on 14th and 19th and on 4th and 5th November.
A small but regular passage of up to six a day was also noted over **Shelley** in September/early October.

WHITE WAGTAIL

Motacilla alba alba

Uncommon passage migrant

Once again all confirmed records were unsurprisingly in spring.

Annat Royd Lane – reported from 29th March, and then in April with one on 14th, at least two possibly three on 15th and at least one probably two on 16th (MC,DBut,BBSG).

Galcar – one on the canal between here and Linthwaite on 31st March (KW).

Ringstone Edge Res. – one on 17th April (HBC).

Harden – birds suspected, but not confirmed, on autumn v.m.ws. (MC).

WAXWING

Bombicilla garrulus

Eruptive winter visitor, rare to uncommon

Birds remained from the influx of late 1999 with reports from new localities also, whilst a report at the year end raised hopes of a fresh influx in 2001.

Lockwood/Folly Hall – 12 in North Street on 3rd January, followed by in Victoria Road, where there were 18 on 6th, nine on 21st and 18 again on 18 on Swan Lane on 28th. Further sightings in these same areas produced 38 on 6th February with the last report of up to 30 on 12th February (DButler,DM,JED,JKP,JMN et al).

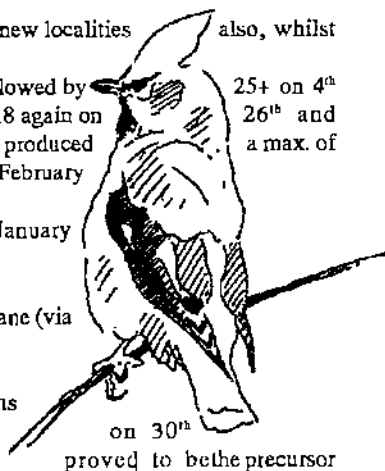
Shore Head – 22 flew over Sainsbury's car park on 22nd January (BLNE).

Wooldale – c.70 on 22nd February and 25 on 26th (RD&SEH).

Holmfirth – c.50 on 21st and one on 23rd February on Cooper Lane (via DHP), probably same as Wooldale birds.

Elland – three on 23rd February and six on 28th March (HBC).

At the end of the year a small party was seen from a passing bus at the back of the Merrie England coffee shop at Salendine Nook December, but no count was possible (JMN). This sighting to the large numbers which graced our area in 2001.



25+ on 4th
26th and
a max. of

on 30th
proved to be the precursor

DIPPER

Cinclus cinclus

Resident breeder (2)

After last year's below average showing this species was much better reported with at least 12 pairs confirmed breeding, although no records were forthcoming from the sites where nesting took place in 1999.

Six pairs, including new ones at **Dunford Bridge** and **Carlecotes**, bred on the **R.Don** with a minimum of six juvs. noted there and three pairs on the **R.Little Don**. Pairs with young were also present at **Meltham**, **Lockwood** and **Dogley** with additional pairs in the breeding season at **Dovestones** and **Eastergate, Marsden**. Song was heard on the **R.Calder** near **Elland GPs** on 23rd December and winter reports were received from a further ten sites, at some of which breeding could be expected to occur.

Singles at **Scammonden** on 31st March and 19th November and at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 3rd November were unexpected.

Unusual sightings were of one swimming "like a miniature duck" for c.15 minutes on 16th January and again on 17th December at **Bilberry Res. (HQ)** and one which flew the whole length of **Winscar Res.** towards **Snailsden Edge** on 19th February (BBSG).

WREN

Troglodytes troglodytes

Resident breeder (4)

Few records submitted of this very common and widespread species but 13 singing males were counted at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th May. Birds were present in a **Hinchliffe Mill** garden but disappeared after the big freeze in late December.

At least two roosted in a banging basket in a **Shelley** garden in December.

DUNNOCK

Prunella modularis

Resident breeder (4)

Little information was received for this common and widespread but unobtrusive species apart from breeding records from **Lindley, New Mill, Shelley, Emley Tx** and **Harden**.

ROBIN

Erithacus rubecula

Resident breeder (4-5)

Very few reports received and no counts of singing birds were made. Adults were feeding fledged young on the early date of 15th April in the **Coxley Valley** and breeding evidence also came from **Emley Moor, Shelley, New Mill, Harden, Winscar** and **Ingbirchworth**.

BLACK REDSTART

Phoenicurus ochruros

Rare visitor

For the second year running a male turned up in **Huddersfield town centre**. It was first seen and heard singing from the corner of the disused warehouse behind **Huddersfield Railway Station** on 25th May (MLD). It was not seen or heard again until 26th June when it gave four bursts of song between 1115 and 1130 hrs. (JED) followed by a further brief sighting of the singing bird on 28th June at 0915 hrs (BA,DM).

What was presumably the same individual sang from the roof of **Hopkinson's Works** at **Birkby** about one kilometre distant from the previous site at 0730 hrs. on 8th June, but not subsequently (DH).

The possibility of the bird's breeding cannot be ruled out as there is much suitable habitat.

COMMON REDSTART

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Migrant breeder (1-2)

A slightly improved year with 11 singing males located and breeding proved in one locality. Recorded between 23rd April and 10th September.

Ingbirchworth Res. – singles on 23rd April and 19th August.

Holme Styes – first reported on 28th April with at least three males on territory from 30th, but no breeding evidence obtained.

Scammonden – a male sang in the quarry behind the church on 30th April and 1st May.

Little Don Valley – three males held breeding territories between **Brookhouse Bridge** and **Swinden Plantation**, with at least one additional male at **Brookhouse Farm**.

Cliff Wood, Langsett – one pair bred, adults with newly fledged young observed on 18th June.

Fox Clough, Langsett – two males held breeding territories.
 Horbury Strands – a female on 6th July.
 Helme – a male on the Blackmoorfoot catchment on 21st July.
 Royd Moor Res. – one, probably a 1stW., on 22nd and 25th July.
 Denby Dale – a female on 16th August.
 Shepley – a male on 1st September.
 Scout Dike Res. – one on 10th September.

WHINCHAT

Saxicola rubetra

Migrant breeder (2) and

passage visitor



Although birds were rather later in arriving than usual, it was another good year for the species with breeding confirmed or probable at eight localities and singing males at two other sites. Birds were present between 29th April and 5th October, the first being at Winscar on 29th April, with two there on 30th as well as singles at Meltham Moor and Scammonden. Evidence of movement in autumn came from several sites.

Winscar – at least one pair bred raising three young, nest-building having been noted on 7th May. Up to four were present to 29th August, then singles on 2nd and 9th September.

Harden – a female was in the observer's garden in foggy conditions on 3rd June and four "spotty" young were present in Harden Clough on 16th August. Birds had not been seen earlier in this area and could either have been bred locally or were migrants.

Meltham Moor – three males had returned by 30th April, with a fourth singing male later, and at least one pair bred.

Little Don Valley – at least one pair bred above Brookhouse Bridge.

Lower Windleden Res. – two pairs bred.

March Haigh Res. – three pairs were present on 20th June.

Eastergate, Marsden – at least one pair was present on 12th and 14th May.

Wessenden Valley – two pairs and a further singing male present on 14th May.

Scammonden – after the first on 30th April, two males were present on 2nd May and one was in song on 9th May, a pair was feeding together on 25th June but there was no other breeding evidence, probably having attempted but failed. Two 1st years were with Stonechats on 5th October.

Windleden Edge – a singing male on 18th June.

Broadstones Lodge – a female present on 2nd May, one on 7th May, at least seven on 24th August and three on 3rd September.

Millmoor, Meltham – one on 8th May.

Deer Hill Res. – a female on 12th July.

Scout Dike Res. – four from 18th to 24th July, two on 24th and 27th August and one on 17th September.

Royd Moor – one at the res. on 27th August and one near the wind farm on 1st October.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 15th and 20th August and 13th September.

Cranberry – one on 22nd September.

Ingbirchworth Res. – one on 26th September.

STONECHAT

Saxicola torquata

Occasional breeder (1) and scarce passage and winter visitor

A quite outstanding year for this species with unprecedented numbers (at least eight) of breeding pairs and the largest autumnal influx ever with as many as 40 birds in the area in early October.

Winscar – one pair was present from 19th February with a second pair from 25th. At least one pair bred and two birds remained to 14th November.

Ilarden Clough – one pair bred, two “spotty” young being fed by the male on 23rd July.

Harden – singles on 25th and 28th September, a male on 1st October with a male and two females on 4th (a day of considerable passage) and a male on 4th December.

Harden Edge – a male and two females on 8th October, singles on 4th and 10th November, the last a male.

Raynard Clough – five migrants (3 males) on 4th October, a male on 11th October.

Holme Styes – a male on 9th October.

Wessenden Valley – two pairs present, at least one pair breeding with a nest and eggs found and a female with three young on 17th July. One was present at Wessenden Head in snow on 29th December.

West Nab/Deer Hill – one pair bred, newly fledged young being found; a pair near West Nab on 26th December.

Deer Hill Res. – a pair with young, different from the above; a male on 18th January.

Meltham/Deer Hill – at least eight birds present on 1st October, with a male still on 23rd.

Blackmoorfoot – one in the SW corner overflow field on 20th October.

Scammonden – a male on 11th March had been joined by a female by 22nd with display observed near Deanhead Res. on 22nd May but no further breeding evidence was forthcoming. In autumn an amazing count of 21 birds, equalling the previous highest count for an inland site in Yorkshire, was achieved on 5th October, comprising one party of 17 birds including at least six males and a smaller group of four (JED). On 6th only four (a pair and two juvs.) could be found, with eight on 12th, three on 15th and a pair on 22nd October, followed in November by a pair on 10th, 15th and 19th, a male on 10th December and finally a pair on 17th.

Little Don Valley – one pair bred fledging at least one young.

Long Moor – one pair bred and was seen feeding fledged young.

Broadstones Lodge – three (one male) on 1st January, then two pairs present to 26th February. Late in the year one on 29th October with a pair from 10th December to the year end.

Broadstones Res. – a pair on 4th April.

Eastergate, Marsden – a male on 12th May.

Greenfield Road – one on 15th and a pair on 29th February and one on 10th March. A male on 8th November joined by a female on 24th.

Penistone – a female near the cemetery on 6th March.

Inghirchworth Res. – singles on 9th April and 10th December.

Scout Dike Res. – a female/imm. on 24th September.

Royd Moor Res. – a male on 19th October.

Digley – male and female on 5th November.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR

Oenanthe oenanthe

Migrant breeder (1-2) and passage visitor

Spring passage began with a male at **Greenfield Road** on 13th March, with the next five days later at **Digley** on 18th. Numbers on passage have declined dramatically and alarmingly over recent years, the highest day total at any site this year being only six birds. Once again no positive breeding proof anywhere in the area was obtained, although pairs on territory were discovered at four sites and juveniles in July may or may not have been bred locally.

After the Greenfield Road and Digley birds on 13th and 18th, further March sightings (singles unless otherwise stated) were made at **Digley** again on 19th, **Bilberry** (m. + 2f.) and **Winscar** (2m.) on 20th, **Scammonden** (5, including 2m.) and **Broadstones** on 22nd, **Royd Moor Res.** on 25th, **Bretton CP** and **Annat Royd Lane** (to 30th) on 26th, **Broadstones** (2) on 27th, **Blackmoorfoot** and **New Mill** on 30th and **Oakes** (f.) and **Buckstones** (m. and f.) on 31st. One was at **Wessenden Head** on 1st April and the max. count of the spring, six birds, was made at **Broadstones** on 6th April.

That birds continued to pass through later in April was shown by singles at **Dewsbury SF** on 19th and 23rd, **Brown's Edge** five on 20th, **Blackmoorfoot** two from 22nd to 28th, **Scout Dike Res.** on 23rd and 29th, **Millhouse Green** and **Clock Face Quarry** five also on 23rd, **Castle Hill** on 27th, **Tinker Hill** four on 28th, **Crosland Road** two males on 29th and four, possibly of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoa*, at **Scammonden** on 30th.

Pairs of birds were present at **Winscar** from 30th April, with a male singing at the entrance to a rabbit hole from 22nd, **Buckstones** and **Oxygrains Beck** on 23rd April and **Wessenden** on 2nd, 14th and 16th May. Two juvs. at **Deer Hill** on 4th July could have been raised locally.

After the breeding season birds were reported from four sites in August and in September at **Winscar** on 2nd (3), **Scammonden** and **Annat Royd Lane** on 10th, **Crosland Hill** (2) and **Deer Hill** (2) on 13th, **Scout Dike** on 17th and **Holme Styes** (1 Greenland race) on 25th, with the last two at **Annat Royd Lane** on 27th.

RING OUZEL

Turdus torquatus

Migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage migrant

This species has undergone one of the most alarming declines of any over recent years, both as a passage and as a breeding bird. For the first time in over 20 years one regular observer failed to record a single sighting in the **Digley** area where 20 years ago double figure numbers in spring were quite normal, with several pairs breeding. Nesting occurred at just one locality in the south of the area.

Little Don Valley – three pairs bred and reared a minimum of 16 young, three of them from second broods. Four (a male and 3 imms.) probable migrants were present with Fieldfares on 3rd November (GMC,BBSG).

Wessenden Valley – one on 10th April (KW).

Greenfield Road – three, probably males, were feeding on stubble and a muddy kale field on 19th April, but not subsequently. Heard distantly between here and **Meltham** on two occasions (DHP,HQ).

Clock Face Quarry – two, probably a pair, in the car park on 23rd April (JED).

Winscar – a male, probably a late migrant, on the dam embankment on 7th May (DM,BA).

Deer Hill – one feeding nearby on Rowans on 3rd September (DMP).

Healey Mills – a migrant flushed on 14th and feeding in a car park on 15th September (JRS).

Scammonden – a 1st year male on 26th October (JED).

BLACKBIRD

Turdus merula

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor

Few records were received but still a very common bird throughout the area wherever suitable habitat is present, although a count of only five singing males at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th May (BBSG) was much lower than expected. At least 20 were present at this site on 3rd December.

Breeding was reported from eight localities including a pair at **New Mill** which began nest-building on 18th March and was still feeding a third brood in the nest on 5th August.

Up to 20 were in the **Millbank** area of **Thornhill** all year and in November a similar number were in a **Shelley** garden and 18 in a single Rowan tree at **Hingscliff Common** on 10th.

Two breeding pairs at **Harden** had left the area by September but migrants were noted there in early October, with one flying SE on 1st, three grounded on 5th with one on 8th.

FIELDFARE

Turdus pilaris

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred

At the end of 1999 the only high numbers were reported from the **Ingbirchworth/Whitley Common** area and this situation was reflected at the beginning of this year. Numbers decreased in February but rose again in March and April as birds began to return north. The last of the spring was on 7th May.

January – reported from 15 sites with the largest numbers in the **Ingbirchworth** area early in the month, with on 1st c.520, 150 in **Dearne Dike Lane** and c.150 at **Broadstones Lodge**. On 3rd c.50 were at **Scammonden**, 70 at **Royd Moor** and c.300 at **Banks Hall** near **Silkstone**. **Blackmoorfoot** recorded birds on nine dates, usually up to 50 and max. of 150 on 11th, 54 on 13th and 52 on 17th; nearby at **Deer Hill** there were 50 on 18th. **Langsett** had c.50 on 9th and c.170 on 16th, **Lepton** c.35 on 10th and **Scammonden** 46 on 15th. 43 on 19th and 17 on 31st at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.250 at **Ingbirchworth** also on 31st were the only birds reported after 15th January. Five other sites held up to 10 birds in the early part of the month.

February – none were reported until 9th when 120 were at **Dewsbury SF** and 33 at **Blackmoorfoot**, the latter site having birds on a further six dates with max. of 68 on 15th and 42 on 17th. The highest counts were c.300 at **Royd Moor** on 20th and c.100 near **Broadstones Lodge** on 26th, with smaller numbers at **Lower Cumberworth** (50+ on 11th), **Crosland Moor** (c.30 on 17th) and **Gawthorpe Green** (c.25 on 29th) as well as single figures at three other sites.

March – few reports in the first half of the month apart from 204 feeding at **Millbank** on 5th and at **Blackmoorfoot** which had birds on five dates, max. 52 on 6th, **Ingbirchworth** where there were c.250 on 13th with c.50 nearby at **Royd Moor**. Birds were more widespread from 16th onwards when 180 were at **Dewsbury SF** and c.40 over **Skelmanthorpe**, 30 at **Scout Dike** on 18th, c.100 flew east on 19th at **Bretton Park**, where there were c.250 on 31st; 25 were at **New Mill** on 23rd, when 27 flew south at **Crosland Moor**, c.130 at **Royd Moor** on 26th, 70 near **Dunford Bridge** on 27th, 100+ at **Farnley Tyas** on 29th and c.100 at **Deer Hill** on 31st. Counts at **Blackmoorfoot** produced 27 on 24th, 46 on 25th and 28 on 30th. Single figures occurred at three other sites.

April – the majority of reports were as expected in the first half of the month, with only one record after 19th. On 1st 300+ were at **Royd Moor** and c.180 at **Ingbirchworth**. About 500 flew NE over **Cawthorne** on 3rd, 22 were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th (the only April record at the site). On 7th 80+ flew north at **Harden**, where 40+, including a bird in song, were grounded on 8th, on which date there were also 100 at **Shepley** and 100+ at **Whitley Common**; the 9th saw nine at **Millbank**, c.230 at **Ingbirchworth** and c.200 at **Scout Dike**, with the same number (possibly the same birds) at **Castle Dam** on 10th. At **Bretton Park** there were c.45 on 15th, when c.400 flew north at **Royd Moor**, and 35 at **Crow Edge** and 195 at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th. All the remaining reports came from **Ingbirchworth** which had c.230 on 18th, 60 grounded and c.190 over on 19th, with just six on 26th.

May – a late bird was on the embankment of **Winscar Res.** on 7th.

Birds were late in arriving in autumn, the only October records three at **Deighton** on 30th and c.30 at **Winscar** on 31st.

November – good numbers returned in the early part of the month, but obviously did not remain in the area, with only three reports of single figures after 13th. c.20 were in **Annat Royd Lane** on 1st, c.300 in the **Little Don Valley** on 3rd, c.60 flew west at **Harden** on 4th, when a small number also arrived at **New Mill**. **Dewsbury SF** had a SW passage of 450 birds in two hours on 7th and a further

100 on 8th when high double figures were also between **Blackmoorfoot** and **Deer Hill**, near the **Ford Inn** and above **Oldfield**. On 10th 12 were at **Lindley**, 35 at **Scammonden** and three at **Blackmoorfoot**, which had 100+ the following day. The only remaining reports came on 13th when c.35 were at **Royd Moor** and 15 in **Dearne Dike Lane**, from **Scammonden** with five on 15th and 19th and **Crosland Hill** which also had five on 24th.

December – reports received from eight localities; **New Mill** held 20+ throughout, **Windle Edge** c.20 on 1st, **Cubley** c.100 on 2nd, **Scammonden** 25 on 9th, 35 on 10th to 16th and 19 on 31st, **Winscar** 15 on 20th, **Ingbirchworth** c.100 on 25th and c.600 on 27th, **Broadstones** 12 on 27th and **Blackmoorfoot** 11 on 29th.

SONG THRUSH

Turdus philomelos

Resident breeder (3)

Once again a good number of reports was received for this species, from over 60 localities. The great majority were relevant to the breeding season but proof of breeding was disappointingly low. Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Park**, **Millbank Thornhill**, near **Dewsbury SF** and at **Langsett**, all by single pairs.

Song was heard between 9th January and 3rd July and at least 80 singing males and/or pairs were reported again from about 40 sites. These included a minimum of 15 at **Bretton Park** in February, nine in the **Almondbury** area and seven in the **Woodsome/Farnley Tyas** area. Although most of the sites were in lowland areas, several sites at higher altitudes, for example **Winscar**, **Holme Styes** (3 males), **Yateholme** and the **Little Don Valley/Langsett** area (11 males) reported birds.

At the end of the year males had begun to sing at **Bretton** on 6th December (4) and **New Mill**.

Evidence of immigration was obtained on 30th September when a fog-bound bird was in a garden at **Harden** and two on **Winscar** dam wall and on 8th October when five or six were at **Scammonden** with other thrush species.

REDWING

Turdus iliacus

Numerous passage and winter visitor

Birds were present between 1st January and 21st April and 8th October and 31st December, but were scarce at both the beginning and end of the year, particularly in January/February when apart from three in **Ravensknowle Park**, **Dalton** on 2nd February, none were reported in the three week period from 17th January to 6th February. The majority of sightings occurred in October and November as birds arrived for the winter.

January – on 1st five at **Lindley**, three at **Hoylandswaine**, 20 at **Dearne Dike Lane** and 35+ near **Almondbury**, followed by the only large flock of the month on 3rd, c.300 at **Banks Hall**, **Silkstone**, with eight on the same date at **Skelmanthorpe**. Apart from c.30 at **Royd Moor** on 10th and one at **Shepley** on 16th, the only other records came from **Blackmoorfoot** where there were 29 on 13th, 48 on 15th and up to 11 on a further six dates to 17th.

February – only three sites reported birds in the first week – **Ravensknowle Park** three on 2nd, **Almondbury** four on 6th, when one was also at **Blackmoorfoot**. The last site had birds on five further dates with max. 16 on 15th. Elsewhere c.200 were at **Emley Moor** on 11th, **New Mill** had a max. of c.50 on 12th, 50+ were near **Netherthong** on 12th and c.12 near **Dogley NR** on 29th.

March – birds reported from six sites as follows:- **Blackmoorfoot** had single figures on seven days and 24 on 1st, **Shelley** had “a small number” early in the month, **Millbank**, **Thornhill** 65 feeding with Fieldfares on 5th, **Ravensknowle Park** seven on 8th and three on 10th, **Cannon Hall** one on 14th, **Horbury Wyke** 40 on 20th, **Gunthwaite Dam** 11 on 27th and c.20 flew over **Woodsome** on 31st.

April – a few stragglers remained – Penny Spring Wood one on 1st, Blackmoorfoot one on 1st and four on 4th, singles at Horbury Wyke on 6th and 15th and at Bretton Park on 15th and 21st.

October arrivals began with simultaneous sightings on 8th of 36 west at Dewsbury SF, c.20 at Shelley and three at Scammonden, where there were five on 12th. Blackmoorfoot had two on 9th, Royd Moor c.40 on 10th and Langsett seven on 13th. A further larger arrival then occurred on 14th, with eight at Crosland Moor, 25 at Choppards (Holmfirth), five at Bretton Park and 53 west over Harden. There were no more then until five at Harden on 19th, followed by c.30 at Bretton on 22nd and 20 there on 26th, 100 over Beaumont Park on 24th, one at the Civic Centre on 26th, three (the first of the autumn) at Cubley and three at Crosland Moor on 27th, c.12 at Horbury Wyke on 29th and c.60 at Royd Moor on 31st.

November – birds did not return to the New Mill area until early in the month. On 3rd six flew over Dalton, 37 were at Deighton and 11 at Blackmoorfoot, Cawthorne had c.50 on 4th, when 21 flew mainly west at Harden. Easily the highest number of the year was reported from Dewsbury SF on 8th when 582 passed SW in two hours. Twelve were feeding at Big Valley on 9th when seven were also at Blackmoorfoot, with 10 at the latter site on 12th. About 10 were feeding in gardens at Dalton for two weeks to 19th and c.10 in a garden at Hinchliffe Mill on 13th, when six were also at Royd Moor. Last of the month were eight west over Holly Bank on 24th and 80+ at Bretton Park on 25th.

December – except for 50+ at Bretton on 3rd, six in Salendine Nook on the same date and eight at Scammonden on 16th, all dated records were in the last six days of the year. On 26th there were singles at Dalton and Crosland Moor, on 27th one at Holly Bank, on 28th two at Dalton, on 29th one at Wooldale and three at Crosland Moor, on 30th nine at Blackmoorfoot, three at Dalton and 28 at Scammonden with, on 31st, 17 at Birkby.

During the year birds were observed feeding in gardens at Dalton, Wooldale, Hinchliffe Mill, Salendine Nook, Lindley and Shelley.

MISTLE THRUSH

Turdus viscivorus

Resident breeder (3)

Breeding evidence was submitted for 13 pairs or singing birds, which is a gross under-representation of this common species. However, many more counts were received of post-breeding/autumnal gatherings, which give a more accurate picture of the species' status in the area.

Dewsbury SF – 30 on 5th March and 72, the largest count in the Club area since 1967, on 5th September.

Ingbirchworth Res. – 23 on 9th July, 25 on 19th August.

Scout Dike Res. – 16 on 20th July, 20 on 15th August, 15 on 14th October.

Horbury Wyke – 30 on 22nd and 23 on 23rd August.

Bretton Lakes – 17 on 3rd September.

Royd Moor Res. – 21 on 8th September.

Scammonden – up to 30 on 8th October with c.15 on 12th.

V.m.w. at Harden produced two on 22nd September, six (S/SE) on 1st October, five south on 4th October, three WSW on 5th October, six on 8th and two on 19th October.

Song was heard from 14th November at Lindley.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Locustella naevia

Occasional migrant breeder (1)

After last year's better than average showing, the year 2000 was disappointing, although a pair did breed at Scout Dike Res. Reeling was first heard there on 16th May and again in July, suggesting the possibility of two broods. The last sighting was on 29th August.

SEDGE WARBLER

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Migrant breeder (1)

Birds were present from 25th April to 9th September, with singing males at nine sites, again mainly in the **Calder Valley**, with breeding proved at three of them, constituting a successful year.

Horbury area – at the **Wyke** the first singing male was heard on 25th April, increasing to three or four by 13th May. Two pairs bred. Two males were singing at the **Strands** on 1st May, with three in song on 6th July and an adult feeding recently fledged young. Two other singing birds were located between these two sites, giving a total of up to nine males in the area.

Dewsbury SF – four males were in song on 1st May and had increased to seven by 7th May with the same number still on 31st. Fledged young were visible in early August and the last sighting was on 9th September.

Healey Mills – a male was singing at **Matthew's Pond** on 3rd May and at least one pair bred. Two singing males on 9th July.

Scout Dike Res. – two singing males on 7th May, later reduced to one. An adult with a juv. was observed on 26th July and one bird was present to 3rd September.

Broadstones Res. – a singing male on 14th May was a first site record.

Elland GPs – two males were present on 15th May with one or two on several further dates to 16th July but no breeding evidence was obtained.

Bretton Lakes – one was in song on 21st May.

Ravensthorpe GPs – a singing male was nearby on 1st June.

Passage birds were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 27th July and **Shepley** on 1st September.

REED WARBLER

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Rare breeder (1) and passage migrant

Reported this year from only two sites with breeding occurring at both.

Elland GPs – two males were present, arriving on 1st May, and at least one pair nested successfully; the last sighting was on 17th September.

Horbury Wyke – song was heard on four dates only, 15th and 20th May and 7th and 16th July, but two birds were observed carrying food into the phragmites bed on 3rd August.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Sylvia curruca

Migrant breeder (1)

Although there was a slight increase in the number of sites at which this species occurred, breeding was confirmed at only two compared with four in 1999. Birds were present between the early date of 8th April and 25th September.

Thornhill Millbank – a singing male on 8th April with two on 17th. Both remained to the end of July and breeding was probable (JH,JRS).

Ravensthorpe GPs – a singing male on 8th April, but not subsequently (JRS).

Ingbirchworth – a singing male was present near the reservoir from 25th April to 27th May at least and probably bred. An additional male sang in Ingbirchworth village on 28th April (BBSG).

Shelley – a male singing from 28th April and a pair bred successfully, two young being raised; last recorded on 25th September (SRG).

Scout Dike Res. – a male on 28th April and 9th May. At least one pair bred; last report on 10th September (BA,BBSG).

Horbury area – a singing male present at the bottom of Balk Lane on 28th April and 1st May. An immaculate juv. was present at this site on 23rd August, indicating probable breeding (DHP,BA). A second male was along the towpath near **Horbury Bridge** from 8th to 16th May (JRS).

Dalton – one singing at a previous breeding site for 30 minutes on 5th May (BA).

Elland GPs – a singing male on 6th and 31st MaDM,HBC).

Denby Dale – one present 9th May to 10th July (TM). A pair bred here in 1999.

Shepley – one near Stretch Gate on 12th May (SRG).

Milnsbridge – one by the canal on 25th May (DWB).

Royd Moor Res. – a presumed passage bird on 22nd July (MC).

Dewsbury SF – a passage bird on 30th August (JH).

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first bird returned on 21st April after which a minimum of 40 singing males were present at 20 sites. There was a significant increase in the **Ingbirchworth** area and good numbers again in the **Calder Valley**.

After the first at **Ingbirchworth** on 21st April males appeared at **Dewsbury SF** on 22nd, **Horbury SF** on 25th, **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 27th and at **Elland GPs**, **Scout Dike**, **Broadstones** and **Dunford Bridge** over the weekend of 29th/30th April, the bird at the last site probably still on passage.

Single singing males occurred at **Lepton**, **Longwood Valley**, **New Mill**, **Flockton**, **Golcar**, **Farnley Tyas** and **Broadstones**, with nine at **Horbury SF** in mid-June, three at **Ravensthorpe GPs**, 2+ at **Healey Mills**, two at **Horbury Wyke**, five at **Royd Moor**, four at **Scout Dike**, six at **Bretton Lakes**, seven at **Elland GPs** (on 29th April) and eight at **Dewsbury SF** on 31st May.

Breeding was confirmed at **Dewsbury SF** (5 pairs reared young), **Royd Moor** (at least 3 pairs), **Scout Dike** (3 pairs), **Ingbirchworth** (2 pairs), **Elland GPs** (at least 2 pairs), **Dogley NR** and in the **Calder Valley** between **Millbank** and **Horbury Wyke** (c.12 pairs) and probably at several of the other sites where singing males had been located.

Passage birds were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 29th July, **Dalton** on 19th and 23rd August, **Denby Dale** on 22nd August and 1st September and **Shelley** on the latter date. **Dewsbury SF** still had four birds on 31st August and 8th September, whilst the last reports were singles at **Horbury SF** on 15th and **Scout Dike** on 16th September.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2)

Continues to maintain its numbers in the area, with again approx. 45 singing males located at 20 sites, breeding being proved at three of these. Reported between 23rd April and early September.

Bretton Lakes – a male on 23rd April increasing to three on 6th May.

Elland GPs – two singing on 30th April building to a max. of six on 14th May.

Royd Moor Res. – a male on 30th April; nine males later held breeding territories.

Shelley – a pair arrived on 1st May and bred successfully; last bird seen early September.

Dogley NR – a male on 2nd May and later two pairs probably bred.

Ravensthorpe GPs – a singing male on 2nd May.

Langsett Banks – at least two pairs bred.

Blackmoorfoot – a pair bred in Orange Wood; a passage bird on 8th August.

Denby Dale – a male on 8th May.

Scout Dike Res. – two males on 9th May and later at least six males on territory.

West Wood, Honley – singing male on 10th May.

Lower Stones Wood – male on 12th May.

Gunthwaite Dam – one on 18th May.

Blacker Wood, Skelmanthorpe – a male on 18th May.

Shepley – a male on 31st May.

Longwood Valley – a male on 31st May.

Brownhill Res. – a male near the pump house on 8th June.

Cliff Wood, Langsett – one in song on 18th June.

Holme Styes – one on 18th June was unusual at this site.

Deffer Wood – singing male on 22nd June and two or three pairs probably bred.

Linthwaite – one near the canal on 27th June.

BLACKCAP

Sylvia atricapilla

Migrant breeder (3) and scarce winter visitor

This species remains much more common than the last, utilising large woodlands which generally are shunned by the Garden Warbler and can be found in suburban areas if there is suitable habitat.

The first two singing males were at **Horbury Wyke** on 1st and at **Bretton Lakes** on 7th April and both could have been birds which had overwintered as the next was not until 15th, when three birds were again at **Bretton**, and on 16th at **Carr Wood** and at **Horbury Wyke** again. The next arrivals were not until 19th when males were in song at **Stockmoor Common**, **Silkstone SF**, **Litherop Lane** and **Royd Moor Res.** By 20th April two pairs and four other singing males were at **Bretton** and on 23rd birds had also arrived at **Skelmanthorpe**, **Dalton**, **Beaumont Park**, **Hagg Wood**, **Royd House Wood** and **Farnley Wood**.

A more general arrival took place in the last few days of April, continuing into May. A total of c.120 singing males was reported from about 50 sites but breeding was confirmed only at **Dogley NR**, **Royd Moor Res.** (2 pairs at least), **Scout Dike Res.**, **Shelley**, **Langsett Res.** (3 pairs at least) and **Deffer Wood**. Several sites held good numbers of birds, e.g. **Bretton Lakes** 15 singing males on 6th May, **Carr Wood** (12 males), **Royd Moor** (4 males on territory), **Langsett Banks** (7 breeding territories) and **Stockmoor Common**.

There were few reports after the breeding season, the only September records coming from **Shelley** five in 17th and one on 22nd, **Royd Moor Res.** two on 19th and finally **Thornhill Millbank** a female on 25th.

In the early months one which spent most of March in an **Almondbury** garden had presumably overwintered and there were just three records of wintering birds at the end of the year, one in a **Lockwood** garden on 9th December and at **Ravensthorpe** where a female was present in a garden from 27th November to 5th December with a male there on 27th December.

Addition to 1999 Report – a bird ringed at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** as a 1st year male on 25th July 1998 was found freshly dead at **Hull**, 101 kms. to the east, on 7th October 1999.

WOOD WARBLER

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Migrant breeder (1)

The sad decline of this attractive species continues.

A pair probably bred at **Langsett Banks** (BBSG), otherwise singing males were heard on just two dates, 10th May at **Jenkinson Wood** (KW,RW) and 12th May at **Lower Stones Wnod** (SRG). It is conceivable that just one bird was involved in these two sightings.

CHIFFCHAFF

Phylloscopus collybita

Migrant breeder (3) and passage visitor

Reported from just under 50 sites and at least 73 singing males located. Wintering birds were present at both ends of the year, with migrants between 18th March and 14th October.

The first report was at **Bretton Lakes** on 18th March with two present there the following day, when

birds had also reached **Deffer Wood** and **Horbury Wyke** (at least two). Further March birds were at **Elland GPs** on 21st (2+), **Denby Dale** on 24th, **Gunthwaite Dam** on 25th, **Shelley** on 26th, **Appleyards Golcar**, **Range Dike** and the **Coxley Valley** on 30th and **Golcar Tip** on 31st, by which date there were eight singing males at **Bretton**.

Although widespread, this species is much less common than the next, with few sites having more than three singing males. The exceptions were **Bretton Lakes** with up to 11 males in April and at least eight pairs breeding, **Langsett Banks** where eight males had territories and **Elland GPs** which held up to five males.

A feature of this species seems to be its propensity to sing in autumn and birds exhibiting this behaviour were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 30th August, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** from 11th to 20th September, **Waterloo** on 14th September, **Oldfield** on 18th/19th September and **Crosland Hill** on 2nd October. Most birds had left the area by late August with later records in addition to the singing individuals at **Harden** on 28th September, 8th/10th and 14th October, **Holme Styes** on 28th September, **Digley** on 11th October and **Dalton** on 12th October.

A presumed wintering individual was in an **Almondbury** garden in March and at the end of the year singles were in gardens at **Skelmanthorpe** on 13th November, **Hinchliffe Mill** on 5th December and **Cowcliffe** on 29th December.

In addition an individual of the subspecies *P.c.tristis* ("Siberian" Chiffchaff) was at **Elland GPs** on 8th and 10th January and again from 18th to 26th March at least (**HBC** et al) and proved very popular.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4-5) and passage visitor

This species has suffered a decline nationally particularly in the southern half of the country in recent years. Although still very common in our area, counts of singing males at localities in the **Ingbirchworth** area seem to indicate that this is also happening in our area too.

Birds were late in arriving compared with the last few years, the first not reported until 7th April and only small numbers arrived up to 21st April, after which they appeared in greater abundance. There were few September records with the last on 22nd.

The earliest was at **Dewsbury SF** on 7th April, followed by birds at **Bretton Lakes** (4), **Gunthwaite Dam**, **Shelley**, **New Mill** and **Marsden** on 8th, **Thornhill** on 9th, **Blackmoorfoot** (2), **Horbury Wyke** (2) and **Bradley Park GC** on 10th, **Slaithwaite** (2) on 14th, **Dunford Bridge** on 16th, **Lockwood** on 17th, **Ingbirchworth** (4) on 18th, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Litherop Lane** (3), **Royd Moor** (8+) and **Silkstone SF** (2) on 19th, **Cliff Wood** (3) and **Dalton** on 21st, **Skelmanthorpe** (7) and **Winscar** (6) on 23rd.

Several sites reported good numbers of singing males/birds on territory with max. at **Royd Moor** of 36+ (48 in 1999), **Scout Dike** 32 (53 in 1999), **Ingbirchworth** 31+ (25 in 1999), **Dunford Cycle Track** 25 (45 in 1999), **Stocks Moor Common** c.20, **Lepton Great Wood** c.15, **Bretton Lakes** 13 (19 in 1999), **Scammonden** 10+, **Cliff Wood** 10 and **Mt. Scar/Cheesegate Nab** 9.

Passage was evident from mid-July onwards, with juvs. at **Harden** on 16th (3) and 23rd (2) and one in August on 18th. Elsewhere, **Blackmoorfoot** had up to three birds daily with a max. of six on 12th, **Lindley Moor** two on 11th/12th and singles on 16th and 29th August, at least three at **Dalton** on 18th August, one singing at **Royd Moor** on 30th August; in September three were at **Winscar** on 2nd, one at **Horbury Wyke** on 3rd, one at **Blackmoorfoot** to 7th with two on 8th and finally one at **Shelley** on 22nd. (It is possible that the numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** are lower than normal as a result of lack of ringing activity – BA).

GOLDCREST

Regulus regulus

Resident breeder (2-3). Common passage and winter visitor

A widespread species throughout the year, small numbers can be found in almost any locality apart from the high treeless moorland. Reported from 42 sites, 24 in the first winter period, 14 in the breeding season and 24 in the late months. Except in areas of coniferous woodland numbers reported were generally in low single figures, the highest count in the early months being c.12 at Langsett on 5th February.

Breeding was confirmed at Lepton Great Wood (1 pair), Lower Stones Wood (1-2 pairs), in conifers behind the pumping station on the south side of Ingbirchworth Res. (2 pairs) and probably occurred near Blackmoorfoot, where birds were present in a garden throughout the summer, and at Denby Dale where a juv. flew into an office building on 29th June. Additional sites which held singing males, at most of which breeding probably took place, were Crosland Heath GC, Holme Styes (4+ in song on 2nd May), Dalton, Thornton Lodge, Bretton Lakes, Langsett (6 singing males on 2nd May), Cliff Wood, Little Don Valley (20+ on 12th May) and Yateholme.

Birds appeared in autumn from September onwards at many sites, the highest counts being 18 at Holme Styes in foggy conditions on 24th September, 6+ at Horbury Wyke on 19th October, c.30 in the Little Don Valley on 4th November, four at Blackmoorfoot on 10th November, 10+ at Bretton on 3rd December and up to 10 at Elland GPs on 30th December.

One was near the George Hotel in the town centre on 24th September and gardens were visited, mainly in the late months and usually by just one or two birds, in Lockwood, Birkby, Blackmoorfoot, Lindley Moor, Crosland Moor, Thornton Lodge, Ravensthorpe, Shelley, Waterloo, Dalton and Harden.

FIRECREST

Regulus ignicapillus

Rare visitor

Addition to 1994 Report – one very fortunate and experienced observer watched one for about 30 seconds in his garden at Meltham on 5th October (DMP).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Muscicapa striata

Migrant breeder (1-2) and passage visitor

After last year's very poor showing by this species there were sightings this year from almost twice the number of localities, although many of them were in autumn and breeding was proved at only three sites. Present between the remarkably early date of 21st April and 24th September. The majority of the spring records were from mid-May onwards.

Skelmanthorpe – one reported flycatching from a fence at Ponker Lane on 21st could not be relocated despite searching (DBut). The earliest ever record in the Club area. One at Thorpes on 25th June.

Denby Dale – one in Wither Wood on 28th April could refer to the above bird. One on 1st September. (Three pairs bred in the Denby Dale area in 1999).

Marsden – one at Eastergate on 12th May.

Coxley Bank – two at a potential nest-site on 13th May.

Bunny Wood, Golcar – one on 14th May.

Gunthwaite Dam – one on 18th May; at least one pair bred.

Cliff Wood, Langsett – a single bird on 18th May, 11th and 18th June.

Langsett – one pair bred in the village car park. One in a conifer plantation on 18th June.

Stonycliffe Wood – at least two on 21st May.

Carr Wood – single birds in different areas on 26th May and 15th June.

Hinchliffe Mill – two in a garden on 27th May reappeared a few days later.

Digley Bottom – one on 30th May.

Ingbirchworth – one on 5th June.

Bretton Lakes – at least two pairs bred. A max. of six birds seen on 24th June.

Royd Moor Res. – singles on 10th August and 24th September.

Thornhill Millbank – one on 13th August.

Broadstones Res. – singles on 13th, 18th and 27th August.

Scout Dike Res. – singles on 20th August and 24th September.

Winscar Res. – one on 2nd September.

Shepley – one on 3rd September.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (1)

A disappointing year with reports from only three sites, at two of them on a single date only.

Cliff Wood, Langsett – the first male appeared on 21st April. Five pairs bred, all in nestboxes, laying a total of 30 eggs, but the outcome is unknown, the regular observer being away on holiday later in the season (MCW).

Holme Styes – a female in Fox Clough on 7th May (BA).

Burn Wood/New House Wood – a male singing near a nestbox on 11th May (DM). This was the only reported visit to this site but it is likely that breeding occurred (two pairs bred in 1999).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caedatus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

There was a considerable reduction in the number of records submitted of this species, from over 50 to just over 40 sites. More drastic however was confirmation of breeding at only five localities compared with 11 in 1999. Circumstantial breeding evidence came from a further five sites and probable breeding (presence of birds in suitable habitat in the nesting season) at several more.

Breeding was proved at **Orange Wood** near **Blackmoorfoot** (10 juvs. on 28th June), **Dogley**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Royd Moor Res.** and **Jenkinson Wood**. Parties of birds at **Dewsbury SF** (15 on 1st June), **Dalton** (18+ on 13th June), **Lumb Lane** (20+ on 24th June) and **Scout Dike Res.** on 16th July were presumably indicative of breeding having taken place at those localities too. Elsewhere pairs of birds were present at **Bretton Lakes** (at least 3), **Skelmanthorpe** (2), **Deffer Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Stockmoor Common**, **Gunthwaite Dam**, **Lockwood**, **Yateholme**, **Cannon Hall**, **Royd House Wood**, **Carr Wood**, **Silkstone SF**, **Elland GPs**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Slaithwaite** and **New Mill** and many of these probably were breeding sites.

At the beginning of the year the only reported party in double figures was 16 at **Ingbirchworth** on 3rd January, with seven at **New Mill** on 14th and eight at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th January. As is to be expected more flocks were reported in the second half of the year and there were up to 40 near **Horbury Bridge** on 3rd September, at least 24 near **Ramsden Res.** on 24th September, 16 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 12th October, c.15 at **Bretton** on 22nd October and 20 there on 3rd December, 18 at **Ingbirchworth** on 21st October, 12 at **Dalton** on 27th/28th October and up to 12 at both **Ravensthorpe** and **Hinchliffe Mill** in December.

The species was a garden visitor, often on a regular basis, in **Almondbury**, **Dalton**, **New Mill**, **Taylor Hill**, **Shelley**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Wooddale** and **Ravensthorpe**.

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanius*

Resident breeder (1)

The situation of this species seems to be slightly improved on last year, with an increase in the number of sightings and breeding proved at two sites.

Scout Dike Res. – two on 21st March and at least one pair bred. On 26th July a family party was seen and birds were present in two other areas. One on 15th October.

Royd Moor Res. – at least one pair bred. One on 25th July and 28th August, with 3+ on 30th August and 2+ on 15th October.

Bretton Lakes – there were many more sightings at this site than in the previous year – singles on 13th and 18th January, two on 21st January, two pairs in the Bentley Springs area on 22nd February, one in Bath Wood on 12th March, two by the R. Deane on 16th April, singles on 21st/22nd October and two on 3rd December. Two pairs probably bred.

Horbury Wyke – in March one on 7th, up to three on 18th and one on 19th, a pair on 17th April, singles on 12th, 23rd and 27th August and at least two on 1st October. Probably bred in the vicinity.

Lepton Great Wood – one pair probably bred.

Dunford Cycle Track – singles on 16th January and 12th March and at least one, probably two, on 16th April.

Almondbury – one in Lumb Lane on 19th February.

Deffer Wood – one on 24th February.

Coxley Valley – three on 13th May would indicate a possible breeding area.

Shelley – one on 12th August.

Windmill Lane – one on 13th November.

Ingbirchworth Res. – two on 16th December.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Resident breeder (3)

Once again very few records were received of this widespread species. Most reports came from gardens at Hinchliffe Mill, Dalton, Almondbury, New Mill, Taylor Hill and Shelley.

The only sizeable flock reported contained 23 birds at Langsett Res. on 8th January.

Fledged young were present in Molly Carr Wood on 13th June and a pair bred in an outbuilding at Harcliff Mills, Denby Dale in May.

Singles at Ingbirchworth Res. on 29th April and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th December were unusual records at these sites.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5)

Records of this very common and widespread species were received from just seven localities, four referring to breeding at Hinchliffe Mill, Shelley, New Mill and Dalton.

V.m.w. at Harden produced one SSE on 27th September, one SE on 1st October and one on 19th October.

The maximum count at Bretton Lakes was 30 on 31st December.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4)

The only records of this common species were of young birds present in gardens at New Mill and Hinchliffe Mill between June and August.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Although the species was reported from exactly the same number of sites as last year, several of them were new and breeding took place at two of these.

Favoured areas were again the valleys of the **Fenay Beck**, **R.Holme**, **Hall Dike** and **R.Dearne**.

At least three pairs bred at **Bretton Lakes**, where four pairs were present on 24th June, five pairs at **Denby Dale**, four pairs at **Shepley**, at least one pair at **Gunthwaite Dam**, two pairs at **Carr Wood**, a pair (in a nestbox) at **Magdale** and single pairs at **Windybank Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Squirrel Ditch** and **Meltham Hall Park**, the last three being new breeding sites.

Additional pairs or singing males were located in **Beaumont Park**, five sites in the **Almondbury area**, **Woodsome** (3 pairs), **Clough Wood** **Thurstonland**, **Thunderbridge**, **Deffer Wood**, **Hagg Wood**, **New House Wood**, **Cliff Wood** **Brockholes**, **West Wood** **Honley** and new sites in the **Coxley Valley** and **Healey Greave Wood**, **Kirkburton**.

Outside the breeding season there were also records from **Norwood**, **Silkstone**, **Lockwood** and the **Grimescar Valley** as well as first ever garden reports from **New Mill** in August and **Marsh** in December. Once again no information was received from the former stronghold of **Cannon Hall/Cawthorne** and there were no records from sites in the **Calder** or **Colne** Valleys.

High numbers were reported post-breeding season at **Bretton Lakes** with a maximum of 11 birds on 15th December.

TREECREEPER

Certhia familiaris

Resident breeder (2-3)

Perhaps partly as a result of the mention in last year's report of under-reporting of this species, there was an increase of 50% this year in the number of localities from which sightings were received. Although birds were present in the breeding season at 20 sites, reference to breeding was only made at nine of them.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Lakes** where at least five males held territories and one was carrying nest material on 26th March, **Butternab Wood** where two pairs were feeding young in nests on 8th May, and **Royd House Wood** where an adult was carrying food on 22nd April. Elsewhere in the breeding season birds were at **Thunderbridge**, **New House Wood**, **Carr Wood** (present in three areas), **Stones Wood**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Storthes Hall Woods**, **Cliff Wood** **Langsett**, **Langsett Banks**, **Swinden Plantation**, **Woodsome Lees**, **Molly Carr Wood**, **Spring Wood** **Netherton**, **Silkstone SF**, **Cannon Hall**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Longwood Valley**, **Dogley** and **Eastergate Marsden**.

Outside the breeding season records came from **Lockwood** (2 sites), **Blackmoorfoot**, **Taylor Hill**, **Beaumont Park**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Digley Bottom**, **Big Valley**, **Ingbirchworth**, **New Mill**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Stubbin Clough** and the **Grimescar Valley**.

Max. numbers reported were five at **Langsett Res.** on 5th February and up to six at **Bretton** in December.

JAY

Garrulus glandarius

Resident breeder (2)

This species is still going largely unreported, especially with regard to its breeding status. Confirmed breeding was recorded at just one site, **Langsett Banks**, where at least four pairs bred.

The majority of records were in the early months of the year, several sites having up to three birds, but seven were at **Berry Brow** on 16th March and up to seven in **Stones Wood**, **Stocks Moor** on 19th March. **Blackmoorfoot** had birds in every month, especially in August, with a max. of four on 11th. This year, unusually, there were few reports in the autumn period when birds are normally Ringstone

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

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This year, unusually, there were few reports in the autumn period when birds are normally conspicuous as they store food for the winter months, although one was watched burying an item at the roadside near **Kirkburton** on 23rd September.

Birds were reported visiting gardens at **Hinchliffe Mill, New Mill** and **Shelley** as well as the bird-table at **Dewsbury St** again.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4-5)

Few reports were received of this very common species, but up to 10 were observed at a "Magpie wedding" in early spring at **Shelley**, a loose flock of 43 was in a single field at **Carlecotes** on 26th February and 13 were together at **Lepton** on 29th February.

A sizeable roost was discovered at **Greenside** between Wakefield Road and Almondbury, but no counts were made.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4)

Again, little information was received.

Flight lines of hundreds of birds going to roost with Rooks were observed over **Shelley** and **Dalton** and c.500 flew over **Woolfdale** at 1830 hrs. on 22nd March. At **Marsden** 120+ roosted through both winter periods and flocks of up to 50 were regular at **New Mill**.

At **Hinchliffe Mill** birds were present all year and nested in local chimneys, while a minimum of six pairs bred around **Langsett Res.**, where c.50 roosted from 12th to 23rd September at least.

Birds were noted moving over **Harden**, where the species is irregular, on 1st October (one north) and 5th October (three south and nine west).

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5)

Very few records were submitted.

Nest counts at rookeries were nine at **Crosland Moor**, c.50 at **Lower Stones Wood** and c.25 at **Gynn Lane, Honley**. At **New Mill** one pair attempted to nest in isolation in an ash tree, but moved to the large rookery in the village. At least four occupied nests were sited on an electricity pylon at **Fullshaw**.

The only winter flocks reported were 100 in fields at **New Mill** and c.200 at **Brockholes** in January.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4)

Very common in all habitats throughout the area, but the only records received were of one on a nest at **Winscar** on 15th April and a bird at **Kirkheaton** on 3rd October which had much white in the wings, including the greater coverts.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

The amazing increase in sightings of this species continued, with reports in all months and from 20 locations, although none referred to breeding which nevertheless probably took place. Observations were most frequent in the **Harden/Winscar** and **Langsett** areas, with a significant increase in the **Ingbirchworth** area.

Langsett – two at Langsett Res. on 2nd September heralded unprecedented numbers later in the month. On 16th September 24 roosted with other corvids, mainly Jackdaws, at Midhope Cliff/Thickwoods after flying up the valley, then on 17th a record Yorkshire total of 32 birds was counted as they flew up the valley and over the dam wall to roost higher up the Little Don Valley. These numbers were not repeated, but 18 were present on 23rd September, nine on 31st October, eight on 3rd November, five on 13th December, then up to four regularly to the year end (MCW,SG,BBSG).

Harden/Winscar – regularly sighted at Harden in all months, usually one or two birds, but three in May and up to eight daily in September (MC). One flew NW at Windle Edge on 24th March (DHP). On 29th/30th April a pair was working Harden Edge, Sand Ridge Moss and Tinker Hill on foot, possibly searching for Curlew nests, and were divebombed throughout by Curlews. On 22nd September seven flew west – were they Langsett birds or possible migrants? On 14th October eight birds appeared to come from the Langsett roost in the morning, returning in the evening (MC). Nearby a juv. was on a fence post at **Townhead** on 20th August (BBSG).

Ingbirchworth area – two were at **Upper Denby** on 16th March (TM), at least two flew over **Windmill Lane** and were later near Broadstones Res. on 30th August (BA,DM), one flew SE over **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 13th October (RJB) and one over **Spicer House Lane** on 22nd October (BBSG).

Wessenden/Deer Hill/Marsden area – five at **Deer Hill** on 30th and two calling and displaying there on 31st March. Three were together at **Wessenden Head** on 1st April and one flew over, mobbed by Carrion Crows, on 16th May. One flew over **West Nab** towards Digley on 26th December, when a pair was also in the **Wessenden Valley** being mobbed by a Peregrine; probably this was the same pair seen at **Deer Hill** on 30th December. Two were at **Marsden GC** on 12th September and one at **Pule Hill** on 1st October (DMP,SP,KW,BA,DM,JMP,DWB).

Yateholme area – singles on 25th March and 30th April and regular from August onwards (HQ,GBS,MC). One was nearby at **Cartworth Moor** on 19th April (HQ).

Buckstones – one, a dull bird probably reared the previous year, on 31st March (JED).

Dovestones – one feeding on a dead sheep on 7th April, two on 27th October (SRG,JED,JMD).

Black Hill – one on 24th August (HQ).

Ringstone Edge Res. – two flew over on 27th August (HBC).

Skelmanthorpe – one flew over on 30th November (JMD).

Edge Res. – two flew over on 27th August (HBC).

Skelmanthorpe – one flew over on 30th November (JMD).

STARLING

Sturnus vulgaris

Resident breeder (5) and numerous winter visitor

Few records were forthcoming and none to give any indication of the breeding status of the species, which is probably in decline. Several counts, mainly of winter gatherings, were received.

In January there were 300 in **Dearne Dike Lane** on 1st and at **Scammonden** 80 on 3rd and 100+ on 15th, followed in February by 150 at **Royd Moor** on 20th.

In June c.30, all juvs., were at **Harden Edge** on 5th and at least 850, including many juvs., at **Whitley Common** on 7th.

In autumn c.500, again mainly juvs., were at **Gilbert Hill, Langsett** on 25th September and increased to c.2000 from 25th October to mid-November. Flocks of c.2000 on 10th and c.3000 on 12th November at **Hartcliff Hill** were presumably the same as the Langsett birds. From late November to December a pre-roost gathering in the last hour of daylight in the **Lindley Moor** area usually numbered 300 to 500, but reached c.1000 on 15th November.

V.m.w. at **Harden** produced 23 south on 13th September and in October 16 SE on 1st, one north on 8th, 29 west on 14th and six WNW on 19th, with 110 WNW on 4th November.

HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus

Resident breeder (5)

More records were received than usual and some of the numbers involved give rise to optimism in view of the species' recent perceived decline.

The only breeding records were from **Langsett** village, where at least five pairs bred, and from **Townhead**, where the presence of a pair on 5th June was decidedly uncommon.

The species was described as plentiful in the **Denby Dale/Skelmanthorpe** area and flocks were reported from the following locations – **Almondbury** 15-25 all year in the Benomley area, **Dalton** 60+ coming to a garden feeding station in Kelvin Avenue and c.20 at a second site, near **Castle Hill** up to 20 regularly, **Lumb Lane** up to 30 present, **Shelley** up to 30 in the post-breeding period and an increase on previous years, **Lockwood** 12 in April, **New Mill** up to 20 daily in a garden with young in May/June, **Ossett** c.100 in Healey Road on stubble on 9th July and at **Hall Bower** 60 to 70 on 14th September.

TREE SPARROW

Passer montanus

Resident breeder (1)

A rather more encouraging picture emerged this year. Although fewer records were received, breeding was confirmed at three sites and probably occurred at two others.

Emley – 11 birds were at a garden feeding station on 17th April. Two pairs bred in boxes erected in a hedgerow and between them raised five broods of six young; up to 30 birds were feeding in the same garden in the post-breeding season (S.Horrocks).

Denby Dale – one pair was nesting on 9th May (TM).

Castle Dam, Penistone – a pair bred and was feeding four fledged young on 24th June (BBSG).

Horbury SE – a small flock of six to 15 birds was present nearby throughout the year (JRS).

Almondbury – small numbers (up to c.12) were present at a garden feeding station in Lumb Lane in the early months and later in the year, but a report of 40 feeding in an adjacent uncut barley crop after the cold weather snap on 29th December was totally unexpected and most welcome (SRG, BA, DHP et al). The species is presumably breeding successfully somewhere in the vicinity.

Scout Dike – the highest counts were in the proximity of Belle Royd Farm, with max. of 15 on 9th September and 16 on 17th December (BBSG).

Coxley Valley – one on 15th April (DHP).

Lepton – one feeding at the roadside on 22nd May flew off towards Whitley Willows, where there is plenty of suitable breeding habitat (BA).

Marsden – at least two were at Bank Bottom Mills on 17th December (JMP).

On the downside, there were no sightings this year of the species at **Dewsbury SF**, where up to 14 birds were present on ten dates in 1999. A possible reason is disturbance due to ongoing construction work, but the true reason could be more ominous.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor

Very common as a breeding species throughout the area wherever there is suitable habitat. Of the few records received, several related to birds visiting gardens and involved young birds.

Reports of autumn/winter flocks came from **Scammonden** with c.25 on 10th September, **Bretton Lakes** where in December 50+ feeding under beeches on 3rd and 15th increased to 80+ from 23rd to 31st and **Silkstone** where c.300 were feeding on plough on 9th December.

Visible migration at **Harden** produced two on 24th September (when 30 were held up in foggy conditions nearby at **Holme Styes**), four SSE on 27th September, 11 on 28th September, one SW in very foggy conditions on 30th September; in October 26 S/SE on 1st, 15 W/WSW on 5th, 11 on 8th, five on 9th, five west on 14th and eight on 19th, with 22 on 4th and 95 on 5th November.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common winter visitor

Only two sizeable flocks were present in the area, both in the early months, and birds were very scarce in the second winter period, especially in December, with only one flock exceeding 10 birds. Present in the early months between 1st January and 24th April and at the year end from 6th October. In the first winter period the highest count was c.100 in fields to the east of **Bullcliff Wood** on 8th January (via MB). 60-70 birds fed on sunflower seeds in an **Almoudbury** garden in January, gradually reducing to c.40 in March and to c.30 on 16th April (KH) and c.20 remained from 1999 to at least 10th April at **Ravensthorpe**. Birds were present in a **Lougwood** garden, again feeding on sunflower seeds, from 1st January to the last on 24th April and peaked at 21 (PDB). Apart from 12 at **Cubley** on 1st January, c.20 at **Bretton** on 4th January and 14 at **Royd Moor** on 20th February no other counts reached double figures. Other sightings were a male at **Denby Dale** on 1st and 6th January, a male at **Shepley** from 9th to 19th and on 26th and 30th January, one at **Bradley Park GC** on 26th January, 4+ in a **Shelley** garden from 29th January to mid-April, in February three on 3rd and eight on 6th near **Penny Spring Wood**, a female at **Taylor Hill** on 10th, one at **Bretton Lakes** on 14th, four in **Holmfirth** on 22nd and one near **Broadstones** on 24th. There were just two sightings of single birds in March, at **Penistone** on 6th and a male in the **Coxley Valley** on 21st. In April three on 1st and eight on 9th at **Cubley**, a male at **Hinchliffe Mill** occasionally from 2nd to 18th, a male at **Inghirchworth** on 8th and one at **Wooldale** on 18th.

The first returning birds appeared at **Harden** on 5th October and **Castle Dam** (3) and **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th, followed by one over **Langsett** on 13th when three males were at **Bretton**; this last site also had c.5 on 14th, c.10 on 21st and at least six on 26th. One at **Marsden GC** on 22nd provided the only other October record. Later, 20+ were in the same **Lougwood** garden in early November as the birds at the start of the year, one flew south at **Harden** on 5th November, two on 6th and one at

Blackmoorfoot on 30th November, six at **Castle Dam** on 10th November, five on 11th November and four on 27th December at **Bretton Lakes**, at least two in **Windmill Lane** on 13th November. Four were at **Bradley Park GC** on 1st December, up to three regularly in December at **Meltham**, a male at **Storthes Hall** on 29th December and one in the **Grimescar Valley** on 30th December.

During the year birds visited gardens where food had been provided at **Cubley**, **Shepley**, **Shelley**, **Almondbury**, **Taylor Hill**, **Wooldale**, **Meltham**, **Longwood**, **Hinchliffe Mill** and **Penistone**.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4)

Common throughout the area, but little evidence was submitted relating to the breeding season, apart from at least three pairs nesting in **Langsett** village, at least three males holding territories at **Langsett Banks**, a pair raising up to three broods at **Shelley** and juvs. in a **New Mill** garden from 24th June.

Counts outside the breeding season were as follows – at **Blackmoorfoot** the roost on the west bank held max. of 100+ on 1st and 80 on 17th January and 75+ on 16th December, **Royd Moor Res.** max. 23 on 8th January and 19th October and a flock of c.50 on 27th December, **Shepley** 20+ in **Jos Lane** on 14th March, **Dewsbury SF** had very high numbers feeding on adjacent stubble in the post-breeding period, 120 on 12th July increasing to 250 on 24th July and 450 on 20th August, reducing to 150 on 23rd August, **Ingbirchworth** area 34 on 12th August and c.45 on 5th November at the reservoir with c.20 in **Spicer House Lane** on 19th and 26th October and c.50 in **Annat Royd Lane** in mid-November, **Scammonden** 35-40 on 10th September, **Hartcliffe Hill** a flock of c.250 on 12th November, **Shelley** up to 50 at a garden feeding station at the year end.

Small numbers were also reported from gardens at **Hinchliffe Mill** and **Ravensthorpe**.

V.m.w. at **Harden** produced the following – one SW on 22nd September, one SSE on 27th September; in October two south on 1st, one south on 14th and 10 on 19th then three on 4th and two south on 5th November.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (2-3)

Remains widespread in the area with reports from almost 40 localities, but mainly in single figures, with fewer and smaller flocks than in some recent years. The largest flocks reported were all in September and probably indicated a successful breeding season, although actual breeding reports were very few.

Juvenile birds, probably raised nearby, were at **Horbury Wyke** on 6th July, in **Sharpe Lane**, **Almondbury** on 24th July, **Scout Dike** on 26th July and at **New Mill** in August. Pairs or singing males were also recorded at **Bretton Lakes**, (4+), **Denby Dale**, **Gunthwaite Dam**, **Broadstones**, **Scammonden** s (4-5 pairs), **Dallton**, **Ravensthorpe**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Kirkheaton**, **Royd Moor**, **Gawthorpe Green**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Winscar**, **Aspley** and **Dewsbury SF** and doubtless bred at many of these sites as well as at others which went unreported.

Gardens in many areas were visited, usually in single figures, but c.30 in a **Cubley** garden on 1st January and up to 13 at **Shelley** in December were good counts.

The largest flocks reported were at **Bretton Lakes** – c.30 on 27th August and 3rd September, **Ingbirchworth** – c.50 on 10th and c.70 on 26th September, **Scout Dike** – c.60 on 10th September, **Cumberworth Lane** – 20+ on 18th September, **Winscar** – c.20 on 23rd and 44+ on 24th September, **Elland GPs** – c.20 on 28th November. **Blackmoorfoot** had birds in all months except February and December, but with no more than four on any day.

At **Harden** numbers on v.m.w. in September were 17 SW on 13th, 14 WSW on 16th, six north on

23rd, seven on 27th, 41 (possibly the Winscar birds) on 28th; in October 33 on 1st, four west on 5th, five north and eight SW on 8th, six on 9th, three north on 14th and three on 19th.

SISKIN

Carduelis spinus

Resident breeder (1) and winter visitor

A sparse breeder in upland conifer plantations, this species is most often reported from garden feeding stations in small numbers in spring and in larger numbers from its favoured sites of **Bretton Lakes** and **Elland GPs** in winter.

Bretton Lakes – an excellent flock of c.100 on 4th January and “several” on 6th February were the only reports in the early months, but recorded much more frequently in the second half of the year. After one on 27th August, there were up to 60 from mid-October, c.100 on 9th and c.25 on 11th November, c.50 on 16th December, then two flocks totalling c.200 birds feeding under alders on 23rd December. **Shelley** – a female on 5th January, with numbers increasing to five on 4th April and the last departing in mid-month.

Taylor Hill – a male on 19th and a female on 26th January, male and female on 18th March and 29th April.

Penny Spring Wood – two feeding in an adjacent garden on 2nd February.

Dewsbury SF – one on 3rd/4th March.

Penistone – one on a garden feeder on 6th March.

Lockwood – a pair on feeders on 7th March.

Hinchliffe Mill – several on feeders from 5th March to late May and a male on 17th July.

New Mill – two males on 11th March, one the following week then male and female to 1st April.

Shepley – two on 22nd March.

Langsett Banks – two pairs bred.

Langsett Res. – at least six pairs bred. c.10 on 23rd December.

Little Don Valley – at least four pairs bred above Brookhouse Bridge, with 2+ pairs in Swinden Plantation. Six on 12th May.

Yatcholme area – a pair and a small party on 25th March, several pairs near the car park, with 3+ singing males, on 7th April, at least four on 23rd May, calls heard on 1st August and c.20 present on 24th September.

Holme Styes – three birds including a singing male on 30th April and four flew E/SE on 24th September.

Blackmoorfoot – singles on 18th July and 10th November.

Scammonden – 12 moved slowly west, feeding in alders, on 17th September.

Marsden – three flew west on 23rd September.

Harden – two SSE on 27th September; in October four S/SE on 1st, two south on 5th, one west on 14th and in November six south on 5th.

Holme Woods – c.20 on 17th October.

Silkstone SF – c.50 on 9th December.

Elland GPs – up to 25 on 14th December.

Gunthwaite Dam – c.50 on 16th December.

Millhouse Green – c.50 on 20th December.

LINNET

Carduelis cannabina

Partial migrant breeder (3)

Widespread through the area, but in decreasing numbers as suitable areas of breeding habitat disappear, particularly in suburban districts. Still reasonably common in rural and moorland fringe areas. A

scarce species before March and after October. Can be surprisingly late in returning to breeding sites.

The only site from which birds were reported in the early months was **Jos Lane, Shepley** where there were 45 on 9th and at least 30 on 16th January feeding on weeds in a field of fodder beet. Numbers had increased to 100 by 21st April, wintering birds having been joined presumably by returning local breeders. At least one pair later remained to nest.

The first returning birds elsewhere were at **Shelley** on 21st March, building up to 20 by mid-April, at **Broadstones Lodge** on 22nd March and then no more were reported until April when c.30 were at **Royd Moor** on 8th, c.15 at **Ravensthorpe** on 10th, a max. of 13 above **New Mill** on 26th, a small flock at **Holme Styes** on 28th and small numbers just returning to **Lindley Moor** on 29th/30th.

Breeding evidence in the form of adults feeding fledged young was obtained at **Lindley Moor** and **Harden** and additional pairs were located at **Farnley Tyas** (4), **Longwood Valley** (10), **New House Wood, Horbury** (2+), **Winscar, Kirkheaton** (2), **Lepton** (5), **Clayton West** (5), **Shepley** (1+), **New Mill** (5), **Shelley** (6), **Holme Styes** (1+), **Broadstones Lodge** (c.20 birds on 9th May), **Wessenden, Castle Hill, Scout Dike** and singing males at **Skelmanthorpe** and **Lower Cumberworth**. Other breeding season sightings were made at **Lindley, Golcar, Deer Hill** and **Ingbirchworth**. On 20th June 38 birds in the vicinity of **Longwood Common** would suggest local breeding and family parties joining together.

Post-breeding season numbers were highest near **Dewsbury SF** where 200 were on stubble on 28th July, increasing to 300 on 15th and 350 on 17th August then reducing to 200 on 24th August and 1st September and finally to 47 on 8th October. Other flocks notified were c.70 in September below **Castle Hill**, 129 at **Whitley Edge** on 1st September, 50 at **Nettleton Hill** on 11th September, c.100 at **Ingbirchworth** on 23rd September, up to 25 at **Kirkheaton** on 28th September and c.90 at **Royd Moor** on 8th October.

Migration was noted at **Harden** from 16th September when 38 moved S/SW with 58, including a flock of c.40 SW on 22nd, two SSE on 27th and in October 14 SE on 1st, four NNW on 5th, four on 8th and two on 19th, the last of the year there.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder (1-2)

The catastrophic decline of this species in England has been reflected in numbers locally, although we are fortunate to be one of the few areas where this species can still be found. Only about 250 pairs remain in the South Pennines; the problem is not loss of breeding habitat of which there is an abundance, but loss of hay meadows on which the adults forage for seeds to feed their young. The provision and protection of these feeding habitats is vital and probably the key to the survival of the species in the area.

No reports were received of successful breeding, but other evidence would suggest that nesting did occur and birds were present in the breeding season in several suitable sites. The species was present in the area between 18th March and 14th October at least.

Digley – two on 18th March, six on 3rd July (TM).

Winscar/Harden – two over **Harden** on 8th April and a pair feeding on the grassy **Winscar Res.** embankment on 7th May. Seven on a wall at **Harden** on 4th July included suspected juveniles and v.m.w. there produced three S/SE on 1st and single birds on 8th and 14th October (MC).

Holme Styes/Hade Edge – one on 8th April, 2+ feeding in fields on 21st May, four at the roadside on 10th June and two on wires on 1st August (HQ,MC,BA,DM).

Blackmoorfoot – 27 in fields to the west on 10th April (MLD).

Wessenden Valley – two on 10th April and 2nd May, at least three on 14th and 16th May, present also

on 16th June and probably bred in the upper valley. A mixed finch flock feeding in hay meadows above Butterley Res. on 3rd July contained 45 of this species and at least four were still present there on 1st August (KW, TM, BA, DM).

Buckstones – a pair alongside the main A640 road on 26th April (JED).

Snailsden – two on 12th May (GBS).

Ringstone Edge Res. – one on the dam wall on 12th May (DHP).

Deer Hill Res. – two on 15th May, 11 nearby on 20th August and five on 13th September (KW, DMP).

Rishworth Moor – one singing male on 19th June and two nearby at Booth Dam Quarry on 15th July (SRG, DHP).

March Haigh Res. – six on 20th June (TM).

Marsden – one on 3rd July and at least six throughout October on Pule Hill (TM, JMP).

Krumlin – five feeding at the roadside on 30th September.

It is vital that every sighting of this species is reported in future years.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder (2) and winter visitor

A rather better year for this species and although breeding was confirmed at one site, probably occurred in at least one other.

None were present in the early months until 12th March but good numbers were at Bretton at the year end.

Bretton Lakes – the only spring report was of three birds at the western end on 12th March. At the end of the year birds were present from at least 9th November when c.30 were feeding under Birch and Alder, with 20 remaining to the year end.

Winscar/Harden – four flew over Winscar on 22nd March, one present on 8th then c.10 on 29th April accompanied by much song.

At least five males were singing on 7th May. A minimum of four bred and a flock of at least 25 birds on 5th June probably represented a season. Birds were present to 27th June at least. Additional birds

Sandridge Moss on 19th April and over Harden three SE on 30th September, a probable migrant grounded on 5th October and one on 8th, four on 9th, one on 14th October, one on 4th and two on 5th November all flying south.

New Mill – two in a garden on 18th March.

Dunford Bridge Cycle Track – three on 27th March and one on 29th April.

Digley – six birds on 8th April were probably on passage.

Ingbirchworth Res. – a max. of six on 22nd April.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – singles on 28th April, 13th October and 30th November.

Holme Styes/Hade Edge – a pair and a second male on 7th May, several calling on both 20th May and 15th July and up to 10 on 17th June and 23rd July. Probably bred.

Denby Dale – heard calling regularly.

Dewsbury SF – three flew over on 23rd August.

Shepley – singles present on 3rd and 15th October, with one or two calling regularly on other dates.

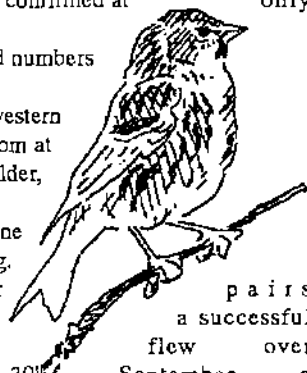
Royd Moor Res. – a max. of eight on 19th October.

Shelley – six on 28th November.

Elland GPs – at least one with Siskins on 14th December.

Langsett Res. – eight on 23rd December.

Birds were also heard at **Dovestones Res.** but no dates given.



only

pairs

a successful

flew over

September, a

MEALY REDPOLL

Carduelis flammea

Rare winter visitor

Elland GPs – at least eight in Willows on 20th and 12 in Alders near Cromwell Lake on 22nd March (JED,DM).

Meltham SF – a large, pale bird with a very conspicuous wingbar on 29th December was very probably this species (DHP)

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1) and uncommon passage visitor

Breeding occurred on the southern boundary of our area and possibly at a second site.

Langsett Res. – one singing on 4th March in Thickwoods, where a family party was observed on 30th April. A male near Brookhouse Bridge on 27th March. Ten birds on 21st June and one flew in to roost at North America Wood on 20th December (BBSG).

Scammonden – loud calls were heard coming from conifers above the Sailing Club on 18th March but visual contact could not be made (JED).

Yateholme – at least three were seen on 1st and a female on 8th April and calls heard on 7th April (DMP,SP,KW,GBS); one seen and a second bird calling on 23rd May (BA).

Thornton Lodge – four flew west on 12th July (MLD).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3)

From the number of records received, particularly in the summer months, it would appear that this species is in decline. Although reports again came from approximately 40 localities, only c.12 of these, compared with 28 in 1999, had breeding season records and confirmation of breeding was received from only one site, **Langsett Banks** where at least two pairs bred.

The vast majority of reports were of just one or two birds and mainly in the winter months. Exceptions to this were four at **Royd House Farm** on 1st May, seven at **Bretton Lakes** on 13th January and six there on 27th December, seven near **Penny Spring Wood** on 3rd February, five at **Blacker Wood** on 25th March, four at **Millbank Thornhill** on 20th October, six on the **Dunford Bridge Cycle Track** on 5th November, eight in **North America Wood** on 10th November and up to four at **Cowcliffe** in December and at **Shelley** in both winter periods.

Breeding season reports came from **Skelmanthorpe**, **Elland GPs**, **Deffer Wood**, **Almondbury**, **Scammonden**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Shelley**, **Waterlon**, **Emley**, **Denby Dale** and **Dalton**, with birds at other times of the year also at **Lockwood**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **New Mill**, **Windmill Lane**, **Krumlin**, **Scout Dike**, **Holme Styes**, **Liphill Brook**, **Thurstonland**, **Holmbridge**, **Digley**, **Boshaw Whams**, **Netherthong**, **Grimescar**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Golcar**, **Taylor Hill**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Carr Wood** and **Gawthorpe Green**.

All records of this species would be appreciated for future reports.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Resident, probable breeder (1)

After a blank year in 1999, it is encouraging to report a good series of records from the species' favoured site, **Bretton Lakes**, where it is highly likely that breeding occurred.

A male was seen on 6th July (BBSG) with the next reported sighting not until 21st October when, of two birds on the south side of the lower lake, one was a juv. with spotty underparts and a plain head. They were feeding in Beech trees (DHP). One was present on 1st November, then at least two,

possibly three, on 2nd December, a male and a female/immature on 3rd, three on 6th and then up to three to the year end (DMP,SP,KW,BA et al).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor

At **Harden** one flew SSE on 27th September and one south on 4th October (MC).

A bird flying over **Kirkheaton** calling on 3rd October was almost certainly this species (BA).

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare winter visitor

One flew over **Wessenden Head** calling on 10th January (JMP). The 9th record for the area.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3) and partial migrant

Fairly widespread generally except in the western parts of the area, where the species is distinctly uncommon. Reported from only 23 sites compared with 35 in 1999, with the highest concentrations again in the **Broadstones/Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike/Royd Moor**, lower **Calder Valley** and **Castle Hill/Almondbury/Farnley/Thurstonland** areas as well as having a good population in the **Shepley/Skelmanthorpe/Sheley** district.

In the early months some good flocks were at **Ingbirchworth**, c.50 on 9th January, **Shepley** 30 on 15th January and **Lepton** c.70 on 29th February, the next highest count being eight at **Wheatroyd**, **Almondbury** on 9th February.

A minimum of 74 pairs/singing males was located but numbers were down at some key localities e.g. **Royd Moor** 5 breeding pairs (11 in 1999), **Scout Dike** 8 breeding territories (12 singing males in 1999), **Broadstones Lodge** 3 pairs, **Ingbirchworth** 2 singing males; at other sites **Castle Hill** had several males, **Royd House Farm** and **Ashes Lane** 1 pair each, **Farnley Tyas/Carr Wnood** 10+ pairs and 2 other singing males, **Horbury Bridge to Horbury Wyke** at least 12 singing males, **Ravensthorpe GPs** 1 pair, **Lepton** 2 pairs, **Skelmanthorpe** area 6 singing males, **Shepley** 8 pairs, **Denby Dale** 3 pairs, **Clayton West** 4 pairs, **Gunthwaite Dam** 1 pair, **New Mill** 3 pairs and **Elland Lowfields and Drop Clough** 1 singing male each. A male in song at **Elysium** above **Hade Edge** on 11th/12th June was unusual.

With the exception of 75 at **Shepley** on 31st December numbers were relatively low at the end of the year, with other max. of 14 at **Royd Moor** on 16th December, 12 at **Haigh** on 22nd December and 20+ in **Lumb Lane, Almondbury** on 29th December.

None were recorded on v.m.w. at **Harden**.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*

Rare visitor

The bird first seen in December 1999 was relocated and enabled positive identification on 15th January, after which it remained in the area off **Jos Lane, Shepley** until at least 10th April (TM). When not feeding on weeds between the rows of fodder beet it favoured roadside Hawthorns conveniently adjacent to a layby. During its stay it often proved very elusive, one observer not getting to grips with the bird until his fifth visit. It provided a source of enjoyment to many hundreds of birders during its stay. Thanks are due to the **Jos Lane** resident who regularly put out seed beneath the roadside bushes.

REED BUNTING

Emberiza schoeniclus

Resident breeder (2) and partial migrant

In what appears to have been a more encouraging year for the species a minimum of 63 pairs/singing males was located, with at least 24 pairs proved to have bred, mainly in the Ingbirchworth and Calder Valley areas.

No sizeable flocks were reported, maximum numbers being 10+ roosting in phragmites at Elland GPs on 3rd January, c.10 at Horbury Strands on 11th March and at Jos Lane, Shepley six on 20th January and 31st December.

In the Ingbirchworth area at least five pairs bred at Royd Moor Res., seven pairs at Scout Dike Res., two pairs at Broadstones and six pairs at Ingbirchworth Res., where there were 10 singing males on 9th April.

Two pairs bred at Dewsbury SF, producing five young which all fledged in late August, and at least one pair each at Horbury Wyke and Horbury Strands, probably considerably more as the Strands had eight males on territory on 6th July and the Wyke three males on territory on 16th July. Elsewhere in the Calder Valley there were four singing males at Henley, at least two at Ravensthorpe GPs and several birds at Elland GPs.

Single pairs were on territory at Digley Res., Harden Quarries and Harden Res., with two pairs and a third singing male at Scammonden. Additional singing males were at Winscar on 22nd April, later moving to Harden Edge and still in song on 10th June, Buckstones on 23rd April, Boshaw Whams on 10th June, Denby Dale on 16th June, Deer Hill on 16th June and 12th July, Upper Windleden Res. on 8th July and Wessenden on 17th July, with a male and a female at Blackmoorfoot on 6th May, a male on 16th May and 27th July but with no breeding activity observed. Birds were also present at Dunford Cycle Track on 27th March and 15th April (3) and at Ringstone Edge Res. on 19th July.

At Harden two flew north until out of sight on 7th April (?migrants) and in autumn v.m.w. produced two SW on 16th, four S/SW on 22nd and one on 27th September; in October 11 SE on 1st, one south on 5th, three south on 8th, three south on 9th and finally five on 19th.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING

Emberiza melanocephala

Vagrant

Addition to 1998 Report -- one was present in a garden at Ainley Top on an unspecified date in May (Mrs. Morison). On the strength of a photograph submitted by the householder the record has been accepted by the BBRC. It was only the second Yorkshire record and a very welcome, if totally unexpected, addition to the Club's avifauna.

CORN BUNTING

Miliaria calandra

Rare visitor and former breeder

One spent 20 minutes from 0820 hrs. on 24th August in front of the hide at Dewsbury SF (JH). The first record since 1997 of this formerly common and widespread breeder.

CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES NAMED IN THE CLASSIFIED LIST
(Use O.S.Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Almondbury | 170155 |
| Annat Royd Lane | 211053 |
| Appleyards, Golcar | 101152 |
| Armitage Bridge | 130135 |
| Aspley | 151163 |
| Bank Wood, Emley | 263138 |
| Banks Hall | 282066 |
| Bartin | 091072 |
| Beaumont Park | 130147 |
| Berry Brow | 141138 |
| Big Valley | 130136 |
| Bilberry Res. | 102070 |
| Bird's Edge | 202077 |
| Birkby | 140183 |
| Birks Moss | 056078 |
| Black Moss | 040085 |
| Blacker Wood | 240111 |
| Blackley Tip | 102195 |
| Blackmoorfoot Res. | 098127 |
| Booth Dam Quarry | 018161 |
| Boothroyd Wood | 183118 |
| Boshaw Whams | 151057 |
| Bradley | 165205 |
| Bradley Park GC | 157207 |
| Bretton Lakes | 280127 |
| Broadstones Lodge | 200065 |
| Broadstones Res. | 195065 |
| Brookhouse Bridge | 198007 |
| Brownhill Res. | 114050 |
| Brown's Edge | 195058 |
| Buckstones | 010140 |
| Bulcliff Wood | 292152 |
| Bunny Wood, Golcar | 095173 |
| Butterley Res. | 050103 |
| Cannon Hall | 275085 |
| Carlecotes | 178034 |
| Carr Wood | 180133 |
| Cartworth Moor | 138060 |
| Castle Dam, Penistone | 255022 |
| Castle Hill | 152141 |
| Cawthorne | 285080 |

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|-----------------------|--------|
| Cheesegate Nab | 175065 |
| Choppards | 142064 |
| Cinderhills | 147075 |
| Clayton West | 260110 |
| Cliff Wood, Langsett | 215002 |
| Clock Face Quarry | 044173 |
| Clough Wood | 175114 |
| Colne Valley | 070140 |
| Cooper Bridge | 166206 |
| Cowliffe | 139187 |
| Coxley Bank | 275168 |
| Coxley Valley | 271165 |
| Cranberry | 247008 |
| Crosland Heath GC | 110142 |
| Crosland Hill | 115145 |
| Crosland Moor | 120150 |
| Crossley's Plantation | 125050 |
| Crow Edge | 188046 |
| Cubley | 245023 |
| Cupwith Res. | 038141 |
| Dalton | 163162 |
| Deanhead Res. | 038152 |
| Dearne Dike Lane | 195075 |
| Deer Hill Res. | 070115 |
| Deffer Wood | 260090 |
| Deighton | 167191 |
| Denby Dale | 225084 |
| Dewsbury SF | 260198 |
| Digley Bottom | 115068 |
| Digley Res. | 107070 |
| Dogley NR | 187137 |
| Dovestones Res. | 018040 |
| Drop Clough | 048133 |
| Dunford Bridge | 158024 |
| Eastergate, Marsden | 029121 |
| Edge Hill | 235016 |
| Elland GPs | 125222 |
| Elysium Fields | 133055 |
| Emley Moor | 225135 |
| Emley Tx | 223130 |
| Farnley Tyas | 166128 |
| Farnley Wood | 164134 |

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|----------------------|--------|
| Featherbed Moss | 044067 |
| Fenay Beck | 183152 |
| Flight Hill | 153042 |
| Flockton | 245151 |
| Flouch Inn | 198016 |
| Folly Hall | 142159 |
| Ford Inn | 114084 |
| Fox Clough | 136057 |
| Fox Clough, Langsett | 190006 |
| Fox House Moss | 165042 |
| Fullshaw | 210012 |
| Gawthorpe Green | 193168 |
| Gilbert Hill | 210007 |
| Golcar | 096160 |
| Golcar Tip | 104156 |
| Grain's Moss | 125025 |
| Grange Moor | 220160 |
| Greenfield Road | 103080 |
| Green Gate Road | 113080 |
| Grimescar Valley | 130190 |
| Gunthwaite Dam | 246062 |
| Hade Edge | 146053 |
| Haigh | 294120 |
| Hall Bower | 145140 |
| Harden | 153037 |
| Harden Clough | 144039 |
| Harden Edge | 158038 |
| Harden Res. | 150037 |
| Hartcliff Hill | 221017 |
| Hazlehead | 195028 |
| Healey Greave Wood | 198116 |
| Healey House | 115124 |
| Healey Mills | 268193 |
| Helme | 101118 |
| Hepworth | 164066 |
| Highburton | 193133 |
| Hill Top Res. | 074141 |
| Hinchliffe Mill | 127072 |
| Hingcliff Common | 194001 |
| Holmbridge | 120068 |
| Holme | 108060 |
| Holme Styes | 136054 |
| Holme Styes Res. | 141055 |

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|----------------------|--------|
| Holmfirth | 143082 |
| Honley | 138118 |
| Horbury Strands | 288177 |
| Horbury Wyke | 297172 |
| Hoylandswaine | 265047 |
| Huddersfield | 145165 |
| Ingbirchworth Res. | 215060 |
| Jackson Bridge | 165075 |
| Jenkinson Wood | 184116 |
| Kaye Lane | 160147 |
| King's Mill Lane | 150161 |
| Kirkburton | 198128 |
| Kirkheaton | 185185 |
| Krumlin | 056183 |
| Langsett | 212005 |
| Langsett Banks | 205003 |
| Langsett Res. | 210031 |
| Law | 158047 |
| Lepton | 193157 |
| Lepton Great Wood | 195145 |
| Lindley | 120182 |
| Lindley Moor | 095185 |
| Linthwaite | 095145 |
| Liphill Brook | 129078 |
| Litherop Lane | 273123 |
| Little Don Valley | 195005 |
| Lockwood | 135152 |
| Lockwood Brewery Dam | 135150 |
| Longwood | 108167 |
| Lower Cumberworth | 223095 |
| Lower Stones Wood | 187106 |
| Lower Windleden Res. | 157017 |
| Lowfields, Elland | 117219 |
| Lumb Lane | 160140 |
| Magdale Dam | 135124 |
| March Haigh Res. | 015130 |
| Margery Wood | 275096 |
| Marsden | 045115 |
| Marsh | 125171 |
| Maythorn | 196057 |
| McAlpine Stadium | 155176 |
| Meller Wood | 158144 |
| Meltham Moor | 080093 |

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|---------------------|--------|
| Meltham SF | 112115 |
| Middlestown | 267172 |
| Millbank, Thornhill | 254195 |
| Millhouse Green | 218032 |
| Millmoor, Meltham | 088107 |
| Milnsbridge | 113158 |
| Molly Carr Wood | 160137 |
| Mytholm Bridge | 154102 |
| Netherthong | 139097 |
| Netherton, Wkfld | 283170 |
| Nettleton Hill | 094170 |
| New House Wood | 210082 |
| New Mill | 164088 |
| Nont Sarah's | 048152 |
| Nopper Road | 107135 |
| Oakes | 120174 |
| Oldfield | 136103 |
| Orange Wood | 102123 |
| Ossett | 280200 |
| Outlane | 085180 |
| Oxygrains Beck | 003159 |
| Penistone | 245033 |
| Penny Spring Wood | 160155 |
| Pole Moor | 067158 |
| Pule Hill | 033104 |
| Ramsden Res. | 115055 |
| Ravensthorpe | 222202 |
| Ravensthorpe GPs | 233202 |
| Reynard Clough | 136050 |
| Riding Wood Res. | 117050 |
| Ringstone Edge Res. | 050182 |
| Roughbitchworth | 264016 |
| Round Wood | 157101 |
| Royd Edge | 095097 |
| Royd House Wood | 162133 |
| Royd Moor Res. | 222048 |
| Salendine Nook | 105178 |
| Sand Ridge Moss | 158032 |
| Scammonden | 050160 |
| Scout Dike Res. | 233049 |
| Shelley | 204113 |
| Shepley | 193098 |

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| Shore Head | 148166 |
| Silkstone | 290059 |
| Silkstone SF | 295065 |
| Skelmanthorpe | 233105 |
| Slaithwaite | 080140 |
| Smith Wood | 179115 |
| Snailsden Moor | 135035 |
| Snailsden Res. | 135040 |
| South Crosland | 115126 |
| Sparth Res. | 055125 |
| Spicer House Lane | 205055 |
| Spring Wood | 130124 |
| Squirrel Ditch | 152154 |
| Stainland | 077194 |
| Stocksnoor Common | 275152 |
| Stoneycliffe Wood | 270158 |
| Storches Hall Woods | 183118 |
| Stubbin Clough | 124072 |
| Swinden Plantation | 190002 |
| Taylor Hill | 135145 |
| Thornton Lodge | 135161 |
| Thorpess | 235095 |
| Thunderbridge | 188115 |
| Thurstonsland | 165104 |
| Tinker Hill | 163048 |
| Townhead | 166028 |
| Upper Cumberworth | 210087 |
| Upper Denby | 238072 |
| Upper Longdendale | 095005 |
| Upper Windleden Res. | 152012 |
| Victoria, Hepworth | 178054 |
| Waterloo | 177166 |
| Wessenden Head Res. | 070075 |
| Wessenden Valley | 055088 |
| West Nab | 077088 |
| West Slaithwaite | 060132 |
| West Wood, Honley | 151123 |
| Wetshaw Edge | 147032 |
| Whitegate Lane | 128055 |
| Whitley Common | 192056 |
| Whitley Willows | 196166 |
| Windle Edge | 152017 |
| Windleden Edge | 142010 |
| Windmill Lane | 195072 |
| Windybank Wood | 112104 |
| Winscar Res. | 150025 |
| Wood Nook | 122106 |
| Woodsome Lees | 186134 |
| Woodsome Road | 185146 |
| Wooldale | 155090 |
| Yateholme | 115050 |

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