



**Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

# **Birds in Huddersfield**

## **2012**



***Birds in Huddersfield 2012*** is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports produced by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Cover illustration: **Roosting Cormorants (Stuart Brocklehurst).**

Rear cover photograph: **Hoopoe (Robin Millard)**

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# **Birds in Huddersfield**

## **2012**

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Stuart Brocklehurst is a wildlife artist and you can see more of his work on his web site:  
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## **FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT**

It is always a relief to receive our latest annual report from the printers after the months of hard work by the production team to bring it together. This, the 2012 report, is no exception and it clearly maintains the high standards we have come to expect.

Chris Abell and Mike Pinder stood down from the writing team this year, after taking part every year since it was formed, and I thank them both for their invaluable contributions. They have been ably replaced by Heather and Steve Chippendale and Roger Mitchell and I congratulate the whole team on another excellent report – the names of the guilty appear on the title page!

2012 may have been an average year in terms of the overall number of species recorded, but there are many highlights here that make the report fine reading. A particular feature this year is the number of fascinating articles, with which we are always keen to enrich the report, and our thanks go to all of the contributors.

Sadly, since our last report, indeed in recent weeks, we have lost two of our most stalwart Club members.

Terry Piggott, who died on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013 of a brain tumour, was a longstanding member and birder, who after retiring began to develop seriously his bird photography. We very much enjoyed his talks to the Club on Mexico and his beloved Anglesey. Terry became President briefly, before ill health forced him to step down and we were denied the benefit of his contribution. Indeed, he wrote this preface for our last report.

Russell Smithson died on 18<sup>th</sup> September in a fall whilst working on a barn roof. Russ was without doubt our most active member in terms of the conservation work he did in his beloved Calder Valley and elsewhere. He had recently joined our committee to co-ordinate survey work. Our former Recorder Brian Armitage read tributes to Russ at his funeral on behalf of himself and Russ's close birding friend from Wakefield Peter Smith. With the kind permission of Russ's wife Grace, these are reproduced on page 130 and capture our thoughts on Russ much better than I can.

We shall miss them both.

Mike Wainman

# ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 46 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological recording and *Birds in Huddersfield 2012* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

From time to time we also publish more specific, one-off works, including in 2001 an *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area*, in 2004 *Birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1985-2003* and in 2008 a major new work *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area*, which reviewed the complete history of every species recorded in the area since records began, right up to modern times.

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

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

The whole of the Club archive, including all of our publications since 1966, has recently been made available in digital format via our new web site (see below) for viewing by the public. This is an invaluable source for everyone interested in the history of the birds of the area.

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

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

Each year, we hold a number of local 'patch outings' or bird watching walks on which members pass on their knowledge of local sites of particular birding interest.

Our web site [www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk](http://www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk) contains information about birding in the area, as well as about the Club and our activities. The forum is open to public view and shows the latest local bird sightings posted by members, often with photos, and is a great way of finding out what is about.



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

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

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

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

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

Members of the public are welcome to all of our meetings and patch outings, free of charge (voluntary donation), and we try to provide something for birdwatchers of all tastes and experience. It is a great way to learn about birds and to meet fellow birders.

So, whether old hand or beginner, why not come along and join us ?

Simply contact any member of the Committee - see inside rear cover or visit our website for more information.

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

## 2012: THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 170 species was reliably recorded in the Club area. There were no further additions to the Huddersfield List, but this total is remarkably consistent with yearly totals from the last 10 years, with a variation of only 13 species between the poorest (2006) and best (2007) years.

**January** opened with the Great Grey Shrike remaining faithful to the Jebb Lane area. This species is always very popular locally and this time doubly so, proving an enticing target for New Year listers. Hot on the heels of this bird came the discovery of four Tundra Bean Geese in the Ingbirchworth area. These proved to be another big draw locally, as they were the first really 'twitchable' ones in the Club area since a party of nine at nearby Whitley Common back in the winter of 1987/88. With a single European White-fronted Goose also choosing to stay put in this area and numerous skeins of Pink-footed Geese passing over, we were certainly being treated to a bit of a 'goose fest'! Also remaining site-faithful, but becoming increasingly difficult to find, was the Ladywood Lakes Ring-billed Gull. Notable passerine records consisted of a single Snow Bunting at Deer Hill which may well have been one of the popular December party, seven Waxwings at Lower Cumberworth and 100 Yellowhammers at High Hoyland. Blackmoorfoot Res. provided two interesting wildfowl records with 17 Shelduck and a very unseasonal Common Scoter. A rather eventful first month ended with second-winter Iceland Gull briefly at the Healey Mills/Kerry's NR. This species has become very rare locally so top marks to its dedicated finder!

A major sighting in early **February** came in the form of a Bittern taking refuge on the south bank of Blackmoorfoot. Unsurprisingly, this bird didn't hang around (upland *Rhododendron* bushes usually aren't as appealing as lowland *Phragmites* beds!) and it was only the sixth-ever for the Club area. The best passerine was a single Mealy Redpoll at Fixby, whilst a few parties of Crossbills began appearing in the upland conifer plantations, heralding another excellent year for this species. The first returning Curlew began arriving on selected upland sites at the month end. There were also two excellent records at this time: firstly a party of 15 White-fronted Geese at Ringstone Edge Res. were assigned to the much rarer Greenland race and secondly a superb adult Rough-legged Buzzard was seen in flight on the moors near Holmfirth.

Early **March** saw the first Twite return to the favoured Deer Hill site, whilst there were some impressive numbers of Curlew and Oystercatcher - the real harbingers of spring on the uplands, including 59 of the former in the Broadstones area. Ten Waxwings began to make frequent sorties to a Shelley School - a nice distraction from double maths, no doubt! Mid-month, a *littoralis* Rock Pipit was a very good find at the now sadly degrading Dewsbury Sewage Works and two Kittiwakes at Royd Moor Res. on the same date were a reminder of this period in bygone years, when the species was far more frequent. Undoubted highlight of the month was the two Common Cranes watched soaring over Meltham Cop - a fine sight indeed for the Blackmoorfoot stalwart who picked them up. Red Kite sightings continue to increase in the Club area and there were three before the month was out, but these were over-shadowed by an early Osprey watched heading north over Greenhead Park.

The warm temperatures we enjoyed at the end of March did not persist in to **April**, slowing spring migration down somewhat. By and large, most summer migrants were late, but the month was still rich in variety. Passage Whooper Swans were moving belatedly, with parties noted early month at Ringstone Edge and Linthwaite, and there was a splendid trio of Osprey sightings - at Cheesegate Nab, Langsett and Slaithwaite. A spring Greenshank at Ingbirchworth Res. was a nice surprise and was no doubt heading for similar climes, as was the Arctic Tern seen here a few days later. It was a good spring for passage Ring Ouzels, the highlight being an impressive 20 near

Langsett. White Wagtails were found at Horbury and Broadstones and an eventful month ended with a cracking Bar-tailed Godwit at Brun Clough Res.

Early **May** saw the arrival of more migrant breeders, including welcome reports of Grasshopper Warblers from six locations. The first Hobby of the year put in an appearance at Dewsbury SW, after which this species gave us the best-ever year in the Club area. This bird is one of a select few summer visitors which seems to be increasing. Early month also brought a splendid Bar-tailed Godwit to the otherwise non-descript fields at Whitley Edge, three Sanderling to Ringstone Edge and a Little Gull to Blackmoorfoot. Later in the month significant sightings included a passing ringtail Hen Harrier which was hassled by local Curlews at Brun Clough, an Arctic Tern at Blackmoorfoot and four more Red Kite reports.

In **June** we began to experience the wettest summer on record. Bird-wise it was predictably quiet; the early highlights being Quail at Flockton and three Bar-tailed Godwits passing through Blackmoorfoot which, considering the date and their plumage, must have been gatecrashers to the party on the tundra! Despite leaden skies and frequent rain, hardy local birders were out doing valuable fieldwork and, although there was little reward rarity-wise, a Greenshank at Horbury, another Quail at Broadstones and an early returning Green Sandpiper at Ringstone Edge were well worth the effort.

It was another case of status quo for many of our breeding birds, but the very inclement weather no doubt created problems for several species and would have certainly hindered important survey work. On the raptor front it was very encouraging to hear confirmed reports of breeding Hobby and Common Buzzard continues to thrive. It seems Peregrine did not enjoy the success of last year, whilst Merlin remains on a knife-edge as a breeding bird. Bad weather may well have contributed but, sadly, the spectre of human interference constantly hangs over these superb birds. As mentioned last year, the work undertaken by conservation bodies on the upland waders is extremely valued and this year revealed very encouraging numbers of Dunlin. There is, again, little change in the status of many of our migrant passerine breeders. Tree Pipit, Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher appear to be hanging on, but Whinchat is now in a parlous state - only very few sites this year proved reliable. There was further disaster for the Calder Sand Martins following last year's Mink predations; this year high water levels washed out two small colonies! Not only do species such as these face human and climate-induced habitat loss on their wintering grounds, they then face natural and invasive hazards here after a huge migration - one can only wonder!

The cool, wet conditions continued into much of **July**, but at least there was some good birding to be had from mid-month. After an Arctic Tern at Ladywood Lakes and a calling Quail at Scout Dike, there began an excellent run of Common Scoter records with Blackmoorfoot predictably claiming the lion's share, including a splendid flock of 27 on one occasion. Two parties of Black-tailed Godwits passed through Ringstone Edge, which also hosted two different Mediterranean Gulls, and a record-run of Marsh Harrier reports began with birds at Blackmoorfoot and Langsett. Another Quail was located at Bretton Park late month but the star bird was the adult Caspian Gull which was identified at Lower Maythorn. This subtly beautiful gull was just reward for the local 'laridophile' after spending more hours (or should that be years?) looking for one than he'd care to remember! It stayed faithful to this and the neighboring area for several days providing a valuable education for those interested.

And so into **August** and the London Olympics. Although the birding wasn't quite gold standard it was much better than the weather, which was distinctly wooden spoon! Things were pretty quiet

early month before a Black Restart at Baitings Res. was found, whilst a Marsh Harrier at Booth Wood Res. was the first of six sightings on the uplands during the month. A nice sequence of Arctic Tern records began mid-month at Blackmoorfoot and a passage Pied Flycatcher was a super find at Harden, while a Little Gull at Whitley Common was another excellent upland bird. In a rather poor autumn for waders, unsurprising considering the lack of exposed shorelines, most notable were Greenshanks and Whimbrel at Ingbirchworth and Broadstones respectively. A returning Osprey passed over Langsett Res. late month but the gold medal was awarded to the Hoopoe which took up residence in a garden near Blackmoorfoot and constitutes only the fifth record in recent times of this gaudy species.

**September** began with a Common Scoter at Booth Wood Res. and a Little Egret at Meltham, which was soon on its way after being victimised by the local Magpies! Further cross-country scoters touched down at Blackmoorfoot and Ringstone Edge before most of the migration action switched to the uplands where the 'vis-miggers' were beginning their autumn vigils. Mid-month saw the first skeins of returning Pink-footed Geese passing over while a record-busting 29 Common Buzzards passed over Harden Quarries in one day, the same date a ringtail Hen Harrier drifted past the Isle of Skye Quarry. There were some impressive hirundine and Meadow Pipit counts from both Harden Quarries and Pule Hill.

Although it wasn't a classic, **October** always delivers some exciting local birding and there were some particularly notable records in a period which saw the winter thrushes beginning to arrive mid-month, together with numerous skeins of returning Pink-footed Geese - always a delightful sight and sound. There was an interesting influx of Jays through the upland sites, including an impressive 19 at Harden Quarries. Returning Whooper Swans were recorded at six sites, with birds pausing at Broadstones and Winscar Res, and the last Marsh Harrier of the year - a particularly late bird - passed over Wholstone Moor. The 'vis-miggers' remained as keen as ever and, as well as the aforementioned Jays, they notched up a huge tally of 15,000 Woodpigeons.

Following a fairly quiet opening, the main attraction for local birders in **November** was a significant arrival of Waxwings from mid-month. Although sometimes difficult to pin down, up to 80 were seen at various locations. At least one, but more than likely two, Knot passed over Reddishaw Knoll at what can be a good time of year to connect with this difficult species. The Ladywood Lakes Ring-billed Gull returned for its third winter but it has recently become much more difficult to see due to the increased disturbance and development of the site, whilst a Mediterranean Gull at Digley was a particularly good upland find.

Waxwings continued to entertain into **December** - although patience and persistence was required in some cases! Down along the Calder, wildfowl numbers were evidently lower than recent mid-winters due to the milder conditions, although a drake Smew did show briefly early month - the nearby Pugneys area perhaps proving too comfy for it! A photogenic Water Rail and Green Sandpiper proved a bit of an attraction at Gunthwaite Dam - a small lake usually more associated with dodgy ducks than local scarcities! A fine herd of Whooper Swans at Ingbirchworth on Boxing Day brought yet another eventful year to a close.

Russ Boland

# THE WEATHER IN 2012

**The following weather summary is from Huddersfield University's Weather Station and is reproduced by kind permission of Julie Walker of the School of Applied Sciences:**

Wet, wet, wet are the only three words I can use to describe the rainfall we experienced in 2012!

Only 114 days of the year had no rainfall, which meant that it rained on 68.8% of the days in the year. A total of 1119.42mm of rainfall was recorded during 2012, compared to the average figure of 823.6mm. making it the wettest year since our records began and – according to the Met Office - the second wettest year in the UK since weather records began.

The wettest month of the year was April, with 147.4mm of rainfall (13.2% of the year's total) and this was very closely followed by June with 145.22mm. The wettest day of the year was Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, when 38.8mm of rainfall was recorded. The driest month of the year was March, with just 17.2mm of rainfall. The driest spell of the year was between Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May. The wettest spell was between April 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May when a total of 106.6mm of rainfall was recorded.

The warmest month of the year was August, with an average temperature of 16.7°C. The warmest day of the year was 24<sup>th</sup> July, when an average temperature of 21.9 C was recorded. The highest temperature during the year was 28.3°C recorded on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May, making it the highest recorded temperature for May since our records began.

The coldest month of the year was December, with an average temperature of 5.24°C. The coldest day of the year was Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, with an average temperature of -1.9°C. The lowest recorded temperature for the year was -5.1°C on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

The windiest month of the year was April with an average wind speed of 14.22km/hr. The windiest day of the year was April 28<sup>th</sup> with an average wind speed of 41.04km/hr making it the windiest day since February 4<sup>th</sup> 2011. The highest gust of wind for the whole year was 115.2km/hr recorded on April 4<sup>th</sup>, the highest gust recorded since November 26<sup>th</sup> 2011.

## **2012 round-up month-by-month:**

**(All average figures are those recorded by the Applied Sciences weather station since 1990)**

- **January** -It was both the warmest and wettest January since 2008. Just five days of the month escaped rainfall.
- **February** - A cold start to the month meant temperatures fell below zero on all but one of the first eleven days of the month. It was particularly dry, with just 25.2mm of rainfall, just 34% of the expected rainfall figure of 73.34mm expected for this time of the year, making it the third equal driest February since our records began.
- **March** - It was the warmest March since 1997 as well as one of the driest since our records began. The monthly temperature was 8.95°C making it 1.74°C higher than the average figure for March of 7.21°C. Wednesday 28th was the second warmest March day since our records began with an average temperature of 15.6°C. Temperatures reached 22.8°C on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> – the highest recorded temperature for March since our records began. Only 17.2mm of rainfall was recorded compared to the average figure of 58.7mm.

- **April** – April was the 13<sup>th</sup> wettest month out of all months since our records began, 147.4mm of rainfall was recorded compared to the average figure of 57.01mm. Only three days escaped rainfall. The monthly recorded temperature of 7.33°C was almost two degrees lower than the average for April of 9.31°C making it the coolest April since our records began. April was the windiest month of the year.
- **May** - Temperatures for May were slightly below average for the time of year, a cool start to the month was followed by a few exceptional temperatures recorded towards the latter half of the month. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> was the third warmest day in May recorded since our records began with an average temperature of 20.9°C. The highest maximum temperature for the month was 28.3°C, the highest recorded temperature for May since our records began.
- **June** – It was the coolest June since 1991 with only 8 days of the month escaping rainfall. Significant rain fell throughout the month making it the wettest June since 2007 and the second wettest since our record began. 145.22mm was recorded compared to the average of 66.6mm. Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> was the wettest day of the year with 38.8mm (27% of the month's total), it was the wettest day recorded since September 5<sup>th</sup> 2008. High wind speeds were also recorded during the month.
- **July** – It was the fifth coolest July since our records began with monthly temperatures over a degree cooler than average. It was by far the wettest July experienced locally since our records began with 146mm of rainfall recorded (average 60.14mm). It was the third month this year to have rainfall figures in excess of 145mm which has never happened before in the history of the weather station!
- **August** – It was the warmest August since 2009, however the weather station recorded the lowest temperature for August since our records began on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of 4.3°C (average 7.7°C). This was also the second coldest August day since our records began. Rainfall totals were slightly above average however, totals for the summer as a whole resulted in the wettest recorded summer for over 100 years.
- **September** – The beginning of the month saw nine days with no rainfall and temperatures reaching over 25°C, the rest of the month experienced rainfall on every day with below average temperatures. The monthly temperature was 13.24°C (average 14.24 °C) making it the coolest September since 1994. It was the second wettest September since 1990 with a total of 110.8mm (average 61.45mm)
- **October** - It was a cool and damp October with temperatures over 1.5°C cooler than average and, whilst the amount of rainfall recorded was around average for the time of year, only four days of the month escaped rainfall.
- **November** - Temperatures for the month were nearly half a degree cooler than average temperatures expected for the time of year. Above average rainfall was experienced with very few days escaping rain, the wind speeds for the month were much lower than average.
- **December** - The monthly mean temperature was slightly above average, however the second half of the month was significantly warmer than the first. It was the seventh wettest December since our records began with 129.8mm of rainfall. It was the fourth month of the year where rainfall totals exceeded 100mm.

Prevailing wind direction by month					
<b>January</b>	<b>SW</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>SW</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>SW</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>SW</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>SW</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>SW</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>SW</b>

## NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

The area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE 12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits and Dewsbury Sewage Farm. See also the map inside the rear cover.

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

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

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

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

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

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

Species that are 'red listed' in the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) 2009 list of Birds of Conservation Concern, i.e. those of high concern, are marked accordingly. Precise locations for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1981) and for some other sensitive species have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication might lead to harmful disturbance.

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

c.	-approximately	GP	-Gravel Pit
N	-North	NR	-Nature Reserve
S	-South	SW	-Sewage Works
E	-East	SP	-Sludge Plant
W	-West	Res.	-Reservoir
CP	-Country Park	nc	no count

On page 136 is a complete list, 'The Huddersfield List', of the 269 species and 12 additional distinct races of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2012. The List incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

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

The edited list of co-ordinates of sites within the Club area is no longer included in the annual report. A more complete list can be found on our web site at:

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



## THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2012

### MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Resident, occasional breeder (1), 0-3 pairs.

There were reports from a similar number of sites as usual but fewer reservoir sightings.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – a maximum of five adults were present between 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January. A pair raised one young from a brood of two, the other being killed by a Fox. The family party then remained until the year end.

**Horbury** – three on the River Calder on 8<sup>th</sup> January and a single on the canal on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – two on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 19<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – an adult arrived from the S at 09.00hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup> February and remained for the rest of the day.

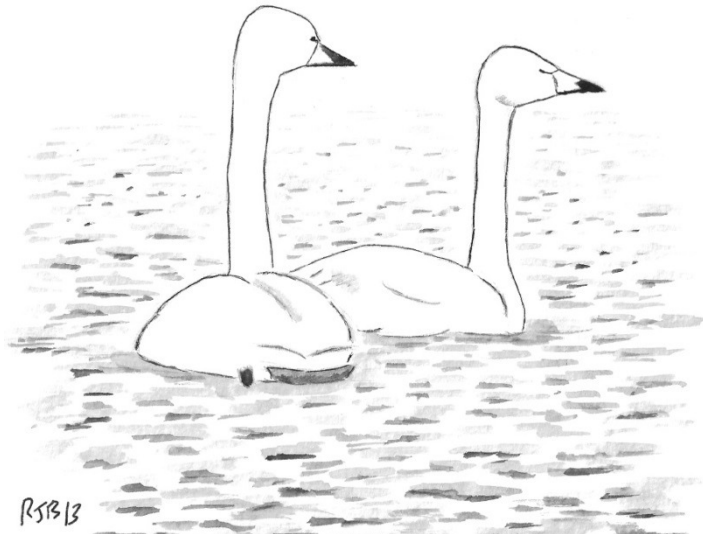
**Elland GP** – two on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**Bretton Lakes** – four were present during the summer/autumn months (until at least 15<sup>th</sup> November) and a pair raised a single young.

**Mirfield** – two on the canal on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

### WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.



Reported from five sites during each winter periods (9 sites in total).

In the first winter period birds were seen as follows:

**Ingbirchworth Res** – two adults on 7<sup>th</sup> and three adults on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**Boshaw Whams** – three adults on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – an adult on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – 12 on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Linthwaite** – two adults and an immature flew NNW at 06.45hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Autumn records followed the expected pattern, with passage birds been noted as follows:

**Winscar Res** – an adult on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> October and one on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – eight adults flew S at 10.45hrs. on 26<sup>th</sup> October and five (3 adults and 2 immatures) were present on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**Wholestone Moor** – a flock of six adults observed from this site as they flew S at 09.00hrs. on 26<sup>th</sup> October were actually to the west of Scammonden Res.

**Broadstone Res** – two adults on 27<sup>th</sup> October departed towards Ingbirchworth Res. where they remained for the rest of the day.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – as well as the two adults noted under Broadstone Res. ten adults were present on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

### **BEAN GOOSE** *Anser fabalis*

Rare winter visitor.

A group of four birds of the Tundra race *rossicus* were present in the **Ingbirchworth** area between 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January, being seen at **Broadstone, Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Annat Royd Lane** (MC, DHP, HQ *et al.*). These birds were part of the unprecedented influx which occurred in November 2011, there being Yorkshire records from a number of widely scattered localities.

### **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

Good numbers passed over the area during both winter periods. The exceptional movement on 14<sup>th</sup> January, which, even allowing for duplications, involved at least 1500 birds, was also witnessed across the rest of the county.

**6<sup>th</sup> January** – 50 W over **Longwood**.

**7<sup>th</sup> January** – 23 W at **Broadstone Res.**

**8<sup>th</sup> January** – c.150 W at **Meltham Grange** at 15.00hrs. and c.100 W over **Hepworth**.

**10<sup>th</sup> January** – 31 W at 10.35hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.100 W at **High Hoyland**.

**11<sup>th</sup> January** – 197 (34 W at 13.30hrs. + 52 W at 13.35hrs. + 50 W at 13.45hrs. + 61 W at 14.00hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot** and 60 SW at 14.30hrs. over **Fixby**.

**13<sup>th</sup> January** – c.50 NNW at **Honley**.

**14<sup>th</sup> January** – 1030 (150 NW at 08.20hrs. + 480 NW at 10.45hrs. + 250 NW at 12.50hrs. + 50 NW at 12.55hrs. + 100 NW at 13.00hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**, 53 N at 11.15hrs. over **Crosland Moor**, 825 W (300, 150, 200, 75 and 100 at 12.30hrs.) at **Marsden** and c.200 NW at 11.30hrs. over **Skelmanthorpe**.

**15<sup>th</sup> January** – c.40 SW at 10.00hrs. at **Kirkburton**, 100 W at 14.25hrs. over **Brun Clough** and c.140 W (c.80 and c.60 at 15.00hrs.) at **Cheesegate Nab**.

**16<sup>th</sup> January** – 50 W over **Thornton Lodge**, c.258 NW (c.160, 38 and c.60 between 12.00 and 12.30hrs.) at **Broadstone Res.** c.250 NW at 12.50hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.130 NW at 14.05hrs. over **Boshaw Whams**.

**28<sup>th</sup> January** – 70 NW at 11.30hrs. at **Deer Hill**,

**29<sup>th</sup> January** – c.100 over **Boshaw Whams** and 266 (70 NNW at 10.30hrs. + 175 NNW at 10.45hrs. + 21 W at 11.10hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> February** – 230 W at 12.00hrs. at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**.  
**8<sup>th</sup> February** – 302 NW (160 at 11.00hrs. + 142 at 11.25hrs.) over **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**.  
**10<sup>th</sup> February** – 11 NW at 11.15hrs. at **Deer Hill**.

Records of grounded birds involved two at **Annat Royd Lane** on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 63 at **Broadstone** on 9<sup>th</sup> January, a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on the same date and c.4 behind a hedge in a field at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**15<sup>th</sup> September** – c.60 W over **Meltham**.  
**22<sup>nd</sup> September** – 50 SW at **Harden Quarries**.  
**23<sup>rd</sup> September** – 31 W at 09.00hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and 84 W over **Harden Quarries**.  
**27<sup>th</sup> September** – 120 S at 09.35hrs. at **Deer Hill**.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> October** – 19 WNW over **Royd Moor Res.**  
**7<sup>th</sup> October** – c.130 E at **Colne Bridge SP**.  
**8<sup>th</sup> October** – c.180 NW at 09.43hrs. over **Oldfield**.  
**9<sup>th</sup> October** – 50 E at 09.50hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.120 NW at 18.20hrs. over **Skelmanthorpe**.  
**11<sup>th</sup> October** – 80 NW at 10.15hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.120 W over **Oldfield**.  
**14<sup>th</sup> October** – 80 E over **Colne Bridge SP**.  
**19<sup>th</sup> October** – 48 NW at 11.35hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.  
**20<sup>th</sup> October** – c.200 N at 09.00hrs. over **Scammonden** and c.40 W at 16.00hrs. at **Brockholes**.  
**21<sup>st</sup> October** – c.60 at 09.45hrs. over **Stocksmoor** and 153 NW at 10.35hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.  
**25<sup>th</sup> October** – a skein over **Swinney Knoll** at 15.56hrs. could not be counted nor the direction of flight ascertained due to low cloud cover.  
**26<sup>th</sup> October** – 50 NE at 09.30hrs. at **Ringstone Edge**, 50 N over **Wholestone Moor**, 50 SE at **Bretton Park** and 165 S (65 + 100) at **Lepton**.  
**1<sup>st</sup> November** – 14 SW at 09.07hrs. over **Shelley**.  
**9<sup>th</sup> November** – 63 W at 10.45hrs. at **Golcar**.  
**15<sup>th</sup> November** – 800 W (4 skeins) between 11.50hrs. and 12.15hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.210 W (c.60 at 11.45hrs. + c.150 at 12.00hrs.) over **Golcar**.  
**17<sup>th</sup> November** – 120 W at 10.20hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.  
**24<sup>th</sup> November** – c.100 ESE over **Winscar**.  
**28<sup>th</sup> November** – 300 S at 09.40hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and 50 W over **Hepworth**.  
**7<sup>th</sup> December** – 115 NW at 10.15 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.  
**11<sup>th</sup> December** – 150 W at 12.00hrs. over **Bradley Park Golf Course**.  
**12<sup>th</sup> December** – nine departed W from **Ingbirchworth Res.**

In the **Ingbirchworth** area up to three were present in the Greylag flock on a number of dates between 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 17<sup>th</sup> December and nine were in the fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot** on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

(GREATER) **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons*  
 Rare visitor.

A juvenile of the European race *albifrons* present in the **Ingbirchworth** area during December 2011 remained in the area until 28<sup>th</sup> January, being seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Royd Moor Res.** and **Annat Royd Lane** (MC, JLu, DHP *et al.*).

15 adults of the Greenland race *flavirostris* were present in a field at **Ringstone Edge Res.** for a short time on the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> February (S. Loveric, T. Martin – HBC). This race is rare in Yorkshire and there are only three other records (one of which was considered to be feral) in the Club area.

### **GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*

Uncommon, decreased to rare/scarce passage visitor, increasing feral visitor.

The increase appears to be continuing, especially in the Ingbirchworth area, and for the second year running a pair bred at Bretton Park.

**Ingbirchworth area** – birds were recorded throughout the year with the exceptions of May and June. The favoured reservoir was Ingbirchworth, but assemblages were recorded at all the other localities. The largest flocks reported during the first winter period concerned up to 78 at Ingbirchworth Res. in late January and 21 at Royd Moor Res. on 27<sup>th</sup> February. During the second half of the year numbers increased and a flock was forever present. Although numbers fluctuated markedly there were never less than the 17 at Royd Moor Res. on 29<sup>th</sup> October and a maximum of 112 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Boshaw Whams** – a single on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – there were fewer records than the previous few years, probably due to the lack of a Canada Goose flock (see below) which in the past has attracted long-staying individuals. Two arrived from the NE on 14<sup>th</sup> January and two were present on 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February; March saw a single on 1<sup>st</sup> and one flew S on 21<sup>st</sup>; there was a good run of records in April: seven were present on 1<sup>st</sup> with three the following day, a single flew W on 11<sup>th</sup>, six were present on 12<sup>th</sup>, three flew N on 13<sup>th</sup>, a single was seen on 14<sup>th</sup> and two were present on 21<sup>st</sup>. The only records thereafter involved three which flew N on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and four which flew W on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – two were present on 17<sup>th</sup> January, three on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, five on 21<sup>st</sup> March, two on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> September and a single on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Horbury** – four on the River Calder with Canada Geese on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**Langsett Res** – two on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March and a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Bretton Park** – three pairs were present during the summer months, one of which had two young by early June.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – a single on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> September, four on 11<sup>th</sup> October and two on 25<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**Blackley** – four on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – two flew W at 08.20hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### (GREATER) **CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder, increased to (2-3), 50-150 pairs.

Records were received from a good number of widely scattered localities but breeding only occurred at six of these.

Monthly maxima at regularly counted sites were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	26	42	31	26	2	14	24	85	6	43	5	0
Bretton Park	145	172	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	93	nc	nc	nc	nc

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Horbury Strands/Wyke	108	22	16	6	12	0	0	40	74	22	66	60
Ingbirchworth Res.	227	200	230	4	4	16	50	120	58	3	207	238
Ladywood Lakes	64	60	60	55	16	26	10	15	52	60	40	64
Royd Moor Res.	nc	96	35	nc	nc	nc	31	103	177	4	296	nc

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a shot individual was found in the reservoir on 16<sup>th</sup> February and at least three shot birds were on Meltham Cop during March. The usual autumn build-up never materialised and, although present on a near daily basis between late July and late August, birds were only recorded on two days in September, seven days in October and a single day in November.

Counts of over 25 birds away from the above sites were made at the following locations: **Broadstone Res** – 112 on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 319 on 5<sup>th</sup> March and up to 100 in late October; **Horbury** – c.70 on the River Calder on 8<sup>th</sup> January and c.75 on 1<sup>st</sup> February; **Holmbridge** – c.25 on 29<sup>th</sup> February (on Brownhill, Ramsden and Riding Wood Reservoirs); **Scout Dike Res** – c.220 on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 142 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 224 on 17<sup>th</sup> October; **Wessenden Valley** – c.30 on 28<sup>th</sup> April; **Langsett Res** – 26 on 24<sup>th</sup> July; **Scammonden** – 40 on 10<sup>th</sup> August; **Meal Hill, Hepworth** – c.50 during the second winter period; **Annat Royd Lane** – 210 on 26<sup>th</sup> November; **Castle Dam** – up to 78 in December.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Park** (broods of 5 and 6), **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) (3 broods, 17 young), **Wessenden Res.** (broods of 2 and 4), **Butterley Res.** (at least 2 pairs), **Langsett Res.** (6 young) and **Redbrook Res.** (brood of 4 young).

A Canada x Greylag Goose hybrid was present at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup> October and what may have been the same individual was seen at **Castle Dam** on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

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

Rare visitor and occasional feral breeder (1), 0-1 pairs.

Only reported from two sites (5 in 2011).

At **Bretton Park** the usual single was present throughout the year and two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** departed S at 08.45hrs. on 26<sup>th</sup> May (MLD, CH).

### (COMMON) **SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor.

Yet another poor year and, with the exception of numerous records from Blackmoorfoot Res., birds were only reported from a further five locations. Most records were during the first winter period.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – as in the previous three years, there were only a small number of records, with most being in the first half of the year. A flock of 17 were present on 8<sup>th</sup> January and a single four days later, in February a single was present on 6<sup>th</sup>, four were seen on 28<sup>th</sup> and two the following day, a single flew W on 19<sup>th</sup> March, in April there were four on 2<sup>nd</sup> and two on 13<sup>th</sup>, and

a single was seen on 11<sup>th</sup> May. There were then no records until an adult departed NE on 12<sup>th</sup> August, and the only record thereafter concerned four on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – four on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – a single on 27<sup>th</sup> January and two on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Winscar Res** – one on 10<sup>th</sup> March, two on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and two departed W on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Broadstone Res** – a single on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – two on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor. Has bred.

Only reported from three localities (10 in 2011) with no evidence of breeding.

**Holmfirth** – the usual pair were present throughout the year.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – a male was present on 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – the only record relates to a single female on the River Calder on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

(EURASIAN) **WIGEON** *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor.

The decline in sightings continued, there being reports from only 12 locations (similar to 2011 but 10 fewer than 2010).

In January **Ingbirchworth Res.** had nine on 1<sup>st</sup>, 13 on 15<sup>th</sup> and four the following day and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held up to six on five days between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Birds were present in larger numbers during February, but the situation at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was similar to the previous month with up to six birds on a total of 13 days. The largest gatherings were in the Ingbirchworth area: **Ingbirchworth Res.** held 45 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 46 the following day, 37 on 6<sup>th</sup>, and 43 on 9<sup>th</sup> while **Royd Moor Res.** had 20 on 13<sup>th</sup> the same day that four were on **Broadstone Res.**

As is normal, there were only a handful of records in March: 16 were on the River Calder at **Dewsbury SW** on 7<sup>th</sup>, **Meal Hill** held c.20 on 10<sup>th</sup> and c.15 on 17<sup>th</sup> and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a single on 28<sup>th</sup>. The only other spring records were from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** which held two on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and a single on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

The first autumn migrants, as is normal, appeared in September: **Ingbirchworth Res.** had five on 11<sup>th</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held two on 20<sup>th</sup> and birds then appeared on a further six dates with a maximum of 11 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and five on 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, a single was present at **Broadstone Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> and **Horbury Strands/Wyke** had three on 27<sup>th</sup>, nine on 28<sup>th</sup>, and 15 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

October records were more widely distributed but, generally, numbers remained low. **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, a favoured locality for migrants, only had a single on 10 days and 10 on 28<sup>th</sup>; **Broadstone Res.** held 12 on both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>; **Meal Hill** had 12 on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, **Ossett Spa SW** held nine on 14<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 18<sup>th</sup>; the only record from **Ingbirchworth Res.** involved three on 26<sup>th</sup>, the same day that seven were on **Winscar Res.** and the only other record was of four at **Royd**

**Moor Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

The situation in November/December was equally poor. Six were present at **Broadstone Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> November; **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held up to six on eight dates between 6<sup>th</sup> November and 21<sup>st</sup> December; **Scout Dike Res.** had two on 7<sup>th</sup> November; 22 were present at **Ossett Spa SW** on 18<sup>th</sup> November and 20 were there on 22<sup>nd</sup> December; 30 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 25<sup>th</sup> November was the largest flock reported in the second winter period; **Ingbirchworth Res.** could only muster 15 on 30<sup>th</sup> November; **Gunthwaite Dam** held two on 5<sup>th</sup> December and the only other records were from **Royd Moor Res.** which had four on 12<sup>th</sup> and two on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

The increase in records continues and the number of birds at one favoured locality remained high, but there were no records from last years' breeding site.

**Bretton Park** – up to 10 were seen regularly in January/February, up to 12 occurred in March and 11 were present on 5<sup>th</sup> and three on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The only records thereafter involved 15 on 17<sup>th</sup> September, nine on 26<sup>th</sup> October and three on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – a male and female on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – there were five records: a male and female on 12<sup>th</sup> February, a male on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, a male and female on 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March and a male on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Scout Dike Res** – a female on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – two males and a female on 31<sup>st</sup> March, a male and female between 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April, two males and a female on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and a male and female on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ossett Spa SW** – a male and female on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

**Royd Moor Res** – a female on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Boshaw Whams** – two males on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

(COMMON) **TEAL** *Anas crecca*

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

Recorded from 16 sites, which is a reduction from previous years (22 in 2011 and 27 in 2010). The treble-figure counts reported towards the end of 2011 were not repeated. Breeding was confirmed at one upland site.

Birds were reported during the first half of the year as follows:

**Bretton Park** – a maximum of eight in January and 10 in February.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – c.25 on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 12 on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 29 on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 24 on 26<sup>th</sup> March and four on both 15<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – birds were present on 14 dates between 8<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> April with maximum counts of 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 11 on 14<sup>th</sup> January and 18 the following day.

**Elland GP** – a single on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**Langsett Res** – 31 on 14<sup>th</sup> January, two on both 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March, nine on 5<sup>th</sup> April and four on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – two on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 10 on 6<sup>th</sup> February and four on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**Royd Moor Res** – four on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 10 on 13<sup>th</sup> February and two on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Horbury** – two on the River Calder on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**Wessenden Res** – 18 on 28<sup>th</sup> January and 14 on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**Dewsbury SW** – 72 on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

**Black Moss** – a single 24<sup>th</sup> May.

A pair bred in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** for the second time, the first being in 2009. Up to four non-breeding birds were noted at this site on a number of occasions during the summer months.

Records after the breeding season were as follows:

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – two on 2<sup>nd</sup> August were followed by several records in September which included a maximum of five on 18<sup>th</sup> and seven the following day.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – birds were present on 48 dates between 12<sup>th</sup> August and 12<sup>th</sup> December. Most of these occurrences were in low single-figures, the maxima being 14 on 6<sup>th</sup> November and 27 on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**Thornhill Millbank** – four on a newly formed flash on 17<sup>th</sup> August with six between 18<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August, 10 on 6<sup>th</sup> September and four on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Langsett Res** – a single on 21<sup>st</sup> August, four on 9<sup>th</sup> September and two on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – 11 on 25<sup>th</sup> and three on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blakeley Res** – a single on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – nine were present throughout September and 12 during October. Thereafter up to six were present throughout November/December with 15 on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**Little Black Moss Res** – six on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ossett Spa SW** – six on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Bretton Park** – four on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Dewsbury SW** – 40 on the River Calder on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Gunthwaite Dam** – six on 5<sup>th</sup> and eight on both 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**Horbury** – four on the River Calder on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Royd Moor Res** – five on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	47	53	37	17	14	41	51	59	48	46	34	37
Ingbirchworth Res.	36	55	45	22	53	57	93	92	71	38	46	68
Ladywood Lakes	60	20	27	36	32	20	20	66	36	30	30	30
Horbury Strands/Wyke	20	30	20	35	10	10	20	57	94	15	20	20
Langsett Res.	52	66	49	42	16	7	37	77	62	58	19	62

Elsewhere notable counts were:

**Scout Dike Res** – 42 on 7<sup>th</sup> January; **Broadstone Res** – 41 on 16<sup>th</sup> January; **Holmfirth** – 150 on the River Holme on 25<sup>th</sup> January and 108 on 30<sup>th</sup> December; **Boshaw Whams** – 50 on 28<sup>th</sup> January; **Bretton Park** – 57 on 8<sup>th</sup> February; **Elland GP** – 46 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April; **Winscar Res** – 85 on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 88 on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 114 on 5<sup>th</sup> November and 101 on 5<sup>th</sup> December; **Greenhead Park** – 70 on 24<sup>th</sup> November.



Breeding was recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res** – (71 ducklings, 11 reached the flying stage), **Brockholes** – (8 juveniles), **Bretton Park** – (5 juveniles), **Redbrook Res** – (3 juveniles), **Carlecotes Ponds** – (2 juveniles), **Hey Green** – (18 young) and **Ingbirchworth Res** – (25 juveniles).

An interesting observation occurred at a pond in a **Crimble Clough** garden when, by the end of April, a male and female had apparently eaten 99% of the Frog spawn present (AD).

(NORTHERN) **PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

The only records were from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where there were more occurrences during the first winter period than normal: in January two males were present on 9<sup>th</sup> and three males on 28<sup>th</sup>, and a male and female were seen on 21<sup>st</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March. The only autumn records were in September and involved a single on 22<sup>nd</sup> and seven on 28<sup>th</sup>.

(NORTHERN) **SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

A pretty unremarkable year, as was 2011, with records from just six localities.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – two males on 7<sup>th</sup> February, a male on 21<sup>st</sup> April and a male and two females on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – in March a male and female were present on 12<sup>th</sup> and a male on 16<sup>th</sup>, and a male and female were seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April. The only autumn records were in August and involved a single on 20<sup>th</sup> and two the following day.

**Bretton Park** – a male and female on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Cupwith Res** – a male and female on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – four on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ossett Spa SW** – a male on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

(COMMON) **POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

The decline in occurrences of this species continues and for the fifth year running records were only received from a handful of sites.

**Bretton Park** – in January two males were present on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a male and female on 6<sup>th</sup> and two males on 18<sup>th</sup>. The only other records concerned six on 7<sup>th</sup> March and a male on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Scout Dike Res** – a single on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – single males were present on 6<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> March. The only records thereafter involved a male on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, five (3 males) on 28<sup>th</sup> October and a single on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – two males were present between 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February, a male was reported on 12 dates between 6<sup>th</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> August, and single males were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – three on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### **TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*

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

Counts were received from 28 sites (29 in 2011).

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	1	8	7	14	4	3	6	5	2	8	1	4
Ingbirchworth Res.	8	10	6	2	0	8	14	27	18	9	6	7

Once again, the numbers in the table above give a false impression of occupancy at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** During the first half of the year birds were only recorded on 62 days and on a further 78 in the last six months of the year.

Away from these favoured localities, flocks of more than six were as follows:

**Meal Hill, Hepworth** – 12 on 1<sup>st</sup> January; **Elland GP** and **Windy Bank Res** – both sites had birds during both winter periods but numbers never exceed eight; **Bretton Park** – c.40 on 16<sup>th</sup> January and 14 on 7<sup>th</sup> March; **Boshaw Whams** – eight on 28<sup>th</sup> January and 11 on 16<sup>th</sup> February; **Horbury Strands/Wyke** – nine on the River Calder on 7<sup>th</sup> February; **Broadstone Res** – seven on 17<sup>th</sup> March; **Cheesegate Nab** – six on 15<sup>th</sup> April; **Snailsden Res** – seven on 18<sup>th</sup> June; **Langsett Res** – 13 on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> July and up to 17 in August/September; **Scout Dike Res** – six on 27<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 10 on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 12 on 1<sup>st</sup> December and 17 on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Confirmed breeding took place at **Snailsden Res.** where a female was seen with six juveniles and at **Lower Windleden Res.** where a female was seen with a single juvenile.

One to five birds were recorded on occasional dates at the following waters: **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP), **Harden Res.**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Brun Clough Res.**, **Redbrook Res.**, **Digley Res.**, **Bilberry Res.**, **Blakeley Res.**, **Winscar.**, **Carlecotes Ponds.**, **Cupwith Res.**, **Lower Windleden Res.**, **Ringstone Edge Res.** and **Ossett Spa SW.**

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

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Although only reported from five localities, one of these had an exceptional year.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – there were 16 records, a marked increase on recent years. In the first half of the year a male was present on 20<sup>th</sup> January (CH.), a female departed W at 09.55hrs. on 8<sup>th</sup> April (MLD) and three males were present on 8<sup>th</sup> May (MLD, MS *et al.*). Autumn movements were the best on record and involved, in July, an adult male on 15<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH *et al.*), a female on 17<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH), a first-summer male on 19<sup>th</sup> (MLD, TD, CH), a flock of 27 (17 males) on 20<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH, DHP *et al.*), a female on 29<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH, MS) and an adult male departed W at 09.10hrs. on 30<sup>th</sup> (MLD). In August adult females were present on 6<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH) and 18<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH *et al.*) and in September five female-types were present on 10<sup>th</sup> (CH, DHP) and two first-year males on 12<sup>th</sup> (DHP). Later in the year single female-types were seen on 8<sup>th</sup> November (CH, DHP), 3<sup>rd</sup> December (CH, NWM) and 9<sup>th</sup> December (CH).

**Ringstone Edge Res** – four males on 9<sup>th</sup> June and a male and female on 4<sup>th</sup> September (HBC)

**Ingbirchworth Res** – four males and four female-types on 27<sup>th</sup> June (NWM, KWh).

**Deer Hill Res** – a female-type on 21<sup>st</sup> July (TD).  
**Booth Wood Res** – a male on 1st September (D Sutcliffe).

(COMMON) **GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*  
Uncommon winter visitor.

Records were received from 19 sites (14 in 2011).

In January, four were present at **Bretton Park** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and three on 6<sup>th</sup>, two were on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 8<sup>th</sup>, a single on 27<sup>th</sup> and two the following day; two were present at **Elland GP** on 11<sup>th</sup>; **Redbrook Res.** hosted two on 15<sup>th</sup> and **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) had two on the same date; the only records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a male on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, six were on the River Calder at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 19<sup>th</sup> and a single on 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Boshaw Whams** had a single on 21<sup>st</sup> and five on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>.

February records were only received for four localities: **Blackmoorfoot Res.** hosted up to three (usually only 1) on 12 dates, 10 were on the River Calder at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 were on the River Calder at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 11<sup>th</sup>, three were at **Riding Wood Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> and two the following day and a single on 28<sup>th</sup>.

In March most records were from the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs or Blackmoorfoot Res. **Ingbirchworth Res.** hosted one or two on 12 dates and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had one or two on nine dates. The only other March records involved singles at **Langsett Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> and **Winscar Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup>.

April was rather similar to March: two were present at **Digley Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** hosted two between 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, **Ingbirchworth Res.** held up to three on nine dates and a single was present at **Langsett Res.** on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Birds which lingered into May involved two males at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 8<sup>th</sup>, a male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> was joined by a second male the following day and, although only recorded on six days up to 28<sup>th</sup>, they were presumably present throughout this period. What were almost certainly the same males appeared at **Scout Dike Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup> June and **Ingbirchworth Res.** two days later.

The first returning birds were a group of six at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> October which were followed by three on 26<sup>th</sup>, four on 27<sup>th</sup> and two on 28<sup>th</sup>. The only other October records concerned singles at **Royd Moor Res.** and **Longwood Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Birds were also in short supply in November: three were at **Cupwith Res.** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 were on the River Calder at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** could only boast up to three on seven dates from 8<sup>th</sup>, and four were at **Bretton Park** on 15<sup>th</sup>.

There was little change in December: **Scout Dike Res.** held a male on 1<sup>st</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** hosted two on 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, singles on 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and two on 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 were on the River Calder at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 6<sup>th</sup>, nine were present on 11<sup>th</sup> and six on 30<sup>th</sup>, two males were seen at **Boshaw Whams** on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> and **Elland GP** hosted six on 27<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**SMEW** *Mergellus albellus*

Rare winter visitor.

The only record concerned a male on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 6<sup>th</sup> December (JRS). The bird was still in partial eclipse plumage and the following day it was present just outside the Club area at Millfield Lagoons.

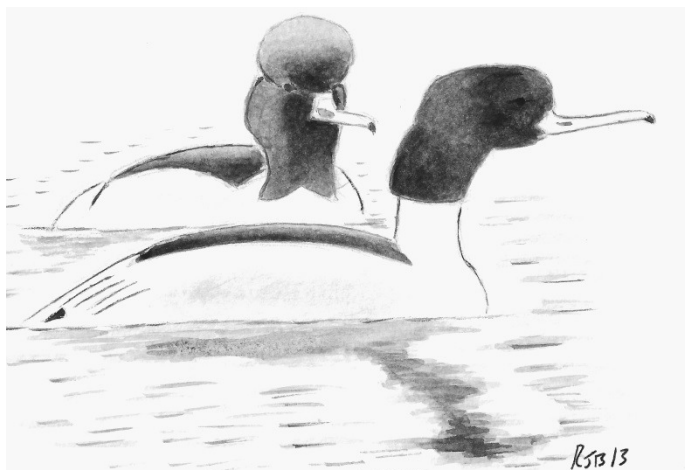
**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

In sharp contrast to 2011, there was only a single record: a male at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> April (HBC).

**GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor.



Maximum numbers from regularly counted sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	8	8	5	3	1	0	1	1	0	4	5	2
Bretton Park	20	9	16	2	4	1	0	0	0	8	0	0
Horbury Strands/Wyke	8	13	6	6	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	8
Dewsbury SW	5	5	7	2	7	3	3	0	0	4	0	3
Ladywood Lakes	6	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were present on a near daily basis between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 26<sup>th</sup> March (101 bird/days) and again between 3<sup>rd</sup> November and the year end (43 bird/days). The number of bird/days totalled 170 (501 in 2011). July/August records are unusual at this locality but a single juvenile occurred on 15 days between 13<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Away from the sites mentioned above, birds were reported during the first half of the year as follows:

**Hill Top Res** – two males on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Elland GP** – the only records received involved c.9 on 11<sup>th</sup> January and a single on 15<sup>th</sup> January (although a pair bred – see below).

**Windy Bank Res** – two on 21<sup>st</sup> January and a single on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**Sparth Res** – a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and two on 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Deer Hill Res** – three on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Kilner Bank** – five on the River Colne on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ramsden Res** – two on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Colne Bridge** – the only records concerned up to eight on the River Calder in late February (although a pair bred – see below).

**Longwood Res** – two on 28<sup>th</sup> February, a female on 6<sup>th</sup> March and four on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**Digley Res** – all records were in March: eight on 12<sup>th</sup>, a single on 22<sup>nd</sup> and four on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – two flew SW on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**Clough Lee, Marsden** – three males on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**Aspley** – a female on the River Colne on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

Breeding took place in the Club area for the sixth successive year; a female with three ducklings were present on the River Calder at **Colne Bridge** and a female and three large ducklings were on the River Calder at **Elland GP** in May.

Records after the breeding season, other than those tabulated above, were as follows:

**Harden Quarries** – a single flew SW on 6<sup>th</sup> October and two N on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

**Windy Bank Res** – one or two were present on eight days between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – a female on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – five on the River Calder on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Lockwood** – two on the River Holme on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Elland GP** – the only record concerned 10 on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### **RED GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Present throughout the year but much under recorded, with reports coming from only about 14 sites.

Breeding was only confirmed near the **Isle of Skye Quarry** where an adult was seen with eight young on 6<sup>th</sup> June and a pair with 10 fledged young were near here on 7<sup>th</sup> July with what was probably the same family party being seen again the following week. Breeding was also reported from **Langsett** and **Winscar Res.** but no further details are available.

Apart from the above mentioned family party the only double figure counts concerned 12 near **Bilberry Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> February and 58 birds at **Hingcliff Common** on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Elsewhere eight were at **Digley** on 1<sup>st</sup> April and nine calling males were at **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. All other counts were of five birds or less.

There was an interesting report of a bird in a tree feeding on berries at **Bradshaw** on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

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

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Reports came from 11 sites (13 in 2011).

As usual **High Hoyland** remained the easiest place to see this species. Large numbers are released for shooting in the area and 50+ were present during the first winter period.

Elsewhere birds were reported as follows:

**Wholestone Moor** – two on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Broadstone Res** – two on 14<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Crow Edge** – a single on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cheesegate Nab** – two on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Thick Hollins, Meltham** – a single in a garden on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Gunthwaite Hall** – two on 17<sup>th</sup> April and a single on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Whitley Edge** – a single on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Gilbert Hill, Langsett** – two on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Deffer Wood** – three in near-by fields on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Gunthwaite** – a single on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### **GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs. Red listed.

Rather a poor year for this species with reports coming from just over 20 sites (35 in 2011). Birds were recorded in every month except August. There were no reports of breeding and the unusually prolonged wet weather was probably detrimental to this species' breeding cycle.

The largest count, and the only one this year in double figures, concerned a covey of 14 in a field near **Spicer House Lane** on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Birds were present at **Deer Hill** during both winter periods with a maximum of seven on 14<sup>th</sup> January and eight on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. At **Thurgory Lane** birds were recorded throughout the year but parties never exceeded the nine on both 25<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> November. Six were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 8<sup>th</sup> February, two were at **Swinny Knoll** on 5<sup>th</sup> September and four were present on 16<sup>th</sup> October, eight were in a field near **Wessenden Head Road** on 29<sup>th</sup> September, six were near **Broadstone Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> October and seven were at **Acres Lane, Digley** on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were recorded on three date in February, two dates in March and single dates in June and July. Four were on Edge Moor on 3<sup>rd</sup> September with five there on 1<sup>st</sup> November and up to six frequented the fields to the west/Meltham Cop on eight dates between 29<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Elsewhere no more than four birds were recorded.

### **QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

As last year, there were four records of this secretive game bird.

**Five Lane Ends, Flockton** – a singing male on 10<sup>th</sup> June (SRG).

**Windmill Lane, Broadstone** - a singing male was present between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June (DHoll, NWM, DHP).

**Scout Dike Res** – one singing from a field containing cattle on the south side of the reservoir on 11<sup>th</sup> July (RJB).

**Bretton Park** – a singing male on 27<sup>th</sup> July (SRG).

(COMMON) **PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

This species is released in many areas for shooting interests. Almost certainly under recorded with reports coming from just around 30 sites (40 in 2011 and 2010) and mainly in small numbers.

The largest numbers reported involved 20 at **Deer Hill** on 14<sup>th</sup> January and 10 near the reservoir there on 28<sup>th</sup> March; five in a garden at **Meltham Road, Marsden** on 17<sup>th</sup> January (where one was chased by a Fox on 1<sup>st</sup> May); nine at **Royd Moor** on 5<sup>th</sup> November and six in **Deffer Wood** on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

The only breeding reports came from **New Mill** where a female was seen with seven young; **Blackmoorfoot** where up to four birds were present throughout the year and two pairs fledged young and **Bretton Park, High Hoyland, Farnley Tyas, Woodsome Valley** and **Shepley**, but no further details are available.

Elsewhere, although widely distributed, counts never exceeded four.

A melanistic bird was reported from farmland near **Broadstone Res** on 18<sup>th</sup> March and birds visited gardens in **Marsden, Almondbury** and **Cowcliffe**.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Reports came from under 20 sites this year, which is slightly down on previous years. Confirmed breeding came from four waters but pairs probably attempted to do so at several other sites.

**Ingbirchworth Res** - birds were present throughout the year and two pairs bred; an adult with two very small young and two adults with two half-grown young were present on 14<sup>th</sup> July. A maximum of 10 (6 adults + 4 juveniles) were recorded on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**Bretton Park** - recorded on several dates throughout the year with a maximum of five on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 11 on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** - two were present throughout the year, with three on 23<sup>rd</sup> and six on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) - two on the River Calder throughout the year.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – there were only a small number of records, all relating to singles and with no long-staying individual. Birds were recorded on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October and 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**Royd Moor Res** - a single on 27<sup>th</sup> February with four (2 adults + 2 juveniles) on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Meal Hill** - three on 11<sup>th</sup> March and seven (adult + 6 juveniles) on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

**Broadstone Res** – singles were recorded on a number of days between 12<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Scout Dike Res** - confirmed breeding, five birds (3 adults + 2 juveniles) on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

**Redbrook Res** – a pair bred, being noted with two half-grown young on 28<sup>th</sup> August. This is the first time breeding has been recorded at this site.

**Carlecotes Ponds** - a single on 5<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Scammonden** - a single on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ossett Spa** - a single on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Gunthwaite Dam** - a single on 29<sup>th</sup> October remained to the year end.

**Dewsbury SF** - three on the River Calder on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Castle Dam** - two on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

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

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

Reported from 13 waters, with breeding or attempted breeding coming from five of these.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a single on 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February. From 2<sup>nd</sup> March until 5<sup>th</sup> August up to eight (usually four or less) were present on a daily basis but, as can be seen from the table below, the usual autumn build-up never materialised. A single pair nested, hatching one young at the second attempt: the young hatched on 18<sup>th</sup> July but was not seen after 3<sup>rd</sup> August. During this period the adults acted strangely, leaving the young in the W bank willows while they went fishing, sometimes along the E bank (700 metres distant). There activity suggested that this was due to a lack of small fish, and the adults only remained for a further two days after the death of their chick. Records following this exodus were very sporadic and concerned singles on three further August days, singles on eight days in September, in October there were two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, three on 4<sup>th</sup> and one on 5<sup>th</sup>, in November two were present on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a single on seven days, and a single was seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Interestingly, this latter mentioned bird was still in full juvenile plumage.

The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	6	4	8	7	4	2	1	3	2	1

**Bretton Park** – birds were present throughout the year and two pairs bred. Two young were noted in early May, and what were presumably the same well grown young were noted on 7<sup>th</sup> June when another bird was sitting on a nest; three well grown young, presumably from this nest, were seen on 6<sup>th</sup> August. At least 15 were on the Lower Lake on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – two birds present during the first three months were joined by a second pair on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Both pairs were nest building by 25<sup>th</sup> April and sitting on eggs by 12<sup>th</sup> June but, unfortunately, both nests were flooded out on 7<sup>th</sup> July. One pair immediately vacated the area but the other pair remained to the year end.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – birds were present throughout the year and at least one pair bred. Evidence of breeding came in the form of a pair accompanied by three young on 18<sup>th</sup> June. On this same date, however, another observer reported four adults and two young, but whether this relates to another pair is unclear. Thereafter up to six were reported on several dates up to mid-October.



**Scout Dike Res** – two were noted on several dates in March and April, then an adult with a striped young were seen on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Three were present on 27<sup>th</sup> July and four (2 adults + 2 juveniles) on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Royd Moor Res** – a single on 12<sup>th</sup> March, two on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and one or two on several dates in July and August.

**Deer Hill Res** – two on 1<sup>st</sup> April and three on 16<sup>th</sup> May. A single was then seen on most dates to the year end.

**Langsett Res** – two on both 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> October were considered unusual at this site by the observer.

**Cupwith Res** – a single on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – two on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

**Scammonden Res** – six adults on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Broadstone Res** – a juvenile on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**Elland GP** – a single reported at the end of December.

(GREAT) **CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Reported from about 30 sites again this year with records spanning all months. One observer commented that birds were no longer visiting **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) after this site became an important venue for anglers.

**Horbury** – five on the River Calder and c.14 overflying at height in small parties on 8<sup>th</sup> January, eight on the River Calder on 27<sup>th</sup> September and 14 on the River Calder between the sewage works and Wyke on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Elland GP** – reports came from both ends of the year with nine overflying on 11<sup>th</sup> January, six on 15<sup>th</sup> January, two on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, then nine on 29<sup>th</sup> November to the year end

**Boshaw Whams** – up to seven were recorded on several dates in January, two on 26<sup>th</sup> February consisted of an immature and an adult in full breeding plumage. At least 11 were present on 13<sup>th</sup> October with 14 the following day.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – birds were recorded during every month, with a marked peak in September. With the exceptions of 12 on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 13 on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 11 on 13<sup>th</sup> September, the other 42 records involved between one and four (usually one or two) individuals, most of which were juveniles/immatures. Birds over flew (or departed) the reservoir on several occasions and, although there was no seasonality to these movements, 80% of birds flew between west and north.

**Broadstone Res** – two on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, a single flew SW on 13<sup>th</sup> May, a single flew W on 27<sup>th</sup> October and a single on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Royd Moor Res** – singles on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Langsett Res** – singles on 12<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Scout Dike Res** – a single between 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April, a single on 28<sup>th</sup> October, two on 1<sup>st</sup> December and an immature on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Scammonden** – six flew W on 21<sup>st</sup> July and eight were on the reservoir on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Harden Quarries** – in September, singles flew SW on 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, seven overflew the site on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and in October a single flew SW on 7<sup>th</sup> and four (1 SW and 3NE) on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Heaton Lodge SW** – six were perched on obsolete lamp posts on the south side of River Calder on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**Colne Bridge SP** – regularly seen overflying at this site, but no counts were forthcoming.  
**Holmbridge** – there were regular sightings of small numbers throughout the year from this group of reservoirs.

Elsewhere reports concerned mainly fly over birds including: **Skelmanthorpe** a single over on 6<sup>th</sup> February, **Shelley** four W on 12<sup>th</sup> March, two E on 11<sup>th</sup> July and a single E on 9<sup>th</sup> August, **Wessenden Valley** singles on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> July, **Crosland Moor** a single W on 11<sup>th</sup> July, **Shepley** a single overflying on 29<sup>th</sup> July, **Pule Hill**, **Marsden** three (2 SW and 1 N) on 28<sup>th</sup> August and a single NE on 6<sup>th</sup> September, **Redbrook Res.** two NE on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

#### **BITTERN** *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare visitor.

A single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7<sup>th</sup> February (MLD, TD, CH) was the second record for the reservoir and the sixth for the Club area. When found the bird was standing adjacent to a Rhododendron on the S bank near the SW corner but eventually climbed up inside the bush and, when flushed, flew from 3 metres from the ground across the reservoir and landed 5 metres up a Holly bush half way between the SW corner and the hide. It was not seen again.

#### **LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor.

Despite an increasing breeding population in Britain there was only a single record in the Club area of this small striking heron.

A single found at **Panna Mill Dam, Meltham** during the mid-morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> September joined a Grey Heron in a near-by field where it showed well to several observers. It moved back to the Dam later in the day and roosted overnight in trees where it was seen and photographed early the next morning being mobbed by Magpies. It was later seen to fly off northwards but was not seen subsequently (DMP, SP, NWM *et al.*).

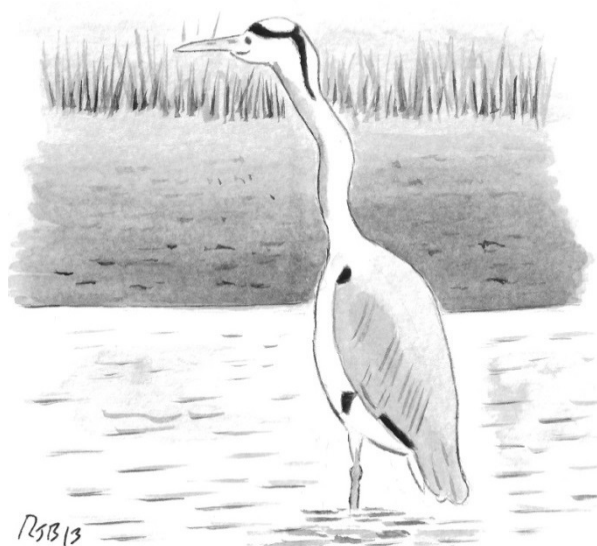
#### **GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

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

Encountered throughout the Club area in all months of the year. Records came from over 40 sites including many fly over birds. Unless due to under recording, number of birds appear down on previous years and this may be due to the run of recent cold winters.

At **Bretton Park** breeding pairs were well down on previous years. Birds were noted repairing nests as early as 20<sup>th</sup> January and a few days later twenty birds, most of which were standing on nests, was the largest count anywhere. At least one nest had four well grown young by 16<sup>th</sup> February and four large young were seen in another nest on the rather late date of 15<sup>th</sup> June. There were nine occupied nests in the garden of Healey House at **Healey House** (this site has incorrectly been called Wood Bottom Farm in previous reports) and, although the site has no access, the nests are counted from Honley Wood. Three pairs bred at **Elland GP**. A small heronry at **Storthes Hall Wood**, first recorded in 2011, appears to have established but no further details were forthcoming.

Away from heronries there were no double figure counts. Up to six were present at both **Healey Mills/Kerry NR** and **Dewsbury SF** throughout the year and four were noted on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Elsewhere birds numbered three or less but there were regular sightings at **Colne Bridge SP** and **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP). At **Harden Quarries** singles flew NE on 26<sup>th</sup> August, SW on 9<sup>th</sup> September, NE on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and SW on 7<sup>th</sup> October.



A garden pond at **Crimble Clough** was visited by birds intent on taking frogs.

Once again **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a very quiet year. One or two (generally only 1) were seen on 111 dates between 26<sup>th</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> December. The only exceptions concerned three on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July. Most of the records in April (1 or 2 on 12 days) involved birds flying N or S over the reservoir, presumably as they commuted between the heronry at Healey House and feeding areas to the north.

### **RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor.

A welcome increase in reports this year for one of our more impressive birds of prey.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a single flew S at 13.05hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup> March (MLD, CH), one circling over the reservoir departed SW at 10.35hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> April (MLD, CH) and a single circling over Orange Wood departed SW at 09.00hrs. on 3<sup>rd</sup> July (MLD). These were the ninth to eleventh records for the reservoir, the first being in April 2006.

**Harden Quarries** – a single flew W on 25<sup>th</sup> March and one drifted W on 19<sup>th</sup> August (MC).

**Ossett** – one which circled high over Healey Road headed N on 30<sup>th</sup> March (JRS).

**Thornhill Millbank** – a bird with two primaries missing on its right wing was present on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (JRS).

**Langsett/Little Don Valley** – a single flew W on 15<sup>th</sup> April (MCW), a single was present on 28<sup>th</sup> May (per BBSG) and one was reported at Langsett on 23<sup>rd</sup> June (D Barker).  
**Shelley** – one flew SE over Far Bank at 14.30hrs. on 18<sup>th</sup> April (SRG).  
**Horbury Wyke** – a single flew S on 4<sup>th</sup> May (JRS).  
**Wessenden Valley** – a second-calendar bird flew NE on 7<sup>th</sup> May (DMP).  
**Marsden** – a single drifted NE over Meltham Road at 19.15hrs. on 27<sup>th</sup> May (SWJ).  
**Middlestown** – a single flew SE on 5<sup>th</sup> June (JRS).  
**Whitley Beaumont** – a single flew S along Whitley Ridge on 26<sup>th</sup> June (DS).  
**Bretton Park** – a bird observed over the park from Litherop Lane on 8<sup>th</sup> August (per SRG).  
**Riding Wood Res** – a juvenile drifted up Ramsden Clough on 8<sup>th</sup> September (DMP, SP, KWrr).  
**Elland GP** – a single was photographed on 14<sup>th</sup> October (B. Nield).

Number of Red Kite reported in the Huddersfield area during the last five years:

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8	10	17	10	19

**MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*  
Rare passage visitor.

An excellent year for this fine raptor with 10 or 11 birds involved.

**Langsett** – a 'cream-crown' over Hingcliff Common on 24<sup>th</sup> July and the same or another here the following day (MCW).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a 'cream-crown' drifted E at 13.25hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup> July (MLD, TD, CH) and a 'cream-crown' flew N at 09.00hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup> August (MLD). These are the tenth and eleventh records for the reservoir, the first being in May 1999.

**Booth Wood Res** – a 'cream-crown' near the reservoir on 11<sup>th</sup> August was thought to have roosted there that night (D Sutcliffe).

**Snailsden Res** – a 'cream-crown' on 13<sup>th</sup> August (MCW).

**Harden Quarries** – a 'cream-crown' flew SE on 18<sup>th</sup> August (MC), a distant bird with an obvious gap in one wing was seen on 25<sup>th</sup> August (MC, NWM) and a single flew SW on 9<sup>th</sup> September (MC, NWM, DHP).

**Harden** - a 'cream-crown' drifted SW on 19<sup>th</sup> August (MC).

**Wholestone Moor** – a single flew S towards Scammonden Res. on 26<sup>th</sup> October (DT).

Number of Marsh Harrier records in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2	3	1	1	1	5	3	4	4	10

**HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*  
Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

In contrast to the previous species this much persecuted raptor only mustered three records this year.

**Holme Valley** – a ringtail at an undisclosed sight in this area was observed on 3<sup>rd</sup> March (MC).

**Brun Clough Res** – a ringtail flew N pursued by a Curlew on 18<sup>th</sup> May (DHP).

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – a ringtail was photographed as it slowly moved SW at 13.45hrs. on 22<sup>nd</sup> September (DHP).

Number of Hen Harrier records in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years.

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	4	4	4	1	4	1	5	5	3

### **HARRIER SP.** *Circus* sp.

A single which drifted SW over **Fixby** with two Buzzards on 22<sup>nd</sup> September could not be identified to species (DT).

### (NORTHERN) **GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*

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

Despite suitable tracts of habitat and plentiful prey, this magnificent hawk struggles to maintain a toe-hold in our recording area. It seems likely that unless there is a change of attitude by some on driven Grouse Moors, the future for this bird in West Yorkshire, like the previous species, looks bleak.

There was just one accepted report this year. At an undisclosed site a pair was seen displaying before they dived into woodland on 11<sup>th</sup> April (JRS).

### (EURASIAN) **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Reports came from about 70 sites again this year and spanned all months. Birds were reported from the town centre to the moorland edges.

There were no reports of breeding this year but three juveniles were reported from **Armitage Bridge** in mid-July and it undoubtedly did or attempted to do so at several other suitable sites.

Most reports were of single birds, sometimes two, and apart from the above three juveniles, the only other exceptions were three displaying adults at **Riding Wood Res.** between mid-February and mid-March and four at **Harden Quarries** on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Displaying pairs were also noted at **Ramsden Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> March where the bird(s) were described as putting on a tremendous tail-flagging, roller-coaster dive display in beautiful weather conditions.

Birds were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot**. Generally only a single was present and the only records of two were on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> November. The number of sightings from this locality continues to fall, however, and the highest monthly bird/days was 11 in April, although it was generally less than six.

Birds visited and hunted in gardens at **Lockwood, Honley, Almondbury, Golcar, Dalton** (regularly throughout the year), **Skelmanthorpe, Meltham, New Mill** and **Thornhill Edge** (a

male regularly throughout the year). At **Golcar** one sat on a house roof for c.20 minutes on 9<sup>th</sup> January, one was casing a Starling in a **Thick Hollins, Meltham** garden on 10<sup>th</sup> March and one took a Collared Dove in a **New Mill** garden on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Other birds with prey were as follows: one killed a Collared Dove in a roadside tree at **Cowlersley** on 15<sup>th</sup> April, a single was seen with passerine prey at **Horbury Strands** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, one seen in hot pursuit of a Collared Dove at **Deanhouse** on 21<sup>st</sup> July and one scattered a small flock of Lapwings near **Scout Dike Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

An interesting report concerned a female mobbing an Osprey at **Cheesegate Nab** on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
31	16	25	35	20	13	18	20	29	23	21	16

(COMMON) **BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

Resident breeder since 2004 (1), 1-2 pairs. Scarce but increasing visitor.

As in the previous two years this splendid raptor continued to be our most frequently reported bird of prey, although some duplication is inevitable. Once again records were received for all months.

At least one pair raised two young and breeding was suspected at a minimum of two other sites, with displaying birds noted in other suitable habitat.

**Yateholme Res** – one or two were regularly seen throughout the year.

**Whitley Beaumont** – seen regular throughout the year with five on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**West Wood, Honley** – two were regularly seen throughout the year.

**High Hoyland** – regular in this area with three birds soaring together on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, two on 1<sup>st</sup> March and three on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Holmfirth** – two near the Ford Inn on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Holme Moss** – a single mobbed by a Sparrowhawk on 13<sup>th</sup> January and one on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Shelley** – regular over observers' house, with a single E on 24<sup>th</sup> January, three W on 16<sup>th</sup> April, a single W on 9<sup>th</sup> August, a group of five drifted E on 15<sup>th</sup> August and four (2 adults + 2 juveniles) on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Bilberry Res** – four on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Bretton Park** – two birds displaying on 15<sup>th</sup> February, three on 29<sup>th</sup> March, five on 5<sup>th</sup> April and four on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Snailsden Res** – three on 18<sup>th</sup> February. A single with an almost Rough-legged Buzzard type tail pattern was present on 25<sup>th</sup> March and two were seen on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

**Grange Moor** – four on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**Winscar** – three on 19<sup>th</sup> February, at least nine different birds were present on 8<sup>th</sup> September and as many as 15 were seen between here and Yateholme on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, though some duplication is possible.

**Brockholes** – a single on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**Blackmoorfoot** – recorded on 19 occasions (2 more than both 2011 and 2010) but, probably because of the abysmal autumn weather, most sightings occurred between March and May. An almost black individual was over the N bank on 25<sup>th</sup> February; in March a single was over

Meltham Cop on 18<sup>th</sup>, one flew N on 21<sup>st</sup>, a single flew S on 26<sup>th</sup>, one was over the fields to the W on 27<sup>th</sup> and two (singles circling the NE corner and Meltham Cop) on 29<sup>th</sup>; April records involved a single circling over the S bank on 7<sup>th</sup> and two circling over the NE corner on 11<sup>th</sup>; in May a single was over the NW corner on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one was over the E bank the following day, a single was circling over Edge Moor on 8<sup>th</sup>, one was over the fields to the W on 17<sup>th</sup>, a single drifted E on 22<sup>nd</sup>, one was circling the E bank on 24<sup>th</sup> and a single drifted W on 30<sup>th</sup>. The only other records concerned a single circling over Edge Moor on 12<sup>th</sup> August, one being mobbed by two Peregrines over Meltham Cop on 24<sup>th</sup> August, a single which drifted NW on 12<sup>th</sup> September, a single over Orange Wood on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and one which flew W on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Honley** – two circling over Chaucer Close on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Thick Hollins Moor** – three on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cheesegate Nab** – four together on 10<sup>th</sup> March, a single calling on 5<sup>th</sup> April and two on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**Heyden Bridge** – two on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Thurstonland** – a group of 10 birds were circling together on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**Bullcliffe Top Wood** – three on 20<sup>th</sup> March and two on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**Woodsome** – two soaring over fields on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Royd Edge Clough** – three thermaling and calling before drifting off towards Digley on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – singles on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> September. At least six flew S on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and a single was seen on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Grimescar Valley** – two 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Langsett/Little Don Valley** – three were present on both 15<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May and four were being mobbed by two Kestrels on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Dunford Bridge** – three on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Lower Edge, Elland** – two on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**Meltham Golf Course** – four (1 adult + 3 juveniles) on 5<sup>th</sup> August were considered to comprise a family party.

**Cawthorne** – two on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**Harden Quarries** – at this visible migration watch site six were recorded on 8<sup>th</sup> September, an impressive 29 flew S on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, nine (3 SW+ 6 recorded as present) on 6<sup>th</sup> October and singles W on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Thornhill Edge** – five flew SE on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Wolfstones** – two on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Hepworth** – four on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Royd Moor** – five on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Fixby** – four drifted SW over the observers' house, two of which were accompanied by an unidentified harrier on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Crimble Clough** – two flew N on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Windy Bank Wood** – two on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**Berry Brow** – two flew towards Castle Hill on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**Blackley** – two on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Broadstone Res** – two mobbed by crows on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	13	33	11	20	4	5	8	29	14	12	6

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor.

The Club area was graced by this superb raptor for the third year running.

A single was seen in flight near **Holmfirth**, at one stage in the air along-side Common Buzzard, and was photographed as it departed NE over Cophurst Moor on 26<sup>th</sup> February (MC, NWM, DHP).

Note: the two birds seen at Winscar on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 have now been accepted by the YNU Adjudication Panel.

**OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.

There were five records of this special raptor, a welcome improvement over the last couple of years.

**Greenhead Park** – one flew N at 11.15hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup> March (S Johnston).

**Cheesegate Nab** – a bird flying N on 2<sup>nd</sup> April was mobbed by a female Sparrowhawk and several corvids (HQ).

**Langsett Res** – one flew NW on 10<sup>th</sup> April against the wind and attracted the attention of 22 Curlew that pursued it as far as Swinden Hall, and a single was watched here for 10 minutes at it drifted SE at 19.10hrs. on 29<sup>th</sup> August (MCW).

**Slaithwaite** – a single flew NW at 13.30hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> April (SP).

Number of Osprey records in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
5	1	9	2	2	8	3	1	2	5

(COMMON) **KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Only reported from about 50 sites (10 less than 2011). Even with records spanning all months, this species probably remains under recorded.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were present throughout the year, but access to the YW tower nesting hole was denied by YW due to perceived health and safety problems and no breeding occurred. YW kindly agreed to secure a Kestrel nest box to the tower and, although this was too late for a nesting attempt this year, it is hoped that it will be used in future years.

The only confirmation of breeding came from **Milnsbridge** where a pair raised two young at Crowther's Mill, and at **New Mill** where a pair bred on Mount Scar, a family party of four birds being seen here on one date in August. Pairs were reported in the breeding season at other suitable sites including **Bretton Park** (2 pairs), **Deer Hill**, **High Hoyland**, **Langsett/Little Don Valley** and **Yateholme**, but breeding undoubtedly occurred at several other localities.





Most reports were of one or two birds, the only exceptions being four or five together (presumed to be a family party) at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 29<sup>th</sup> May, three at **Lower Maythorn** on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, three or four over **Isle of Skye Road/Quarry** on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> September and three at **Harden Quarries** on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

Partial migrant breeder (1), 0-4 pairs. Scarce visitor.

This small falcon was reported from only 17 sites this year.

The only information concerning breeding was of a pair seen displaying at one site on dates in March and April, after which the site was not visited and the outcome of any breeding attempt remained unknown. At another site a nest with three eggs was located but the nest was empty when later visited under licence.

Elsewhere birds were recorded as follows.

**Annat Royd Lane** – a single on 7<sup>th</sup> January and one flew SSW on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Horbury Wyke** – one flew E on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Thick Hollins Moor** – a single on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**Bradshaw** – a female on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**Meltham Grange** – a male on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Harden Quarries** – a female came in from the N and harried Meadow Pipits on 26<sup>th</sup> March and what may have been the same bird was seen on 6<sup>th</sup> April. An unsexed bird was present on 7<sup>th</sup> May. There were singles on 8<sup>th</sup> September (flew SW), 22<sup>nd</sup> September (flew S) and two flew SW on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – a male was photographed on 5<sup>th</sup> April and singles were present on 5<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Langsett/Little Don Valley** – a single on 15<sup>th</sup> April and a male on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**Deer Hill** – a female scattered c.30 Twite at the feeding station without making a kill on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – one over the fields to the W then flew E over the reservoir on 7<sup>th</sup> May, a single over Meltham Cop on 27<sup>th</sup> August, a single flew E over the reservoir on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and one was chasing a Skylark over the reservoir on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Wessenden Valley** – a female on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Nont Sarah's** – a female hunting Meadow Pipits on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wingscar** – a bird in flight over the car park on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

**Marsden** – a brown-backed bird was seen hunting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – singles were noted on 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October.

(EURASIAN) **HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

Sightings of this superb summer visitor continue to increase. Reports were received from 16 sites although it is difficult to know how many different birds were involved.

Two pairs bred in the east of the Club area; one was thought to have had three young but only two survived and the other raised two young (observers' initials withheld by request). At one of these sites the two young and at least one adult remained until late September.

**Dewsbury SW** – a single on 8<sup>th</sup> May (JH).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – there were nine records, the best year ever: singles were over the fields to the W on 24<sup>th</sup> (TD) and 28<sup>th</sup> May (MLD); one flew N on 29<sup>th</sup> May (MLD, DMO); singles departed W on 13<sup>th</sup> June (MLD, CH) and 7<sup>th</sup> July (CH); a single high over the N bank stooped at, and caught, a hirundine on 12<sup>th</sup> July (MLD, TD, CH); one flew W on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (MLD, CH); one mobbed a Peregrine, along with two Kestrels, over Orange Wood on 14<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, CH); and a single was over the fields to the W on 28<sup>th</sup> September (TD, CH).

**Meltham** – there were several records from this area, which may or may not have involved some or all of the same bird(s). The first was a bird low over fields near Red Lane on 6<sup>th</sup> June with five more sightings within 1km of here up to mid-August (DMP). A single was chasing Swallows over fields to the south of Brow Grains on 15<sup>th</sup> July (DHP) and one was seen to take a juvenile Swallow at Meltham Grange before flying towards Meltham Moor on 20<sup>th</sup> July (SF).

**Scammonden Res** – a single was watched for 20 minutes catching moths before settling on an electricity pylon where it gave good telescope views on 12<sup>th</sup> June (DMP).

**Cawthorne** – a single perched in an oak tree on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Royd Moor Res** – a single flew off in the direction of Whitley Common on 14<sup>th</sup> July (NWM) and what may have been the same bird was present on 4<sup>th</sup> August (MC, DMP, SP, KWr).

**Broadstone Res** – singles on 15<sup>th</sup> July (MW) and 11<sup>th</sup> August (MC, NWM).

**Wessenden Valley** – an adult on 17<sup>th</sup> July (A Cockroft).

**Shelley** – a bird flew NW on 14<sup>th</sup> August, and singles agitated the local House Martins on 17<sup>th</sup> August and 8<sup>th</sup> September (SRG).

**Harden** – a single on 19<sup>th</sup> August (MC).

**Carlecotes** – one observed sparring with a Kestrel on 10<sup>th</sup> September (MC).

**Lepton** – a single chasing Meadow Pipits on Lucy Lane on 12<sup>th</sup> September (DS).

**Harden Quarries** – a single flew S on 22<sup>nd</sup> September (MC).

Records of Hobby in the Huddersfield area during the last 10 years:

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
12	9	13	7	8	8	11	12	16	28

### **PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus*

Resident breeder, increased to (1), 1-6 pairs.

Sadly, although birds were present at suitable sites there was little indication of breeding. A pair was clearly on territory in early March, with calling, flight displays and chasing off Buzzards and Ravens that ventured too close being observed. This pair failed, probably in the early stages of the breeding cycle for unknown reasons, though the observer implied that human interference could have been a likely cause. At another site that has seen successful breeding in the past, birds were observed on many dates throughout the breeding season but there was no evidence that any eggs were laid, the observer was of the opinion that the prolonged, very inclement weather was a factor, as the site is very exposed. A juvenile, of unknown origin, was perched with adults on **Emley Moor Transmitting Station** on several occasions from late August. To encourage birds to nest at this site a nest box was erected on and birds will, hopefully, breed in the near future.

Elsewhere records were as follows:

**Lower Hopton** – a single, considered to be an immature male, was seen regularly on Walker's Mill chimney between 1<sup>st</sup> January and late March.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – singles on 6<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January and two on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a single was chasing Lapwings over the reservoir on 7<sup>th</sup> January; one flew E on 6<sup>th</sup> June; a juvenile female was mobbed by a Kestrel and departed S on 9<sup>th</sup> July; a juvenile (not the same bird) was over the fields to the W on 14<sup>th</sup> July; in August, a female which flew S at 09.25hrs. was presumably the same bird being mobbed by a Hobby and two Kestrels over Orange Wood at 11.00hrs. on 14<sup>th</sup>, a female was over Orange Wood on 17<sup>th</sup>, an immature female flew N on 18<sup>th</sup>, a female flew N on 19<sup>th</sup>, an immature female was present on 20<sup>th</sup> and two (not aged or sexed) were mobbing a Buzzard over Meltham Cop on 24<sup>th</sup>. The only record thereafter involved a single which flew N on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Holmfirth** – a single over Cliff on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Whitley Beaumont** – a male along Whitley Ridge performed several stoops over Hall Wood on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and it or another male was circling in the same area on 9<sup>th</sup> March. At Temple Quarry a male and female with a fresh kill were present on 19<sup>th</sup> March and two males were circling the quarry on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Shortly after these sightings the quarry face was destroyed and there were only occasional sightings of birds thereafter.

**Bilberry Res** – a male on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Meltham Moor** – a single large female hunting near West Nab on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ingbirchworth** – a single hunting to the west of the reservoir on 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**Harden Moss** – a female sat on wall on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**Yateholme Res** – a single mobbed by a Common Buzzard on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cheesegate Nab** – one alongside a Common Buzzard and a Sparrowhawk on 15<sup>th</sup> February and a single with prey on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

**Copthurst Moor** – a single on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

**Winscar** – singles on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> July, two on 6<sup>th</sup> October and a single slicing through a flock of Woodpigeons on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Woodsome Bridge** – one harrying Woodpigeon on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

**Holme Moss** – singles on 21<sup>st</sup> March and 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Carlecotes Ponds** – an adult flushed off the moor on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**Marsden** – a single at Binn Farm on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**Riding Wood Res** – a second calendar bird attempted to catch a Common Sandpiper which took evasive action by dropping into the reservoir and swimming safely to the edge on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Digley Res** – singles on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> July.

**Langsett/Little Don Valley** – a single on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**Black Tor** – a single on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Shepley** – one north over Sally Wood on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

**Crosland Hill** – an adult female flew NW on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Harden Quarries** – in September singles flew SW on 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>, four flew SW on 6<sup>th</sup> October, one flew W the following day and a single flew S on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Redbrook Res** – a single flew S on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – two birds (adult male + adult female) were present on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### **WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Although there was once again no proof of breeding, two birds were seen in spring at a site where it has taken place in the recent past. This was the only place producing records in the first half of the year. In the second, reports were limited to singles seen at two other locations on five dates in late November and early December.

**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – a single on 5<sup>th</sup> January was followed by two on 17<sup>th</sup> April and one again on 23<sup>rd</sup> June (JRS).

**Horbury Wyke** – singles were in the gully by the canal on 18<sup>th</sup> November, and feeding on the riverbank on 15<sup>th</sup> December (JRS).

**Gunthwaite Dam** – one fed on exposed mud on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> December and was photographed on the latter two dates. What was presumably the same bird was still in residence here in early January, 2013 (DMP, DHP, NWM).

### (COMMON) **MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

Records were received from 25 sites, which is around the recent average for this denizen of hidden ponds, willow-fringed reservoir edges, and shady backwaters. As such, it remains an awkward species to monitor accurately, although peak numbers were certainly lower than those in some other recent years.

Evidence of breeding was as follows.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a single from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> March was joined by a second the following day. These birds then remained to breed, and from four chicks managed to rear two to the flying stage. The family party were then resident until 26<sup>th</sup> October, after which three (2 adults and a juvenile) remained to the year end.

**Cooper Bridge SP** – two pairs bred; one on the adjacent River Calder and one on the ponds. The pair on the river produced only one young. The pair on the ponds hatched three, but soon lost two of them.

**Hey Green, Marsden** – an adult and one three-quarter grown young bird on 23<sup>rd</sup> May were followed by a single juvenile present on 15<sup>th</sup> July. The regular observer deemed this a 'very poor showing' for the site.

**Carlecotes Ponds** – a single young bird on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wilshaw** – a pair with at least two young were on a small pond between here and Netherthong on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Horbury** – six adults and five young on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

**Cannon Hall CP** – two adults and two juveniles on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**Bretton Park** – two juveniles on 6<sup>th</sup> August and three pairs with an unspecified number of young on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Brun Clough Res** – an adult and a single young bird were on a small pond to the W of the reservoir on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – a 'very young' bird with an adult on 1<sup>st</sup> September was perhaps the same as that reported as a juvenile on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**Panna Mill Dam** – an adult and a juvenile on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Once again, it was left to the **Horbury** area to provide the lion's share of the year's highest counts. Monthly maxima there included 15 in February, 12 in April, six in May, 11 (see above) in June, 16 in August, 31 in September and October, 21 in November, and 30 in December. The only other site known to hold birds in double figures was **Thornhill Millbank**, where the maximum was 13 on 18<sup>th</sup> August. Elsewhere, reports of five or above came from **Elland GP** (6 on 11<sup>th</sup> January), **Golcar/Linthwaite** (6 on the canal on 29<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> April), **Royd Moor Res.** (6 on 20<sup>th</sup> August), **Scout Dike Res.** (5 on 5<sup>th</sup> September and 8 on 17<sup>th</sup> October) and **Windy Bank Res.**, where six were present on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

(EURASIAN) **COOT** *Fulica atra*

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

Maximum monthly counts at three of the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs were as follows.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ingbirchworth	11	9	11	10	9	17	25	16	16	14	12	15
Scout Dike	nc	nc	14	12	nc	nc	nc	nc	8	15	nc	13
Royd Moor	3	11	nc	nc	2	2	nc	nc	nc	nc	4	nc

The results above suggest that numbers were fairly stable throughout the year, with perhaps a minor influx in the last quarter. A similar impression was given by records from the area as a whole. However, the species continues to receive very little attention from most observers, with the effect that any changes in its pattern of occurrence might well be going undetected.

Breeding was confirmed or suspected at the following.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – 16 were resident between 4<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> March. Three pairs stayed to breed on the island in the main lake and reared a total of 10 young. 18 were then present from 2<sup>nd</sup> December to the year's end.

**Bretton Park** – 18 were counted on 7<sup>th</sup> March. In June, two pairs were nesting by 7<sup>th</sup>, but a nest containing four eggs had been abandoned by 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Cooper Bridge SP** – a pair hatched four young, but these had dwindled to two by late May. Just one survived into July, when the adults departed.

**Ingbirchworth Res** (see above) – five territories were occupied on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Later counts included 11 adults and six young on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 16 adults and nine young on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 11 adults and three young on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, and 14 adults and two young on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Scout Dike Res** (see above) – six pairs were counted on 15<sup>th</sup> April, but it is unknown whether or not any breeding was successful.

**Ossett Spa SF** – a pair and four fairly newly hatched young were at a nest on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Reports from elsewhere were in such short supply that it is possible for them to be individually listed as follows.

**Horbury Wyke** – one to four throughout the year.

**Elland GP** – monthly maxima of three in January, four in April, and two in November.

**Boshaw Whams Res** – 'present' in January, with two on 29<sup>th</sup> February, and one on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – the only records in the first half of the year involved singles on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June. The picture in the second half of the year, although somewhat improved, only amounted to one to three individuals (usually only one) on 13 dates between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 27<sup>th</sup> December.

**Cannon Hall CP** – presumably present throughout the year (as usual) but the only record, on 18<sup>th</sup> July, simply states 'encountered frequently'.

**Gunthwaite Dam** – 'present' on 18<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – two on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

**Broadstone Res** – five on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Castle Dam** – in December, 10 on 1<sup>st</sup> were followed by eight on 9<sup>th</sup>, and nine on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Windy Bank Res** – singles on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

Rare visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, two adults circled over Meltham Cop from 11.05hrs. before drifting W with the breeze at 11.20hrs. (MLD). This is the first record for the reservoir and the seventh for the Club area.

### (EURASIAN) OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Migrant breeder since 1999 (1), 1-2 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor, increasing.

Records were received from over 30 mainly upland settings between 25<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The first involved two at **Winscar Res.** on the former date; these being followed by singles (unless otherwise stated) at the reservoirs at **Boshaw Whams** and **Broadstone** on 26<sup>th</sup>, **Ramsden** and **Yateholme** on 27<sup>th</sup>, and **Booth Wood** (3) and **Baitings** on 28<sup>th</sup>. A further nine sites had been visited by the end of March, which was the month which produced most of the year's highest counts. Examples came from **Boshaw Whams Res.** (a maximum of 12 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 11 still present on 15<sup>th</sup>), **Broadstone Res.** (12+ seen regularly throughout the month, with a maximum of 18 on 17<sup>th</sup>), and **Winscar Res.** (18 on 10<sup>th</sup>).

As usual, counts in April were generally smaller, but came from a wider range of sites as birds dispersed to breeding areas. Examples of the latter included:

**Digley Res** – full piping display was noted from as early as 4<sup>th</sup> March and was followed by regular sightings of one or two throughout the spring, but breeding was not proven.

**Winscar Res** – two were sitting on eggs on 30<sup>th</sup> April, with broods of one and two young then seen on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – a pair showed agitation during every visit between early May and early July, with one seen carrying food on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**Brun Clough Res** – in May, one was on eggs on 20<sup>th</sup> and three young were reported on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – one was on eggs on 17<sup>th</sup> June and a single chick was present on 1<sup>st</sup> July but there were no further sightings after the flooding which occurred on 7<sup>th</sup> of that month.

**Lower Windleden Res** – two pairs and at least three young birds were found on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – a pair with two young were present on 30<sup>th</sup> June, with breeding thought to have taken place at the reservoir or nearby.

**Hepworth Pipe Works, Crow Edge** – four pairs were said to have bred successfully; these birds presumably accounting for several spring and early summer sightings at the adjacent Carlecotes Ponds.

**Whitley Common** – a pair were suspected to have bred, but no details were forthcoming.

In July, birds continued to be recorded at a variety of locations on an almost daily basis until 25<sup>th</sup>. However, in contrast to early spring, groups were rarely more than four-strong. The only exceptions were at **Broadstone Res.**, which held 13 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 18<sup>th</sup>, and seven on 22<sup>nd</sup>. As is often the case, reports then came to a fairly abrupt end, with a minimum of eight at **Lower Maythorn** on 2<sup>nd</sup> August being the final observation of the year.

### **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*

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

Some recent years have produced sightings at over fifteen locations. This year, however, high water levels tended to limit the range of suitable habitat, and so it was hardly surprising that reports were received from just six. Two of these saw breeding activity progress to at least the egg-laying stage, with young suspected to have hatched at one of them. The other four were all previous or potential breeding sites and so, given the Schedule 1 status of the species, none have been named below. Records extended from 4<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> July, and included no evidence of autumn passage.

The only report from site A referred to one present on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

At site B (a reservoir), three were displaying on 11<sup>th</sup> April. None were recorded then until May, when singles were in a nearby stubble field on 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and one was at the reservoir on 13<sup>th</sup>. Two adults were then seen at the reservoir on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, with further sightings of singles there on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The last involved an adult in the stubble field on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

At site C, one or two were seen regularly from 12<sup>th</sup> April. However, no real signs of breeding activity were noted until 26<sup>th</sup> May, when the pair were displaying. On 6<sup>th</sup> June a nest containing four eggs was found. On 13<sup>th</sup> June a third adult was present, resulting in aggressive behaviour from all three birds. One or two adults were then seen on every visit during the following three weeks, often showing agitation at the observer's presence. The final report was of a single adult feeding quietly on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

At site D, two were seen on 17<sup>th</sup> April, and the same or another two were displaying on 9<sup>th</sup> May, but there was no attempt at breeding, probably because of disturbance caused by building work.

At site E (one of very few reservoirs with an exposed shore during spring) a single was noted on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Three adults were then present on 27<sup>th</sup> May; one of them sat on eggs. Two adults, again including one on eggs, were seen on 28<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June. However, none were found on 4<sup>th</sup> June and the nest was empty.

At site F, a presumed pair was seen at rest on stonework near the reservoir outflow on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

(COMMON) **RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.

As with other waders, consistently high water levels were undoubtedly a factor in the relative scarcity of this species in 2012. In total, no more than eight birds were recorded at three sites on just five dates, all but one of which were in spring. The maximum count was of three.

**Broadstone Res** – one on 30<sup>th</sup> March (MCW) was followed in May by three which departed N on 17<sup>th</sup> (SRG) and two were heard calling and seen distantly in flight on 20<sup>th</sup> (DHoll).

**Redbrook Res** – an adult was present on 18<sup>th</sup> May (DHP).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a single was heard calling on 12<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, CH).

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Four sites hosted birds in January. Numbers at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** rose from 14 on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 36 on 29<sup>th</sup>, but were surpassed by counts of 120 at **Gilbert Hill, Langsett** on 15<sup>th</sup>, 173 at **Broadstone Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup>, and 55 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup>. Similar-sized groups were then seen in the first half of February, when the latter location held over 100 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 50 were at **Deer Hill** on 10<sup>th</sup>, and **Blackmoorfoot** reached a peak for the month of 80 on 11<sup>th</sup>. This was in contrast to the second half of the month, which produced maximum counts of just 23 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> and **Digley Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup>, and no more than a 'handful' of birds in the **Broadstone** area.

Flocks remained very modest in early March, but tended to build up as the month progressed. This was illustrated at **Brun Clough Res.**, which saw an increase from 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> to 27 on 27<sup>th</sup>, and **Wholestone Moor**, where numbers rose from six on 14<sup>th</sup> to 44 on 26<sup>th</sup>. At **Deer Hill**, 60 were present by mid-month, rising to 150 in mid-April and continuing in mid-double figures until well into May. As in other years, it seems likely that there was some crossover with birds at nearby **Blackmoorfoot**, where counts increased from five on 27<sup>th</sup> March to 76 on 31<sup>st</sup> and then fluctuated daily between zero and a monthly maximum of 150 on 20<sup>th</sup> April and 19 on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Two other sites produced triple-figure counts in April. One was **Horbury**, where 110 in a field by the Wyke on 4<sup>th</sup> turned out to be the only record of the year from the Calder Valley. The other was **Ringstone Edge Res.**, which held a maximum of 163 on 10<sup>th</sup>. A notable feature of some recent years has been the presence of up to 1000 birds in April in the **Ingbirchworth/Broadstone** area. Unfortunately, this was not repeated in 2012, when counts never exceeded the 86 (many of which resembled 'northern' birds) seen off **Annat Royd Lane** on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Elsewhere, mid to late spring saw the expected decrease in numbers, and also brought with it the usual problem of separating migrants from local breeders. This was the case at **Digley Res.**, which held c.25 on 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May, and 16 still on 9<sup>th</sup> June, and **Flight Hill**, where 13 were present on 7<sup>th</sup> May but none were reported subsequently.

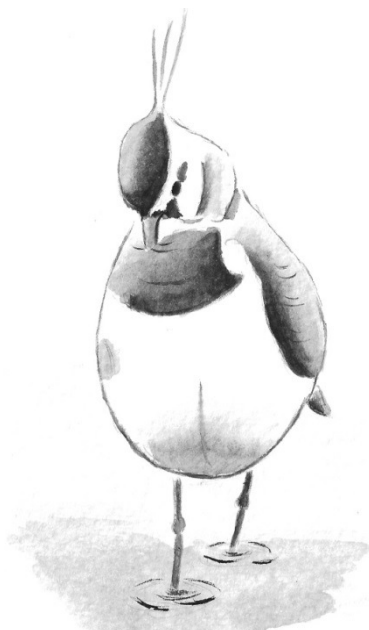


In general though, there was very little evidence of breeding having occurred anywhere. Singles had been in song at **Harden** and near the **Isle of Skye Quarry** from as early as 1<sup>st</sup> March, and were followed by occasional reports of pairs on territory in other moorland areas, but the only proof of success came from **Deer Hill**, where an agitated male was protecting young on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. This lack of records could have been partly due to a reduction in observer coverage. On the other hand, it was perhaps indicative of a poor season that the usual June gathering of presumed off-duty breeders at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was this year limited to 11 on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 14<sup>th</sup>, and five on 20<sup>th</sup>. This latter was one of only two records received for the second half of the month; the other involving eight near **Brun Clough Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup>. There were no records from the west of the area, although RSPB reported successful breeding at Dovestones.

July continued in a similar fashion, with records from just two localities. These were **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where one flew W on 15<sup>th</sup> and three were present on 17<sup>th</sup>, and **Snape Res.**, which held 12 on 24<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 25<sup>th</sup>, and one on 26<sup>th</sup>. There were then none anywhere until late August, when two were at the latter site on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>. September fared slightly better, with single figures noted at three sites on five dates, but there were none again then until an influx in late October at **Wholestone Moor** (19 NE on 26<sup>th</sup>, with 10 present on 3<sup>rd</sup> November), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (12 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27 on 27<sup>th</sup>), **Broadstone Res.** (c.40 on 27<sup>th</sup>), and **Ringstone Edge Res.** (19 on 29<sup>th</sup>). The remainder of records were almost all from the **Ingbirchworth/Broadstone** area, which hosted loose flocks totalling around 120 for most of November and December. The only exception to this was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where a single on 21<sup>st</sup> December proved to be the last bird of the year.

(NORTHERN) **LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*

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



RJB13

Flocks in the early months were generally rather small. At **Blackmoorfoot**, between 40 and 80 were present daily in January up to 21<sup>st</sup>. The only other counts of over 50 that month came from **Harden Moss** (62 W on 6<sup>th</sup>), **Horbury Strands** (64 on 8<sup>th</sup>), **Gilbert Hill**, **Langsett** (55 on 12<sup>th</sup>), and **Ringstone Edge Res.** (54 on 18<sup>th</sup>). In February, 460 flew E at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6<sup>th</sup>, but this was by far the highest count at the reservoir, and, apart from 140 present on 10<sup>th</sup> and 120 on 12<sup>th</sup>, numbers never exceeded 30 there. Elsewhere in February, c.80 flew N in three groups at **Bretton Park** on 15<sup>th</sup>, 120 were at **Deer Hill** on 25<sup>th</sup>, and maxima of 60 were recorded at three other sites (**Ingbirchworth Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup>, **Cheesegate Nab** on 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, and **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup>). Aggregations in March reached a mini-peak on 6<sup>th</sup>, when 51 were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, c.20 were at **Carlecotes**, and 131 flew W at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, but then fell quickly as birds dispersed to breed. Typically, this resulted in records from a wider range of sites, mostly involving birds in single figures. The one notable exception to this was on 5<sup>th</sup> April, when 129 flew W at **Bretton**.

Breeding activity was very poorly documented, especially in the west of the area. It was therefore difficult to make any comparisons with previous years. Examples were as follows.

**Haigh** – one pair bred. Three young were present on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Deer Hill** – a pair with one young noted in mid-May.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – two pairs bred. Uncounted young were seen on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

**Bradshaw/Blackpool Bridge** – a minimum of five pairs on 29<sup>th</sup> March, and several young birds present on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – four pairs on territory on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Uncounted young were in fields off Annat Royd Lane on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Royd Moor** – several young in a mown field on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**Horbury Strands** – three pairs were on territory in June and July, but flooding was thought to have prevented successful breeding.

**Bullcliff** – one pair on territory.

**High Hoyland** – two or three pairs on territory.

**Shepley** – two or three pairs on territory.

As usual, gatherings in the second half of the year were generally larger than those in the first. There were hardly any records at all during the first two weeks of July, but then numbers at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** rose fairly rapidly from 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> to 101 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 170 on 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 200 on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 300 on 26<sup>th</sup>, and 420 on 28<sup>th</sup>. It seems likely that a report of 290 at nearby **Crosland Heath airfield** on 27<sup>th</sup> involved some of these same birds. This increase was mirrored, albeit on a smaller scale, at **Ringstone Edge Res.**, where the flock peaked at 114 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The next two months were again dominated by **Blackmoorfoot**, which in August hosted 220 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 300 on 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, and 350 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. In September, 200 were present on 9<sup>th</sup>, with 100-150 then seen daily until 23<sup>rd</sup>. Numbers in October were very variable, with the month's maximum of 285 on 17<sup>th</sup> being more than twice as big as the next highest count. Elsewhere, October brought reports of up to 200+ on several dates in the **Ingbirchworth/Broadstone** area, 220 at **Harden Quarries** on 6<sup>th</sup>, 85 N at **Wholestone Moor** on 26<sup>th</sup>, and 91 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup>. The year then drew to a close with notable counts in November of 140 off **Hassocks Road, Meltham**, on 1<sup>st</sup>, 190 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and c.110 E over **Cockley Hill, Kirkheaton**, on 28<sup>th</sup>, and in December of 100 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 140 which roosted on a roof near **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) on 8<sup>th</sup>.

(RED) **KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

Rare passage visitor.

One flew W over **Hazelhead/Reddishaw Knoll** at 08.49hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> November. On the same day and at the same site an apparent second bird also flew W at 10.34hrs.; this time in the company of a Snipe (both DP).

This species has now been recorded in 10 of the last 12 years; the exceptions being 2009 and 2011.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Three at **Ringstone Edge Res.** at 06.20hrs on 10<sup>th</sup> May were suspected to have roosted there and departed soon after being discovered (via HBC). This constitutes the first record in the Club area since 2008.

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

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

Several recent years have produced no evidence at all of breeding, so it is a testament to the value of concerted effort that a survey carried out by the National Trust and RSPB this year revealed an impressive total of 45 pairs/territories on NT land within the Club area. These included one at **Black Moss**, where an empty nest was independently found on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Outside the breeding season, consistent high water levels and the consequent lack of exposed shore resulted in grounded birds being scarce. The first was a single on the dam bank at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup> January. This was followed by one on the ice at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4<sup>th</sup> February and one feeding on moss-covered rocks in the upper reaches of the River Colne near Eastergate Bridge, **Marsden** the following day.

The remaining records were all from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and, apart from one on the S embankment on 28<sup>th</sup> May, all related to birds heard or seen in flight. These involved a single flying W on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, one heard calling on 25<sup>th</sup> July, six which flew W on 18<sup>th</sup> September, and, finally, a single which flew W on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**JACK SNIFE** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Reports of this enigmatic visitor came from four upland locations and reached a peak in October and early November, when three of the four sites were occupied. No more than two were recorded on any one occasion.

**Boshaw Whams Res** – two were in adjacent boggy pasture on 14<sup>th</sup> January (NWM, HQ), followed by a single in the same place on 6<sup>th</sup> November (MC).

**Deer Hill** – singles (unless otherwise stated) were noted on 28<sup>th</sup> January and then in February on 3<sup>rd</sup> (2), 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>; this being the final sighting during the first winter period (TD, CH, DMP).

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – in October, singles on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> were followed by two on both 8<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Further sightings of singles were then made in November on 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (DHP).

**Wholestone Moor** – singles were found on 7<sup>th</sup> October (DHP), 26<sup>th</sup> October (DT), and 3<sup>rd</sup> November (MC, NWM, DHP).

(COMMON) **SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

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

The first two months saw reports from eight upland areas, most of which referred to ones and twos. The exceptions were all from **Deer Hill**, where numbers appeared to rise steadily from five on 14<sup>th</sup> January to 18 on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Somewhat disappointingly, this turned out to be the maximum count of the year.

Unusually, there was no news from the Calder Valley until March, when 14 were at **Dewsbury SW** on 7<sup>th</sup> and six were at **Horbury Wyke** on 11<sup>th</sup>. On 21<sup>st</sup> March, a minimum of 13 were present at **Ringstone Edge Res.** Elsewhere that month, two pairs were on territory at **Harden** from as early as 5<sup>th</sup>, after which one to three chipping and drumming birds were regularly reported from several other sites including **Bradshaw**, **Brockholes**, **Brow Grains**, **Tinker Hill**, **Langsett/Little Don Valley**, **Isle of Skye Quarry**, and the reservoirs at **Blakeley**, **Brun Clough**, **Digley**, and **Deer Hill**. Unfortunately though, there was no proof of breeding and, apart from **Snape Res.**, where chipping continued to be heard throughout July, most areas were deathly quiet by the end of June.

The first signs of autumn passage were seen in August, when a single moved S at **Harden** on 12<sup>th</sup>, eight flew WSW at **Snape Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup>, and one was on **Whitley Edge** on 26<sup>th</sup>. September continued in a similar vein, with four at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup>, singles seen on one date at each of four other sites, and two flying SW at **Harden Quarries** on 29<sup>th</sup>. October fared a little better, with eight (5 flying SW and 3 present) at the latter site on 6<sup>th</sup>, one at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 11<sup>th</sup>, three at **Wholestone Moor** on both 14<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and four at **Deer Hill** on 21<sup>st</sup>. This was followed by a further slight improvement in November, when records came from six sites and included counts of five at **Horbury Wyke** on 5<sup>th</sup>, three at **Boshaw Whams Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup>, four on three dates at **Wholestone Moor**, and nine which flew SW (groups of 4 and 5) at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup>. In recent times, December has often been one of the more productive months, but this year there were none seen until 12<sup>th</sup>, when a single flew S over **Windmill Lane** and thus brought an end to what had been a fairly mediocre showing overall.

(EURASIAN) **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

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

The first sightings of the year were of singles near **Wood Nook** on 17<sup>th</sup> January and by the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> February. In March, three were roding at **Langsett Banks** from as early as 14<sup>th</sup>, and one was seen in the **Grimescar Valley** on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding season records are very often a by-product of late-evening searches for other species, and were this year even more meagre than usual. Roding birds were found in late May at

**Thurlstone Moor** (2 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 3+ on 31<sup>st</sup>) and **Harden Clough** (2 on 27<sup>th</sup>). There were also reports of several roding in the **Langsett** area but, apart from the aforementioned three in March and one encountered in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 28<sup>th</sup> May, all referred to sites just beyond our southern boundary. Unfortunately, there were no records at all from the favoured Holme Styes/Elysium/Crossley's Plantation area.

As is usually the case, the late autumn and second winter period was more productive than the early months. The first of this season was one at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> October, but the main arrival was in November, when two were at **Meltham GC** on 11<sup>th</sup> and one was in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on the same date. These were followed by two flushed from the top of **Deer Hill** on two dates around the middle of the month, one seen again at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup>, two sightings of singles at **Wheat Royd, Almondbury** on 30<sup>th</sup> and an undated occurrence at **Upper Heaton**, where one was photographed in a garden. There were then three reports from December involving singles at **Rectory Park, Thornhill**, on 6<sup>th</sup>, **Thurstonland Bank** on 8<sup>th</sup> and **Bradley Park GC** on 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*

Rare to scarce passage visitor, increasing. Red listed.

Seven flew ENE at **Ringstone Edge Res.** in the early evening of 21<sup>st</sup> July. Moments later, six of them returned and landed amongst gulls in a recently mown field, where they remained until at least 20.30hrs. One was subsequently found to have been colour-ringed as a pullus at Modruvellir, northern Iceland on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and was thus proven to be of the expected race, *islandica*. Nine sightings of this individual in the intervening years had all been from the Republic of Ireland (NCD, DJS *et al*, via HBC).

Four days later, again at **Ringstone Edge**, five unringed birds were present in the north field between at least 11.00hrs. and 14.20hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup> July (via HBC).

Numbers of Black-tailed Godwits in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
2	2	47	25	68	3	3	0	0	2

### **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Records from three sites, involving five birds, made 2012 a better than average year for this species.

**Brun Clough Res** – one was watched on the shore for two or three minutes around 18.45hrs. on 30<sup>th</sup> April before it was flushed by a helicopter and departed W (SWJ).

**Whitley Edge** – a summer-plumaged male remained in a roadside field from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May (MC, NWM, DHP).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – three winter-plumaged birds flew N at 09.45hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> June (MLD, CH).

Numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	0	4	1	1	2	18	2	0

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A total of four birds on three dates at just two sites amounted to the poorest showing of the last decade.

Two visited **Broadstone Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup> April before departing NW after a very short stay (MCW) and the following day saw one fly N over **Harden** at 20.36hrs. (MC). Back at **Broadstone Res.**, the sole autumn record involved a single which flew SW from there on 20<sup>th</sup> August (MCW).

(EURASIAN) **CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (3), 100-250 pairs. Common passage visitor.

The first arrivals were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** in February, when a single on 14<sup>th</sup> was followed by up to five on five other dates and 15 which flew W on 29<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere that month, none were seen until 25<sup>th</sup>, when four flew W at **Langsett**, a single was at **Digley** and several appeared in the **Ingbirchworth** area. These included 25 over **Scout Dike Res.** and unknown numbers 'present' at **Royd Moor Res.** and **Maythorn**; these latter probably accounting for the 21 seen in flight over **Broadstone Res.** the following day. The only other locality producing records in February was **Yateholme**, where small numbers were noted from 27<sup>th</sup>.

In March birds were seen at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, on 13 days. Most were in single figures, but 21 flew W on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12 flew S on 14<sup>th</sup>, and 11 were present on 17<sup>th</sup>. At **Broadstone Res./Maythorn**, numbers had increased to 40 by 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 59 (by far the year's largest flock) on 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a traditional stop-over site for birds on spring passage but also a breeding area, as shown by the activities of at least two pairs on territory from the middle of the month onwards. Elsewhere, groups of 10 or more were reported in March at **Harden** (13 on 1<sup>st</sup>), **Digley/Bradshaw** (11 on 6<sup>th</sup>), and **Deer Hill** (c.15 on 28<sup>th</sup>), and in April at **Digley/Nether Lane** (18 on 1<sup>st</sup>) and the **Wessenden Valley** (10 on 28<sup>th</sup>). Again, these are all breeding sites which are also used by migrants, with the relative proportions being sometimes difficult to determine.

Reports of breeding activity were mostly rather vague. A minimum of 25 pairs were said to be on territory on **Ingbirchworth Moor** on 21<sup>st</sup> March, but it is unknown how many were successful. This was also the case with smaller numbers heard 'bubbling' or seen displaying at several other sites. The only records that mentioned young birds were as follows:

**Emley Moor** – a pair with two young on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Snailsden Res** – at least three pairs with young on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> June.

**West Nab** – adults and young present on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Broadhill Bank, Winscar** – a three-quarter grown bird on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

**Lower Windleden Res** – two pairs with at least one young on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Bradshaw** – an adult with a juvenile on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

**Snape Res** – a juvenile on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Elsewhere, June produced single-figure records from a variety of locations and just one notable gathering involving 39 at **Broadstone Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Obvious passage was then noted in July at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where, after a single flying NW on 14<sup>th</sup>, up to six were recorded (mostly moving W) on a further eight dates. By this time, breeding areas were largely deserted, and the only other site with more than the odd one or two birds was **Snake Res.**, where 10 were in a newly mown field on 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by six there the following day. August was similar, with up to four seen on nine dates at **Blackmoorfoot**, and **Broadstone/Maythorn** yet again providing the maximum count (c.30 on 4<sup>th</sup>). Other August records included six at **Deer Hill** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, two at **High Hoyland** on 6<sup>th</sup>, one high SW at **Pule Hill** on 14<sup>th</sup>, a total of six moving southwards at **Harden Quarries** on 18<sup>th</sup>, and seven present at **Broadstone Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup>. The last of the year were two which flew W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

Records were received from 28 localities, which is around the recent average.

The first returning birds appeared on 15<sup>th</sup> April, when one was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and two were at each of the linked reservoirs at **Butterley**, **Blakeley**, and **Wessenden**. These were followed by singles at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup>, **Langsett Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup>, and **Winscar Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup>, and two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup> and **Digley Res.** on 24<sup>th</sup>. No new sites were visited then until the last day of the month, when two were at **Redbrook Res.** and one paused at **Bretton Park**.

As usual, most records from May and early June referred to sites in or near known upland breeding areas (see below), but evidence of continuing migration during this period was seen along the River Calder at **Horbury**, where a single flew upstream on 10<sup>th</sup> May, and **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP), where one was noted on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Unusually, a single was also present on the banks of the Calder at **Healey Mills** as late as 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Breeding was confirmed at five locations. At **Langsett Res.**, up to four were reported regularly from 22<sup>nd</sup> April, with a further pair on territory along the **Langsett/Little Don** at nearby **Cliff Wood** on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Two adults with three young were then seen on the reservoir bank on 13<sup>th</sup> June. The first at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** were three on 5<sup>th</sup> May, after which one or two were noted on several dates until 10<sup>th</sup> June, when a nest containing four newly hatched young was located. The pair then showed agitation on every visit during the rest of the month and into early July, the last sighting here being of a juvenile on 15<sup>th</sup> of that month. At **Snailsden Res.** a pair were on territory from 20<sup>th</sup> May, with at least one young present on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Similar records were also received in June from **Digley Res.**, where at least one young was seen on 15<sup>th</sup>, and **Lower Windleden Res.**, where a pair with two young were found on 30<sup>th</sup>.

As usual, ones and twos were recorded at a number of other sites around this time, and it is quite possible that breeding took place at some of them. Examples included the reservoirs at **Bilberry**, **Baitings**, **Riding Wood**, and **Redbrook**, where two pairs were on territory from 19<sup>th</sup> May until at least 4<sup>th</sup> June. Such optimism would though have been misplaced in the **Wessenden Valley**, where persistent heavy rain and rising water levels almost certainly put paid to the efforts of the three pairs in residence. The same problem was thought to have also affected a pair which occupied **Deer Hill Res.** from 18<sup>th</sup> May but were not seen again after early June, despite being searched for.

Apart from the odd one or two seen at **Langsett** up to 25<sup>th</sup> July, breeding grounds were mostly deserted by late June, which meant that the usual problem of separating lingering breeders from genuine autumn migrants was this year largely avoided. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, one to four (usually 1 or 2) were present on a total of 44 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> August. Events at **Ingbirchworth Res.** followed a similar pattern, with two on 11<sup>th</sup> July heralding a good series of records which in August reached a peak of three on 14<sup>th</sup> and ended with a single on 28<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere, July was very quiet, but in August singles (except where stated) visited **Thornhill Millbank** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> (2), **Harden** on 19<sup>th</sup>, and **Broadstone Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>. The final record of the year involved a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> September.

#### **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from seven sites, three of which were in the Calder Valley, and included two in April and one in late June, with the remainder occurring between August and the end of the year. Aside from one long-stayer, reports generally referred to fleeting visits of a day or less, but taken as a whole they were nonetheless a great improvement upon the previous year.

**Thornhill Millbank** – a single on 2<sup>nd</sup> April was followed in August by three juveniles on 7<sup>th</sup> and one juvenile on 18<sup>th</sup> (JRS).

**Ingbirchworth Res** – two on 20<sup>th</sup> April were repeatedly prevented from landing by the activities of dogs and their walkers, and eventually departed W (MCW). In August, one was photographed on the dam bank on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup>, with what could have been the same bird still present there in the early morning of 4<sup>th</sup> (NWM).

**Ringstone Edge Res** – a single spent the day here on 28<sup>th</sup> June (via HBC).

**Broadstone Res** – one departed high to the SW at 08.30hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup> August (NWM).

**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (formerly Sands lane GP) – singles were recorded on 20<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> December (JRS).

**Gunthwaite Dam** – after a single on 29<sup>th</sup> October, what was perhaps the same individual was then noted on several dates between 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December. On more than one occasion it was seen sharing a small patch of mud with a Water Rail (NWM, DHP, DMP).

**Horbury SW** – one flew from the large circular water tanks on 12<sup>th</sup> December (DHP).

#### (COMMON) **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Considering the high water levels at most reservoirs, it turned out to be a fairly good year for this species, with a total of nine birds reported from five locations on six dates. The vast majority of records were in autumn, but this year they included one-day singles at two sites in spring; the first such since 2007.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – at 16.10hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> April one was heard calling and seen circling low over the reservoir before it landed on the water and swam for around one minute. After harassment from Black-headed Gulls it took flight and circled once more; this time coming down nearer the N bank, where it continued to swim. It was then lost to view but was again heard calling at around 16.25hrs. (DHP). Later, three departed SE from the SE corner of the reservoir at 11.10hrs. on 3<sup>rd</sup> August (DButt).

**Horbury Wyke** – a single was present on 11<sup>th</sup> June (JRS).



**Ringstone Edge Res** – one arrived on the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> July (DJS *et al*, via HBC).

**Linthwaite** – two flew SE over the observer's house on 22<sup>nd</sup> July (SP).

**Thornhill Millbank** – a single was present on 18<sup>th</sup> August (JRS).

(COMMON) **REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

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

A maximum of three (but mostly just 1 or 2) were reported from seven upland locations and were with one exception confined to the period from 29<sup>th</sup> February to 29<sup>th</sup> May. Once again there was no proof of breeding, although a series of records from reservoirs SW of Marsden offered some hope that it might have taken place at previously favoured but somewhat under-watched sites nearby.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – a single on 29<sup>th</sup> February.

**Broadstone Res** – in March, one on 11<sup>th</sup> was followed a week later by two instances of birds flying off high after being disturbed by dogs. The first of these concerned a single on 17<sup>th</sup> and the next was on the following day, when two departed NE in the company of an unidentified smaller wader.

**Brun Clough Res** – singles on 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> March preceded two on 30<sup>th</sup> April and three on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Subsequent sightings in May included two (one of which was in display flight) on 6<sup>th</sup>, one on 21<sup>st</sup>, and two again on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Redbrook Res** – one on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**Black Moss Res** – a single on 21<sup>st</sup> May was one of very few records (of any species) received from this high moorland reservoir.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – one was present on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Scammonden Res** – one flew SW on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

(BLACK-LEGGED) **KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record, the first in the Club area since February 2009, involved two adults at **Royd Moor Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> March (MCW).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1), 0-5 pairs. Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Counts from the **Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike/Royd Moor/Broadstone** area produced the following monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
168	300	1300	nc	nc	400	nc	130	nc	120	300	nc

The only roost count from **Blackmoorfoot** involved 3800 on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Small groups were seen at a number of widely scattered localities throughout the year, but the only treble figure counts were as follows:

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – held up to 250 in January/February, 150 in March, 152 in October and 100 in November.

**Bird's Edge** – up to 200 in February.

**Whitley Common** – c.350 on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Lower Maythorn** – c.150 on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Langsett Res** – 105 roosted on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 137 on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 486 on 6<sup>th</sup> October and c.1000 on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Lindley Recreation Ground** – c.100 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 150+ on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – c.200 on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Elland GP** – c.150 on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Dewsbury SW** – 150 on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Castle Dam** – c.120 on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Breeding attempts occurred again at **Winscar** (6 pairs, but the outcome was unknown) and **Harden** (6 pairs, but there was evidence of human interference).

Visible migration was noted at a number of localities:

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – 73 flew W on 9<sup>th</sup> July and 107 flew NW on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

**Fixby** – 2000 flew SE between 17.15hrs. and 18.10hrs. on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

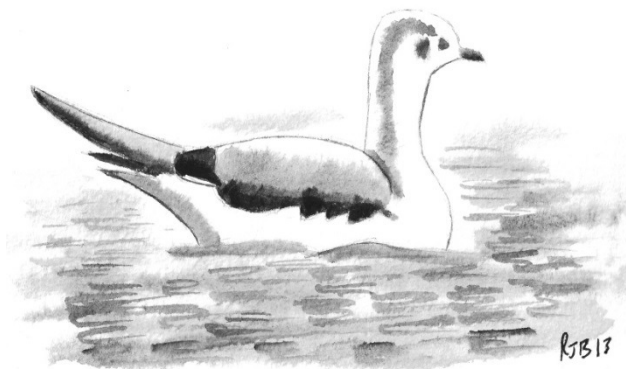
**Harden Quarries** – 308 flew NE on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, in October 54 flew SW on 6<sup>th</sup>, eight flew SW on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14 flew SW on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21 flew NE on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – 85 flew SW on 27<sup>th</sup> September, in October there was a maximum of 30 SW on 1<sup>st</sup> and 28 SW on 13<sup>th</sup> and 60 flew SW on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

An interesting ringing recovery received too late from inclusion in the 2011 report concerned a nestling ringed at Storora, Trondheim, Norway on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1987 which was found freshly dead at Digley Res. on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011. The bird was 24.5 years old and had travelled 1292km in a SSW direction.

#### **LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.





There were three records, one in spring and two in autumn.

An adult at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** departed W at 18.35hrs. on 8<sup>th</sup> May (MLD, SC *et al.*). A juvenile at **Whitley Airfield** dropped out of the sky and planed around over the road before leaving towards the gull-infested fields at Whitley on 26<sup>th</sup> August (MC). A juvenile was present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** between 31<sup>st</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> September (MLD, NWM *et al.*).

This last mentioned bird sat on the water for most of its stay and was only rarely seen to fly, raising suspicions that it was in poor health.

#### **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor.

There were four records: at **Ringstone Edge Res.** an adult was photographed on 24<sup>th</sup> July and a different adult was present three days later (D Sutcliffe), at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a second-summer moulting to adult was present on 3<sup>rd</sup> October (MLD, CH) and an adult was seen at **Digley Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> November (MC, DHP).

#### **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Records during the first winter period were from a number of widely scattered localities, especially in the east of the area, but counts rarely exceeded 50, the following being the exceptions:

**Ingbirchworth Res** – c.100 on 9<sup>th</sup> January, c.50 on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 54 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March and c.100 on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Broadstone Res** – c.50 on 16<sup>th</sup> January, c.100 on 26<sup>th</sup> February, c.150 on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 45 on 12<sup>th</sup> March and c.170 on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Oldfield** – 168 on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

**Annat Royd Lane** – 420 on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Apart from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, which had up to nine (but usually less than 5) on 27 dates between 19<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> September, the only other records during the summer months were as follows:

**Shelley** – five flew E on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Langsett Res** – three on 24<sup>th</sup> July, seven roosted on 10<sup>th</sup> August and four were present on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Whitley Common** – c.30 on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Lower Maythorn** – c.10 on 1<sup>st</sup> August and four on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Broadstone Res** – a single on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** – 10 on 17<sup>th</sup> September and a single on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Numbers began to build from early October and, although widely distributed, numbers were uninspiring, rarely exceeding 30, the exceptions being as follows:

**Savile Town Football Fields, Dewsbury** – 100+ on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Whitley Edge** – 52 on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – 850 roosted on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – c.100 on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Whitley Res** – 42 in fields on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Broadstone Res** – c.120 on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **RING-BILLED GULL** *Larus delawarensis*

Rare vagrant.

The adult present at **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) during 2011 remained into 2012, but was only reliably recorded on five dates between 11<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> February (DHP, HQ, JRS).

What was presumably the same returning bird was recorded at **Ladywood Lakes** on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> December and, obviously in need of a change in scenery, it frequented **Savile Town Football Fields, Dewsbury** on 15<sup>th</sup> November and 22<sup>nd</sup> December (JRS).

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

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

The only site with regular counts was Blackmoorfoot Res., where the following monthly maxima occurred:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	7	nc	nc	14	16	37	27	18	12	4	6

With the exception of the Blackmoorfoot Res. records noted above, the only other records during the first winter period were as follows:

**Ingbirchworth Res** – three on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, two on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and singles on 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – a single on 16<sup>th</sup> January and three on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.  
**Thornhill Millbank** – 21 flew W on 21<sup>st</sup> January.  
**Deer Hill End Road** – a single on 25<sup>th</sup> January.  
**Boshaw Whams** – one on 29<sup>th</sup> January.  
**Honley Moor** – two on 15<sup>th</sup> February.  
**Bretton Park** – one on 7<sup>th</sup> March.  
**Lindley Recreational Ground** – a single on 11<sup>th</sup> March.  
**Annat Royd Lane** – four on 16<sup>th</sup> March.  
**Shelley** – a single on 20<sup>th</sup> March.  
**Royd Moor Res** – two on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.  
**Brun Clough Res** – four flew W on 25<sup>th</sup> March.  
**Broadstone Res** – a single on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

From mid-April until late October birds were reported from a number of widely scattered localities but, except for the usual autumn build up in the Ingbirchworth area, numbers rarely reached double figures, the exceptions being as follows:

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – see table above.

**Broadstone Res** – 54 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June, c.20 on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 39 on 28<sup>th</sup> August and c.125 on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Spicer House Lane** – c.60 on 14<sup>th</sup> June with 105 the following day.

**Langsett Res** – 143 on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 318 roosting on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 522 roosting on 21<sup>st</sup> August, c.211 roosting on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 723 roosting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 491 roosting on 9<sup>th</sup> September and 763 roosting on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Whitley Common** – c.250 on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Lower Maythorn** – c.80 on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

**Royd Moor Res** – c.40 on 6<sup>th</sup> August, c.120 on 20<sup>th</sup> August and, in October, c.180 on 1<sup>st</sup>, c.300 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 100+ on 4<sup>th</sup> and c.60 on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Whitley Edge** – c.400 on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – c.100 on Fox Hill on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Bretton Park** – c.150 in a nearby field on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

Thereafter, with the exception of those enumerated in the table above from Blackmoorfoot Res., the only other winter records involved two at **Langsett Res.** on 14<sup>th</sup> November and singles at **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) on 28<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Movements over the area were noted between late May and mid November, being most apparent at **Harden Quarries**. The only spring movements were noted at **Brun Clough Res.** where at least 20 flew E on 27<sup>th</sup> May and **Shelley** where 30 flew S on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. All other movements were concentrated into the autumn period; **Harden Quarries**, where birds were generally moving in a SW direction, had birds on nine days, with a maximum of 40 (27 NW + 13 NE) on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 60 (52 SW + 8 NE) on 13<sup>th</sup> October. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, 18 flew E on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 84 flew W at **Thornhill Edge** on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

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

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

This species has virtually disappeared from the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, with never more than a dozen being present during either winter period. There were a good number of movements which exceeded this figure, however. Maximum numbers in January involved 107 E on 15<sup>th</sup> and

17 W on 23<sup>rd</sup>, February had 78 E in 1<sup>st</sup>, 64 N on 13<sup>th</sup>, 18 N the following day and 23 NW on 19<sup>th</sup>, 43 flew W on 18<sup>th</sup> March. All other movements were in November/December: in November the maxima were 14 NW on 4<sup>th</sup>, 16 W on 16<sup>th</sup> and 57 W on 29<sup>th</sup> and in December 96 flew E and 17 W on 16<sup>th</sup> (the same day that 12 roosted).

There were records from a further 16 localities (13 in 2011), showing that the species is still not as common as formerly. For completeness all records are given.

**Oldfield** – two on 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> February with a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – singles on 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – five on 21<sup>st</sup> January, a single on 14<sup>th</sup> March, four on 16<sup>th</sup> March, three on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 16 on 29<sup>th</sup> October, a single on 17<sup>th</sup> November and eight the following day.

**Honley** – two on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Clough Lee, Marsden** – two flew SW on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

**Broadstones Res** – 28 on 6<sup>th</sup> March, three on 29<sup>th</sup> October, c.30 flew N on 5<sup>th</sup> November and c.30 were present on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Annat Royd Lane** – 14 on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Shelley** – two flew W on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Lower Maythorn** – a single on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**Hade Edge** – a single on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Langsett Res** – one on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

**Whitley Edge** – a single on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Snape Res** – two on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – two flew N on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – two flew NE on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Hazelhead** – a single on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

The number of records, along the number of individuals, continues to increase. In the past most records have been in autumn, but this year birds were located during both winter periods. Although winter records in Yorkshire are unusual, they are becoming more frequent.

**Ingbirchworth area** – an adult was at Ingbirchworth Res. on 21<sup>st</sup> January (MC). What was presumably the same adult was present in the area between 13<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June, being seen at Royd Moor/Spicer House Lane on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> (DHP, MCW), Broadstone Road on 21<sup>st</sup> (NWM) and Royd Moor Res. on 25<sup>th</sup> (MCW). At least three (2 adults and a second-summer) were present at Lower Maythorn and, occasionally, Royd Moor and Broadstone Reservoirs between 29<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> August (MC, HQ, MCW *et al.*). A single adult at Broadstone Res. on 1<sup>st</sup> September (DButt) was the last of a good run of records.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – an adult on 12<sup>th</sup> February (MC), a second-summer on 12<sup>th</sup> April (MLD, MS) and an adult on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December (MC).

**Langsett Res** – adults roosted on 24<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August, two adults roosted on 10<sup>th</sup> August, four adults and a first-summer roosted on 21<sup>st</sup> August, two adults were present on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, a single adult on 9<sup>th</sup> September and three adults on 6<sup>th</sup> October (all MCW).

**Hade Edge** – a first-summer on 11<sup>th</sup> August (MC).

**Hazelhead** – an adult and two second-winters on 21<sup>st</sup> October (MC, NWM).

### CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Rare visitor.

The features necessary to clinch the identification of this species can be difficult to appreciate in the field, but photographic evidence can make it easier. The following record, the second for the Club area, is a case in point.

An adult was present in the gull flock at **Lower Maythorn** between 28<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> August (MC, DHP, MCW *et al.*). During its stay the bird ventured to **Royd Moor Res.** where it was seen on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> August (MC, NWM, DMP *et al.*).

It is only gull devotees who manage to correctly identify this species.

### ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Rare to scarce winter visitor.

The only record, the first in the Club area since March 2008, involved a second-winter circling over **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 24<sup>th</sup> January, the bird eventually departing in an easterly direction at 11.55hrs. (JRS).

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

Common winter visitor.

The only site with regular counts was Blackmoorfoot Res., where the following monthly maxima occurred:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	3	8	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	17

As with Herring Gull, this species has virtually disappeared from the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** as can be witnessed from the table above. Movements over the area were recorded as follows: in January six flew W on 2<sup>nd</sup> and seven did likewise on 23<sup>rd</sup>, eight flew SW on 6<sup>th</sup> March; two adults flew W on 29<sup>th</sup> November and five adults flew E on 16<sup>th</sup> December (the same day that 12 roosted).

This species becomes less common in the Club area as the years progress, and the following were the only additional records:

**Longwood** – three flew W on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Shelley** – a single flew W on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Royd Moor Res** – two on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

**Bentley Springs** – an adult flew NNW on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Langsett Res** – one on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – five flew E on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Deer Hill End Road** – one feeding on a dead mammal in a field at the junction with Slaithwaite Road on 27<sup>th</sup> December.

**Castle Dam** – a single on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

### **COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Recorded from five localities (8 in 2010), with birds occurring between 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – one flew W on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, a single was present on 4<sup>th</sup> May and an adult was seen on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

**Bretton Park** – a single on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – two flew E on 30<sup>th</sup> April, three flew S on 24<sup>th</sup> June and three adults on 26<sup>th</sup> June departed S at 08.10hrs.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – two on 7<sup>th</sup> May and four (along with an Arctic Tern) departed E on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a single departed S at 09.45hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup> May, two adults flew S at 11.05hrs. on 9<sup>th</sup> July and an adult departed S at 12.30hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

### **‘Commie’ Tern**

A single seen in flight between **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Scout Dike Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup> May was either this or the next species.

### **ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were six records, two in spring and four in autumn.

In spring a single was present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> April (DMP, SP, MCW *et al.*) and a single flew W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 09.35hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> May (MLD).

Later in the year **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) had a single (along with 4 Common Terns) which departed E on 13<sup>th</sup> July (JRS). The other records, all in August, were from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**: three juveniles departed S at 09.20hrs. on 9<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH), a group of four (3 adults and a juvenile) arrived at 09.35hrs. and departed W at 09.40hrs. on 23<sup>rd</sup> (MLD, CH) and a juvenile was present on 30<sup>th</sup> (CH).

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

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Although resident throughout the year there were very few records of this under recorded species and the flock in the town centre went uncounted.

Gardens in **Almondbury** and **Crosland Moor** attracted birds throughout the year, but these assemblages only concerned single figure flocks. The flock in **Marsden** has recently increased in number and c.25 were present throughout the year. The only other sizeable flocks involved 26 in **Holmfirth** on 4<sup>th</sup> January, c.35 at **High Hoyland** on 9<sup>th</sup> January and c.20 at **Horbury** on 14<sup>th</sup> November. The only breeding record concerned pairs on the railway bridge at **Thornton Lodge**, but the number involved is unknown.



**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

Only recorded from 28 localities, which represents a decline from the 43 in 2011. It is felt that this decline is more likely to represent under recording rather than a genuine reduction in distribution.

With the exceptions of 55 at **Digley** on 25<sup>th</sup> February and 67 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 5<sup>th</sup> March, the only other large assemblages were in the **Ingbirchworth** area where c.20 were seen regularly throughout the year. The only other notable figures involved seven at **Bilberry Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> February, between five and ten at **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) which were present throughout the year and a maximum of ten at **Bradshaw** on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Although present throughout most of the year at **Blackmoorfoot**, birds were very sporadic in appearance and were totally absent between 16<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> December. Up to 12 (generally only 2 or 3) were present on no more than ten days per month with the exception of two which were present on a daily basis between 11<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The only proof of breeding concerned a juvenile in a garden at **New Mill** in June (where up to four had resided between January and the end of July). Pairs were suspected of breeding at the **Isle of Sky Quarry, Shelley and Healey Mills/Kerry's NR.**

Visible migration was noted at **Harden Quarries** where a maximum of 12 flew SW on 9<sup>th</sup> September and at **Pule Hill, Marsden** where one or two flew SW on four dates between 9<sup>th</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> October.

(COMMON) **WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*

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

Although widely distributed during the first winter period, the only flocks in excess of 100 were at **Shelley** where several hundreds were regularly seen going to roost in Storthes Hall Wood, 100+ at **Deep Haigh Woods** on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and c.120 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Visible migration during this period involved 150 W at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 24 S at **Broadstone Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> March and c.40 W at **Brun Clough Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

A flock of 35+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> May was an unusually high number for the time of year. Breeding was recorded from a number of widely scattered localities, including a number of urban gardens.

After the breeding season, several hundreds were again regularly recorded overflying **Shelley** on their way to roost in Storthes Hall Wood, c.150 were at **Lepton** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, between 500 and 700 were at **Thornhill** from 1<sup>st</sup> November to the year end (where it was reported that the local shooters had 'a field day'), 250+ at **Deffer Wood** on 10<sup>th</sup> November and 120 were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Some impressive numbers were recorded from the visible migration watch points:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 5532 flew SW or S on eight dates between 9<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> November, the maxima involved 3263 on 20<sup>th</sup> October and 1609 on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 15,013 flew over the area on six dates between 6<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November, the maxima involved, in October, 1179 SW on 14<sup>th</sup>, 1950 (1690 SW + 260 NE) on 20<sup>th</sup> and c.9750 mainly SW but some W (6000 in the first 45 minutes from first light) on 27<sup>th</sup> and, in November, 1706 W on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – despite the above numbers, this site only produced a maximum of 250 S on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 320 S on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Wholestone Moor** – in October, 750 S or SW on 26<sup>th</sup>, c.750 S or SW on 29<sup>th</sup>, 240 SW on 30<sup>th</sup> and, in November, 130 SW on 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

As is usual, most records came from gardens and urbanised areas, the species not having made the jump in to the wider countryside. The largest assemblages were generally fewer than 10, but between 12 and 14 were present throughout the year in a garden at **Lockwood**, up to 20 frequented the **Rectory Park, Thornhill** area through the year and 18 were present at **Oldfield** on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Pairs bred at **New Mill, Shelley, Crimble Clough, Colne Bridge SP, Crosland Moor** and **Hepworth**, but breeding must have occurred at a number of other localities. The pair at **Crosland Moor** had a newly fledged young on 26<sup>th</sup> April – given 14 days for incubation and 18 days for fledging, the egg must have been laid about 24<sup>th</sup> March.

A leucistic individual was seen in a **New Mill** garden on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

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

Only reported from 16 areas, a reduction from the 24 sites in 2011, and a tremendous reduction on the 34 in 2010.

The earliest records relate to singles in the **Coxley Valley** on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and **Digley** on 30<sup>th</sup> April. In May birds became far more widespread but, with the exceptions of one or two which took up residence in the areas of **Digley/Bilberry, Meltham/Deer Hill, Langsett/Little Don Valley** and **Harden**, all other occurrences related to a single which stayed for very short periods.

Due to the reduction in records it is worth documenting the other occurrences, all of which referred to singles:

**Grimescar Valley** – 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Broadstone Res** – 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**Carlecotes Ponds** – 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Cheesegate Nab** – 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Dunford Bridge** – 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Bradley Park Golf Course** – 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Crossley's Plantation** – 31<sup>st</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – 10<sup>th</sup> June and 9<sup>th</sup> July.

**Scout Dike Res** – 18<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> July (the last record of the year).

**Langsett** – 26<sup>th</sup> June.

For the first time in many years birds failed to appear in the **Shelley** area.

### **BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor. Former resident breeder.

There were three records, one under bizarre circumstances.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March DS was shown a photograph of two birds sat together in a barn at a site in the east of the Club area. Although DS visited the site some four and six weeks later, there were no further sightings. A single was seen at **Horbury** on 15<sup>th</sup> April (DHP).

A single was seen in flight at **Cheesegate Nab** on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

A most bizarre occurrence occurred on 8<sup>th</sup> November when a bird flew into a farmhouse kitchen at **Dunford Bridge** when the outside door was opened to let the dogs out. Apparently it had no rings and looked in good condition, with no obvious injuries. After receiving a good scratch for his troubles, and supplying the photograph shown in the centre of this report, the farm owner, Sam Sykes, took the bird outside and watched it fly off over the fields and out of sight. He hasn't seen the bird since, but is keeping an eye out.

### **LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

Recorded from 28 widely scattered locations, the same number as in 2011, but a marked reduction on the 50 in 2010. Although several sites had presumed pairs which were present throughout the year, the only proof of breeding concerned a pair at **Helme Lane** which raised at least one young.

The only records from **Blackmoorfoot** during the first half of the year involved a single on the walls to the west of the reservoir on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> May. Thereafter, although recorded on 35 dates between 25<sup>th</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> October, these generally involved a single which took up residence near the inflow. The only records from the west of the reservoir, the usual place for this species at Blackmoorfoot, concerned a single on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> September, on four dates in October and 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Recorded from 31 widely scattered localities (25 in 2011), with records spanning all months.

Despite being recorded throughout the year at a number of sites, the only proof of breeding concerned pairs at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (from 4 eggs only 2 young fledged); **Cliff Wood, Langsett** (2 owlets in mid May); and **Helme Wood** (recently fledged young in late June). In addition pairs probably bred at **Lepton Great Wood, Molly Carr Wood, Emley Moor** and **Stockmoor Common NR**.

With the exception of four birds at **Station Road, Honley** on 26<sup>th</sup> January, all other records related to one or two individuals.

There were far more records than normal from **Blackmoorfoot**, mainly due to the roost sites of two individuals being located in the second half of the year. A single was calling from the S bank

wood at 11.30hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup> March, one was on the W bank on 29<sup>th</sup> May and a single was in the S bank wood on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Roosting birds then occurred in Orange Wood (26<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December) and along the W bank (20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December). It is possible that these birds were in residence throughout this period but went undetected.

### **LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

The annual survey work carried out by MC was curtailed by the weather and only a single pair was known to have attempted to breed. Unfortunately, however, the pair failed under suspicious circumstances.

In the north of the area up to four birds were regularly seen hunting in broad daylight between 20<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> July (DHP, DMP *et al.*). The only other record concerned a single sitting in a Hawthorn bush near the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> September (MLD, TD, CH *et al.*). This was the sixth record for the reservoir.

### **SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

Partial migrant breeder (1), 0-13 pairs. Scarce passage and winter visitor.

There were far more sightings this year, and birds were seen at a number of moorland sites during the first winter period, some of which eventually held breeding pairs. There was a minimum of six breeding pairs reported from a number of widely scattered moorland localities. In most of these instances the outcome of the breeding attempt was unknown, but young were raised at one locality and young probably fledged at another.

An out of season record involved a single at **Blackmoorfoot** which circled over the reservoir before departing E at 10.55hrs. on 8<sup>th</sup> May (MLD, CH).

In sharp contrast records after the breeding season were few and only concerned singles at **Harden** on 19<sup>th</sup> August, **Broadstone Lodge** the following day, **Harden Quarries** on 6<sup>th</sup> October and **Royd Moor Hill** on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### (EUROPEAN) **NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare visitor. Former migrant breeder. Red listed.

A male was seen at a site on the southern boundary of the Club area on 26<sup>th</sup> June and a male was heard churring there on 24<sup>th</sup> July (MCW).

(COMMON) **SWIFT** *Apus apus*  
Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Two birds over **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 25<sup>th</sup> April with three at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** the following day were the first records of the year. Other April records concerned two at **Shooter's Nab** on 27<sup>th</sup> and a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup>.

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> April was the first at that locality. Thereafter birds were seen almost daily until the last (a single) on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The number of birds present was considerably higher than has been the case in the past, the cool, wet weather presumably keeping birds at a lower elevation. The largest concentrations included 60+ on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May, 80+ on 13<sup>th</sup> June and 60+ on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Breeding was only reported from **Thornhill** (10 pairs entering nest holes) and **Crosland Moor** (St. Luke's Hospital).

With the exception of the double-figure counts from Blackmoorfoot (outlined above), there were few high-figure counts, the maximum included: c.100 at **Thornhill** on 10<sup>th</sup> June, c.100 at **Colne Bridge SP** on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> May, c.100 at **Bretton Park** on 7<sup>th</sup> June, c.1000 which flew NW at **Fixby** between 17.10hrs. and 17.50hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup> July and 150 were present at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** and 150 flew E at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

The only September records involved singles at **Shelley** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 6<sup>th</sup> and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10<sup>th</sup>.

(COMMON) **KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*  
Resident breeder (2), near 30 pairs.

Reported from 19 widely scattered localities (22 in 2011 and 25 in 2010) and, although records spanned all months at a number of these, breeding was only confirmed from the River Colne at **Linthwaite**. Birds were present throughout the year at **Bretton Park** but it was considered that numbers have not recovered there following the last two recent hard winters. One or two birds were also present throughout the year at **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) and **Horbury Strands/Wyke**.

The downward trend in records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** continued. In the first half of the year the only records involved a single on 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January. There were then no records until a single on 7<sup>th</sup> September. Thereafter singles were seen on 13 dates (3 others in September, 6 in October, 3 in November and 10<sup>th</sup> December).

(EURASIAN) **HOOPOE** *Upupa epops*  
Rare visitor.

The surprise find of the year concerned a single which took up residency in a **Blackmoorfoot** garden between 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August (Mr & Mrs Millard, MLD, TD, CH). A full account can be found on page 118.

(EUROPEAN) **GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

Recorded from 41 widely scattered sites (33 in both 2011 and 2010) but, despite being present at some of these throughout the year, the only breeding evidence reported concerned probable breeding at **Stretch Gate**, **Shelley** and possible breeding at **Shelley Ozzings**.

There were more records from **Blackmoorfoot** than is usual. Singles were present (mainly in Orange Wood) on three days in January, nine in February, three in March and 30<sup>th</sup> June. Between 1<sup>st</sup> August and 25<sup>th</sup> December singles, again mainly in Orange Wood, were seen on a total of 30 dates, with two on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Continues to be recorded from an increasing number of localities.

Birds visited garden feeding stations throughout the year at a good number of widely scattered sites and, in some instances, took their recently fledged young. This activity was recorded in gardens at **Crimble Clough**, **Almondbury**, **New Mill**, **Shelley** and **Hepworth**. Adults also brought their young to feeders at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**. Single pairs were also confirmed breeding at **Bretton Park**, **Helme Wood**, **Marsden**, **Armitage Bridge**, **Scout Dike Res.** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** but considering the number of sites which held the species throughout the year, it must have gone unrecorded at others.

Although recorded in all months at **Blackmoorfoot** sightings, despite a pair fledging young in nearby Helme Wood, were very sporadic. With the exception of three on 21<sup>st</sup> March all other records involved one or two individuals.

Birds were recorded on visible migration watches as follows: at **Harden Quarries** a single flew S on 8<sup>th</sup> September, one arrived from the E and dropped into the woodland on 7<sup>th</sup> October and a single flew NE on 14<sup>th</sup> October and at **Pule Hill, Marsden** one flew SW on 19<sup>th</sup> September, a single U-turned from the NE on 1<sup>st</sup> October and one flew SW on 13<sup>th</sup> October. An interesting occurrence was witnessed at **Redbrook Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup> September; two birds arrived from the N, one dropping into the grass and the second (a female) attempting to feed from a telegraph pole. Both birds were calling and appeared to move off in a southerly direction. Whether these movements can be classed as true migration is open to conjecture.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1), 1-10 pairs. Red listed.

Seven records were received from three localities. At **Bretton Park** a single was seen in Menagerie Wood on 8<sup>th</sup> February, at least one, probably two, males were present near Cascade Bridge on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> March and a single was seen on 8<sup>th</sup> May. No breeding was reported but at **Healey Mills** a male and female in March and early April were very vocal (unfortunately the site was not visited thereafter). The other record concerned a single at **Bradley Park Golf Course** on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

(COMMON) **SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (4), 500-2,500 pairs. Red listed.

The only January records concerned 33 at **Botany Lane, Lepton** on 13<sup>th</sup> and two at **Deer Hill** on 28<sup>th</sup>. Between early February and late August birds became more widespread but no large flocks were reported. The only large gatherings were in the **Kirkheaton** area which held at least 12 birds on 6<sup>th</sup> February, c.12 were present at **Deer Hill** on 18<sup>th</sup> February, eight were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10 were near the **Ford Inn, Holmfirth** on 5<sup>th</sup>, 16 were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13<sup>th</sup> March (see below), at least eight were present at **Spicer House Lane** on 15<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June and 10 were in a mown field at **Oldfield** on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Singles which flew W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February were the first at that locality. Numbers increased thereafter and up to eight, although there was an isolated flock of 16 on 13<sup>th</sup> March, were present around the reservoir until late August.

Visible migration was almost non-existent in spring and the only birds noted were at **Blackmoorfoot**: five flew W on 25<sup>th</sup> February and six did likewise the following day and four flew W on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Autumn migration was more pronounced and involved the following:

**Blackmoorfoot** – two flew S on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 13 (7 W and 6 E) on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, in October nine flew S on 4<sup>th</sup>, 13 S on 6<sup>th</sup> and a single S on 21<sup>st</sup> and singles flew W on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – six flew SW on 19<sup>th</sup> September and a single did likewise on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – six flew S on 4<sup>th</sup> October and four flew ENE on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – all records were in October: 11 flew SW on 6<sup>th</sup>, a single did likewise the following day, two flew SW on 14<sup>th</sup> and two flew SW on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Wholestone Moor** – one flew S on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder, increased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor.

The first records of the year involved six at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 29<sup>th</sup> March and a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April. There were no further records until 12<sup>th</sup> April when singles were seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and c.9 were around the river bridge at **Calder Road, Mirfield**.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** and **Horbury Strands/Wyke**. At **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** some 60 birds were present on 17<sup>th</sup> April and 20 pairs had nesting holes. At **Horbury Strands/Wyke** a total of 50 were present on 25<sup>th</sup> April and 10 pairs were entering holes in the river bank by 15<sup>th</sup> June (this was a different location to that first reported in 2011). Unfortunately, due to flooding, both these colonies were washed out on 17<sup>th</sup> June and birds were not seen thereafter. The small colony at **Cartworth Moor**, only extant since 2011, was not visited.

Following on from the above mentioned records at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, birds were then seen on a further 55 days between 14<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers rarely exceeded seven (usually less than 4) but in May there were 12+ on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10+ on 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the only non-breeding locality in the Club area where birds are encountered with any regularity.

The only other records were as follows:

**Brighthouse** – reported as ‘present’ on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Bretton Park** – 12 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and a ‘handful’ the following day.

**Digley Res** – two on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Langsett Res** – two on 2<sup>nd</sup> and three on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Cooper Bridge SW** – four on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Thornhill Millbank** – c.50 on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Dewsbury SW** – 50 on 7<sup>th</sup> and two on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

**Shelley** – two on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

As can be seen from the above, the last record of the year was from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where two were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

(BARN) **SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4), 500-600 pairs. Numerous passage visitor.

The first records of the year concerned two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and a single at **Meltham SW** on 30<sup>th</sup> March and one at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** the following day. Small numbers were then noted at a number of widely distributed localities but it was not until mid-month that double-figure counts began to dominate.

Following the first record of two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup> March this remained the picture there until 30+ were seen on 13<sup>th</sup> April. Maximum counts then included 60+ on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 80+ on 3<sup>rd</sup> and from 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May, 80+ from 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June and 60+ on 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September. Some unusually high numbers were present at a number of localities throughout the spring, probably as a consequence of the abysmal weather conditions bringing their insect prey to a lower elevation than normal. Maxima included c.300 at **Bretton Park** on 24<sup>th</sup> April, c.100 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> April, c.200 at **Digley Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 100+ at **Meltham SW** on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 100 at **Healey Mills/Kerry’s NR** on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May and c.400 over the sprinklers at **Dewsbury SW** on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Breeding was only confirmed at **New Mill, Blackmoorfoot Res.** (2 pairs), **Colne Bridge SP** (2 pairs), **Shelley** (1 pair), **Calder Farm, Mirfield** (3 pairs) and **Oldfield**, where young were still being fed in the nest on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Although numbers built up in autumn, the only large gatherings, with the exceptions of those mentioned above for **Blackmoorfoot**, involved c.50 at **Scammonden** on 10<sup>th</sup> August, c.200 at **Spicer House Lane** on 20<sup>th</sup> August and c.120 on wires at **Oldfield** on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Some impressive numbers were recorded from the visible migration watch points:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 273 flew S or SW on nine days with a maximum of c.50 SW on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 94+ S or SW in one hour on 14<sup>th</sup> August and 48 SW on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**Wessenden Valley** – 35+ S on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – (all S) 70+ on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 45 on 27<sup>th</sup> September and 107 on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Interestingly, despite the high number, these last mentioned birds were the last record of the year at this locality.

**Harden Quarries** – a total of 2080 passed over the area on 10 days with a maximum of 320 SE or SW on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 207 (185 SW and 22 NE) on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 385 (340 SW and 45 NE) on 1<sup>st</sup>



September, 666 SW on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 103 SW on 29<sup>th</sup> September and 104 (94 SW and 10 NE) on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Thornhill Edge** – 100 SE on 8<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – several hundred S on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Most of these birds were very high in the sky, looking almost like swarms of insects (DHP).

The only October records away from the migration watch points involved six at **Blackley** and two at **Holme Moss** on 4<sup>th</sup>, two at **Meltham** on 5<sup>th</sup>, 60 on wires at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 6<sup>th</sup>, singles at **Isle of Skye Quarry** and **Skelmanthorpe** on 7<sup>th</sup> and three, the last of the year in the Club area, at **Upper Cumberworth** on 14<sup>th</sup>.

(COMMON) **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*

Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Common passage visitor.

**In an effort to gain a better understanding of the breeding distribution of this species in the Club area, submission of all breeding locations, preferably with the numbers of pairs involved, would be appreciated.**

The first record was of six at **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) on 4<sup>th</sup> April followed by singles at **Bretton Park** on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Scout Dike Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup>, four at **Meltham SW** on 7<sup>th</sup> and a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup>. In the next few weeks birds became more widespread but, with the exception of 30 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 30<sup>th</sup> April and c.100 at **Horbury SW** on 25<sup>th</sup> April, numbers never reach double-figures.

It was not until May that larger concentrations became apparent but, despite double-figures being reported from a number of widely distributed reservoirs, the only treble-figure counts involved 150 at **Dewsbury SW** on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, c.100 at **Meltham SW** on 5<sup>th</sup> May, c.100 at **Bretton Park** on 7<sup>th</sup> June and c.200 at **Ossett Spa SW** on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Breeding was reported from eight locations (14 in 2011), one of which was a new site.

**Black Horse PH, Dalton** – this traditional site only had five nesting pairs and, although this was one more than 2011, the decline from 15 nests in 2005 is apparent.

**Thornhill Estate** – the same number of nests as last year (10), but this is only 50% of the number present in 2010.

**Shelley Park Estate** – the usual number of about 10 pairs.

**Holly Bank Road** – nests were located on four houses, but breeding numbers were not supplied.

**Tunnel End** – three nests.

**Blackmoorfoot Road, Crosland Moor** – this traditional site only had two pairs (6 in 2011).

**Oldfield** – a single nest. This locality was new in 2010 when a single pair nested (2 in 2011).

**Meltham Road, Marsden** – a single nest. This is a new breeding locality for the species.

Following on from the above mentioned record at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, birds were then seen on an almost daily basis until 30<sup>th</sup> September and, as with Swallow, unusually high numbers were involved, presumably for the same reason. Maximum counts included 40+ on 18<sup>th</sup> May and several dates in June, 40 on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 50+ on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> August and, in September, 60+ on 9<sup>th</sup>, 80+ on 13<sup>th</sup> and 60+ on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The only October records concerned four on 3<sup>rd</sup> and two on 6<sup>th</sup> (the last in the Club area).

Visible migration watches at **Harden Quarries** revealed a total of 101 birds which flew SW, occasionally SE, on five dates between 18<sup>th</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> September, the maxima involved 24 on 18<sup>th</sup> August and 59 on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

There were a few more records than last year, but several were from the same location, with **Swinden Plantation** and **Carlecotes Ponds** appearing to be the only remaining annually favoured sites. Two singing males at the former venue on 21<sup>st</sup> April, with one the next day, were followed by a report of probable pairs at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 16<sup>th</sup> May, with at least three birds present on 22<sup>nd</sup>, four on 24<sup>th</sup> and two on 28<sup>th</sup>, when one was also seen at **Langsett**. These were the only spring sightings.

Visual migration watches at **Harden Quarries** yielded two flying west on 19<sup>th</sup> August, one SW on 8<sup>th</sup> September, two SW the following day, and one W on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The final record of the year concerned a single at **Marsden** on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (5), 2,500-4,000 pairs. The commonest bird of open country.

Over 100 records were received from numerous venues across the Club area. There were just five records for January, and seven for February included 24 at **Deer Hill** on 10<sup>th</sup>, with 16 the next day at **Blackmoorfoot**, where at least 45 were present on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> March, although only 20 remained throughout the spring/summer. The first winter period produced no counts higher than the 60 seen here on 2<sup>nd</sup> April on northerly migration. After a lull elsewhere, mid-March saw an increase in numbers of sightings, with many reports of birds displaying and on territory throughout the spring and summer.

Visual migration counts at **Harden Quarries** beginning on 18<sup>th</sup> August yielded a maximum of 61 birds, with a striking increase in numbers on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September, when 504, 359, and 502 birds were moving in a generally westerly direction. Meanwhile, at **Pule Hill**, **Marsden**, other migration watch statistics reflected this pattern, with September counts, mainly in a SW direction, rising from 25 on 6<sup>th</sup> to 78 on 9<sup>th</sup>, to 271 on 13<sup>th</sup>, and peaking at 542 on 19<sup>th</sup>. October saw further big movements here, all in a SW direction, with a high of 466 on 4<sup>th</sup>, and eventually 12 sessions produced a total of 2004 birds. Remarkably, this figure was surpassed by a single count of 2475 streaming S at **Harden Quarries** on 29<sup>th</sup> September, and migration counts in October at the quarries included 301 SW on 6<sup>th</sup>, 166 SW on 13<sup>th</sup> and one final three figure tally of 252 (248 SW + 4 NE) on 20<sup>th</sup>.

In autumn **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a maximum of 40+ on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 60+ on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 50+ on 28<sup>th</sup> September and 25+ on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Rather unusually, birds remained throughout November/December and, although generally in single-figures, 20 were present on 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December with 25 on 29<sup>th</sup> December. A flock of 21 which flew W on 29<sup>th</sup> November was also unseasonal.

**ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor.

**Scandinavian Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Rare passage visitor.

A single present at **Dewsbury SF** on 16<sup>th</sup> March was feeding with Meadow Pipits at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** the following day (JRS).

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Once again, the Club area received few representatives of this attractive species.

The only spring records concerned a male at **Meltham SW** on 5<sup>th</sup> May and a single which flew N over **Crossley's Plantation** on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

The next record was not until 4<sup>th</sup> July when a single was in the fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** Two juveniles were present on a farm track at **Deer Hill** on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and two were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 28<sup>th</sup> July. **Meltham SW** had a single on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> August and, also on 24<sup>th</sup>, a single was amongst a flock of c.60 Pied Wagtails on **Broadlands Playing Fields, Meltham**. In September a single was in the fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> and one was photographed at **Oldfield** on 11<sup>th</sup>. The year's last record concerned a single which flew SW over **Harden Quarries** on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.



Just 85 records were received from 36 locations compared with 185 records in 2010 and 125 in 2011, both years from over 50 sites. This is a startling drop in the statistics for this normally very well observed species, with summer records being relatively sparse. Almost all records referred to one or two individuals, with few instances of confirmed breeding.

**Meltham SW** had up to seven present in the first three months of the year, usually in the company of Pied Wagtails. Five were seen on the filter beds at **Horbury SW** on 8<sup>th</sup> January, ten (the year's highest total) were at **Meltham Mills** on both 6<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> August, and four were observed at **Langsett** in May. One observer followed the monthly fortunes of the **Brockholes** and **Honley Bridge** birds, reporting one pair in suitable breeding habitat at each venue on 27<sup>th</sup> February, with an extra adult joining the former in mid-March. A second nesting attempt by these birds in mid-May led to a sighting of four independent juveniles a month later. Pairs also bred at several **Marsden** venues, **Bretton Park**, **Brockholes** and **Helme**.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one or two were recorded very sporadically between 28<sup>th</sup> January and 26<sup>th</sup> March. Except for a single on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May, none were seen until two on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Thereafter up to three (usually only 1 or 2) were seen on a total of 62 days until the last, a single, on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Most records were concentrated between July and September, with birds on six days in October, three in November and seven in December.

Autumn migration involved four flying S at **Harden Quarries** on 29<sup>th</sup> September, a single SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 1<sup>st</sup> October and two SW there on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Other locations where birds were present for much of the year included **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP), **Colne Bridge**, **Dewsbury SW**, **Digley Res.**, and **Thornhill**.

### **PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

As with the previous species, 2012 yielded far fewer records (87) than recent years (245 in 2010), and most were during the first six months. Pairs were seen at eleven **Marsden** sites, but elsewhere breeding was confirmed only at **Emley Moor**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Broadstone Res.** and **Brun Clough Res.**

Not surprisingly, high counts came from locations such as **Meltham SW**, where around 60 birds were present on several March dates, **Horbury SW**, where numbers reached 150, and **Dewsbury SW**. The **Huddersfield** town centre roost also attracted as many as 100 birds. Thirty were in stubble near **Broadstone** on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and, later on, 26, mostly juveniles, were at **Cannon Hall CP** on 20<sup>th</sup> August, while four days later c.60 were on **Broadlands Playing Fields, Meltham**. Birds were present throughout the year in small numbers at **Blackmoorfoot**, with a maximum of 17 on 6<sup>th</sup> January, and 26 on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

At **Pule Hill, Marsden** a total of 59 flew SW on six dates between 28<sup>th</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> October, with a maximum of 24 on the last mentioned date.

### **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Two birds were observed, both in late April.

A single in a horse field near **Horbury SW** on 21<sup>st</sup> (JRS *et al.*), delighted Club members on a patch outing: it was still present two days later, feeding with Pied Wagtails. An adult male was then found in the company of three Pied Wagtails at Windmill Lane, **Broadstone** on 28<sup>th</sup> (NWM).

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

Just three records were received for the first winter period, a few birds having been present since late in 2011. However, substantial numbers arrived in the last two months of the year, delighting observers across the Club area.

Seven were in **Lower Cumberworth** on 5<sup>th</sup> January and then there was a long hiatus until 7<sup>th</sup> March, when ten were enrolled at **Shelley First School**, maintaining a very good attendance record until 27<sup>th</sup>, feeding on cotoneaster in the garden, perhaps planting a few seeds for future HBW members! A report of 22 birds was also received from **Silkstone** on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Two records on 8<sup>th</sup> November heralded an influx of birds which stayed until the year end: c.25 were counted in **Birkby**, and 15 were seen and heard flying over **Fixby**. As often happens with this species, some of us enjoyed close views of birds gobbling berries one day, only for others' high hopes to be dashed the next. The aptly named Casino car park at Huddersfield's **Folly Hall** site is a good example of this, attracting the year's largest flock (c.80) on 13<sup>th</sup> November, only to disappoint prospective punters the following day! At **Blackmoorfoot** a flock of 12 which flew W and dropped below the N bank on 13<sup>th</sup> November could not be relocated, and a flock of 26 flew W on 15<sup>th</sup> November. These are the fifth and sixth records for the reservoir, the first being in November 2004. Flocks, mostly in the teens and twenties, appeared, usually briefly, at various other venues, including gardens at **Dewsbury** and **Bird's Edge**, completely stripping berry-bearing plants in the former, while leaving the latter with plentiful supplies of cotoneaster berries after several days of feeding by as many as 22 birds.

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

Slightly fewer records were received this year, covering around 20 locations (30+ in 2011).

The only records in excess of the usual one or two involved four at **Honley** on 7<sup>th</sup> January, and three on the River Holme in **Holmfirth** on 12<sup>th</sup> February, where, as usual, sightings were quite frequent. In **Marsden** there was evidence of probable breeding at six territories in the vicinity, while two pairs were seen feeding young in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley**. A colour-ringed bird was one of a pair seen several times in suitable nesting territory in **Brockholes**, where a second nesting attempt was observed on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Breeding was also thought to have occurred at **Meltham SW**, and a single at nearby **Meltham Mills** was seen on 6<sup>th</sup> April to be wearing a BTO-type ring. The only record from the regular breeding site at **Thunderbridge** involved a single on 9<sup>th</sup> August. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles were seen by the inflow on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (a juvenile), 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October and along the W bank between 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November. Curiously, on 9<sup>th</sup> October, two birds were seemingly disputing territory on the nearby catchment, while two others were seen in a similar conflict on the **Deer Hill** outflow. Further records, often of singles,

came from other sites along the **Holme** and **Colne** rivers, **Wessenden**, **Blakeley**, and **Riding Wood** reservoirs, and **Fenay Bridge**.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Over 120 reports were received from across the Club area. These were fairly evenly distributed through the seasons, included several sets of garden records for the year. However, only four observers were able to offer evidence of breeding, which clearly does not reflect the status of this species! One **Golcar** garden observer found three nests, including one using artificial materials, while singing and nest-building in a **New Mill** garden apparently failed to result in successful breeding.

At **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** up to 12 birds roosted in nest boxes in January. Frequent counts in the **Grimescar Valley** found numbers ranging from just one in January, to five in March, to 12 in June (five of which were juveniles), and ended the year with four. Other similar counts produced eight at **Horbury** at the beginning of February, six in the **Longwood Valley** on 25<sup>th</sup> March, ten at **Elland GP** on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, c.15 singing males in the **Wessenden Valley** three days later, and 12 singing males at **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Although 60 fewer records were received than in 2011, there is no reason to suppose that this reflects any decline in the local status of this bird, even if breeding was confirmed in just two instances, at **Crimble Clough** and **Blackmoorfoot Res**. As with other familiar garden birds, several observers kept regular records throughout the year, reporting as many as five present on occasion.

At **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** up to 20 birds were present during the winter months, and five pairs were recorded throughout the breeding season. Up to four were present in a **New Mill** garden, and juveniles were seen here from late April onwards, while up to five were a constant presence in a **Bird's Edge** garden. Late-March counts yielded four at **Ingbirchworth**, five in the **Grimescar Valley**, and four, with two singing males, at **Broadstone**. Other regular garden records came from various Huddersfield venues, **Almondbury**, **Meltham**, and **Marsden**, as well as many occasional sightings, almost all referring to one or two individuals.



**Bean Goose, Ingbirchworth, 6th January 2012**



**White-fronted Goose, Ingbirchworth, 12th January 2012**



**Mandarin, River Calder, 23rd January 2012**



**Common Scoter, Blackmoorfoot, 10th October 2012**





**Little Egret, Meltham, 2nd September 2012**



**Juvenile Kestrels, Broadstones, 21st July 2012**



**Coot, Clifton Pond, 11th March 2012**



**Bar-tailed Godwit, Whitley Common, 6th June 2012**



**Green Sandpiper, Ingbirchworth, 4th August 2012**



**Mediterranean Gull, Digley, 25th November 2012**





**Caspian Gull, Lower Maythorn, 29th July 2012**



**Barn Owl in a house at Dunford Bridge, 8th November 2012**



**Long-eared Owl, location withheld, 20th June 2012**



**Waxwing, Marsh, 15th November 2012**



**Great Grey Shrike, Jebb Lane, 2nd January 2012**



**Raven, Isle of Skye Quarry, 22nd September 2012**

(EUROPEAN) **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Although, as with the other common species, fewer records were received this year, the total was still close to 200, reflecting the many contributors to this report and certain observers' careful scrutiny of their local birds' behaviour.

Breeding was confirmed at eight sites: **Emley Moor**, **Shelley**, **Hepworth**, **Lockwood**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Crimble Clough**, **New Mill** and **Colne Bridge SP**. Open-fronted nest-boxes were ignored by the **Crimble Clough** birds, of which the two pairs present seemed to have overlapping territories. Three young were in the **New Mill** garden between mid-June and late July and the **Lockwood** birds raised three young in a plant pot in a polytunnel at Mount Pleasant school.

Five birds tolerated each other's presence during the February cold spell in a **Hepworth** garden, where young were present later in the year. In March, six were at **Ingbirchworth** on 1<sup>st</sup>, five were in the **Grimescar Valley** on 17<sup>th</sup>, eight were at **Lindley Moor** the following day, and nine were in the **Longwood Valley** on 25<sup>th</sup>. Easily the year's highest tally was 14 singing males at **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The **Grimescar Valley** hosted four adults and three juveniles on 25<sup>th</sup> August, and nine were in **Deffer Wood** on 10<sup>th</sup> November. Many other reports, all in low single figures were submitted, but are too numerous to mention.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor.

An adult male was found off Blue Ball Road near **Baitings Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> August (A Cockroft) and was still present on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (DJS, via HBC).

(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

A slight improvement on 2011, with records from eleven sites, but just one report of probable breeding at **Langsett**, in the **Little Don Valley**.

The first arrival was a male at **Royd Moor Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> April, followed by a male at **Langsett/Little Don Valley** four days later, with a second bird there on 20<sup>th</sup> and a female at **Digley** on the last day of the month. In May birds remained at the above-mentioned venues and one or two birds, mostly males, were seen at **Meltham**, **Marsden**, **Butterley Res.**, and **Harden Moss**. A singing male at **Cliff Wood**, **Langsett** on 18<sup>th</sup> May was the observer's first sighting here for several years. No fewer than five males were in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 28<sup>th</sup> May. On the same date two males were singing at **Harden Moss** in a small beech wood about one hundred yards apart. A single bird first seen at **Helme** on 24<sup>th</sup> June was presumable the same birds seen on several dates in July and August, being last seen on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

The only other autumn records involved singles at **Scammonden** on 10<sup>th</sup> August, **Upper Park Wood**, **Honley** on 27<sup>th</sup> August, near the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and a bird still in juvenile plumage at **Bretton Park** on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

### WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas).

Sadly, with fewer sightings and no April arrivals, this was a poor year, with records from just a few areas where the species clings on.

A male appeared at **Deer Hill**, one of the few remaining strongholds, on 4<sup>th</sup> May and what was presumably the same bird was still present two days later with three males on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Two widely separated males were singing in the **Wessenden Valley** from 6<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> July, a somewhat late date, but there was no proof of breeding. Meanwhile, at **Brow Grains, Meltham**, a male present on 6<sup>th</sup> May was not seen again, but a male on 19<sup>th</sup> May attracted a female a few days later. Although the first breeding attempt was foiled by bad weather, the observer found a family of five nearby on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, with much alarm-calling, and another pair on the flank of **Deer Hill** also probably bred, while a lone male sang and held a territory throughout June by the reservoir.

Elsewhere, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, a male and female were found amid bracken at **Crowden** in an area where the observer has seen birds before. Lastly, there were two records of singles from **Blackmoorfoot**, both from the fields to the west of the reservoir on 20<sup>th</sup> August and 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### (COMMON) STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus*

Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.

The last two winters, both very cold and prolonged, appear to have caused a catastrophic drop in the population of this once familiar and relatively widespread species.

None at all were seen until a male was found at **Longwood** on 12<sup>th</sup> March, followed by a female the following day on Meltham Cop at **Blackmoorfoot**.

The only other March sightings concerned a single at **Deer Hill** on 18<sup>th</sup> and a singing male at **Pule Holes, Marsden**, on 28<sup>th</sup>. A singing male at nearby **Back Clough** on 14<sup>th</sup> April may well have been this latter bird, and was indeed the only April record. Two further sites, the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** and **Harden**, both yielded sightings of a male and female on 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May respectively, but the only other records during the month involved a male at the former venue on 26<sup>th</sup> and two males there on 28<sup>th</sup>. June began with a single male at **Mount Road, Marsden**, and then a family group with a single juvenile were observed in the **Wessenden Valley** on 17<sup>th</sup>. A single male was at **Wessenden Lodge** on 26<sup>th</sup> June and another single here on 21<sup>st</sup> July was the sole July record. The next bird was at **Blakeley Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> August, followed by another long hiatus until 22<sup>nd</sup> September, when one was with Wheatears at **Redbrook Res.**

Happily, the last three months were more productive, with the year's highest tally of seven birds being found in the area between **Deer Hill Res.** and the top of **Red Lane, Meltham** on 7<sup>th</sup> October, these were then followed by a male and female on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, and three on 20<sup>th</sup>. A single male was at **Harden** on 5<sup>th</sup> October and a single was in the observer's garden there on 6<sup>th</sup> November. **Blackmoorfoot** rallied in November with a further six records: a male and female were present nearby on Edge Moor on 1<sup>st</sup>, two males (at Meltham Cop and near the channel) on 2<sup>nd</sup>, three (a male and female in fields to W, and a male near the channel) on 3<sup>rd</sup>; a male and female were in the SW corner overflow field on 15<sup>th</sup>, and then a male and female were in the



fields to the W on 23<sup>rd</sup> with perhaps the same two on Meltham Cop on 30<sup>th</sup>. The only other record here involved a female in the fields to the W on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.

As with most passerines, fewer records came from fewer venues in 2012, with just over one hundred sightings at about 30 sites. There were no confirmed breeding records.

This year's eagerly awaited first arrivals turned up on 17<sup>th</sup> March, with singles at **Broadstone Res.** and **Meltham Cop, Blackmoorfoot** and four in the fields to the west of reservoir, followed by two the next day and then a single on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>, six on 21<sup>st</sup>, four on 28<sup>th</sup>, two on 29<sup>th</sup> and three on 30<sup>th</sup>. Other sites welcoming one or more migrants on 18<sup>th</sup> included **Digley, Ingbirchworth**, and **Wessenden Moor**, while **Broadstone** now hosted a second bird. Almost all the birds reported in March were males, and other venues included **Bradshaw, Brun Clough, Langsett, Pule Hill, Marsden**, and **Deer Hill**.

In April, at **Blackmoorfoot**, up to 14 (21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>), but usually fewer than four, were seen on a near daily basis from 9<sup>th</sup>, while the only large gathering elsewhere comprised c.20 at **Digley** on the last day of the month, when a male and female were also seen in suitable breeding habitat at **Winscar. Cheesegate Nab** was a favoured spot throughout the month but never held more than three individuals, while five were in the **Maythorn** area on 15<sup>th</sup>.

Passage continued into May, with up to 18 (16<sup>th</sup>) but usually less than four being present daily at **Blackmoorfoot** until the last, a single, on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Double-figure counts included 17 at **Harden** on 12<sup>th</sup>, 27 at **Broadstone Res.** and 12 in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 16<sup>th</sup>, when eight were present at **Bradshaw**, and five on **Tinker Hill**.

The only June records involved a single male at **Brun Clough Res.** on 24<sup>th</sup>, and a female on **Meltham Cop, Blackmoorfoot** six days later.

Far fewer birds were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot** in autumn: between 24<sup>th</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> September up to three (usually only 1 or 2) were seen on a total of 15 days. The only other record concerned two in the fields to the west of the reservoir on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Other autumn reports, which came from a number of localities, only involved up to three birds, the only exceptions were five on **Black Hill** on 9<sup>th</sup> September, and five on **Cheesegate Nab** on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The last of the year, a single, was seen on **Wholestone Moor** on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Greenland Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

Scarce spring passage visitor.

Two males and two females at **Whitley Airfield** on 17<sup>th</sup> May (SRG) were considered to have belonged to this race, as were two at **Broadstones** on 15<sup>th</sup> September (MC).

### RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

All but one of the year's records referred to the spring, with the first and only March arrivals in the form of two males in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** 27<sup>th</sup>. Well over a week later a female was observed at **Bradshaw** on 7<sup>th</sup> April, and then a male heralded the arrival of the traditional spring passage in the usual field on **Cheesegate Nab** on 10<sup>th</sup>, with two present two days later, rising to five the following day and six, of which four were males, on 16<sup>th</sup>, then eight, including five males, on 20<sup>th</sup>, and the last sighting here, of three, on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meanwhile, three males were seen above **Bilberry Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup>, nine were counted at **Langsett** on 15<sup>th</sup>, and a single male was singing at **Wessenden Lodge** on the same date. Back at **Langsett** one lucky observer enjoyed the spectacle of no fewer than 20 in the same field on 22<sup>nd</sup>, of which all but four were males.

A pair had established themselves on territory in suitable breeding habitat in the **Wessenden Valley** by 26<sup>th</sup> April and there were further sightings from this area in late May, when a bird was singing for half an hour on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and early June, when alarm calls were heard on 4<sup>th</sup>. Birds continued to be reported from **Digley** and **Langsett** during May, with the highest tally being eight birds at the former site on 5<sup>th</sup>. A male was on **Deer Hill** on 12<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, and two birds were on territory at **Harden**, also on 12<sup>th</sup>.

The solitary autumn record referred to a single in the **Upper Holme Valley** on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### (COMMON) BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Over 200 records were submitted from sites scattered across the whole area, some of which traced the fortunes of garden or local patch birds at regular intervals throughout the year. Six instances of confirmed breeding are obviously a minute fraction of the real figure!

A May count of 21 in the **Grimescar Valley** was the only record exceeding twenty for the whole year, although one observer abandoned his February count in **Bretton Park** as birds were too numerous to reach an accurate figure! Several garden counts regularly reached double figures. There were no obvious differences in numbers during the two winter periods

### FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

Substantial numbers, including some three-figure counts, were present during both winter periods, and almost 100 records were submitted.

At least 200, and possibly 300 were in the **High Hoyland/Bretton Park** area on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, while 350 were in a mixed flock with c.200 Starlings at **Fulshaw** four days later. Large February flocks included c.120 at **Ingbirchworth** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 300 at **Deer Hill** on 10<sup>th</sup>, 200 at **Shepley** on 13<sup>th</sup>, c.250 at **High Hoyland** on 15<sup>th</sup>, c.100 at **Upper Oldfield** on 21<sup>st</sup>, and c.300 at **Ingbirchworth**, with a similar number of Starlings on 27<sup>th</sup>. An early March count here reached 200 on 5<sup>th</sup>, while another **Deer Hill** count reached c.120 on 24<sup>th</sup>, and 100 were at **Broadstone** on 30<sup>th</sup>. The only

large April flocks concerned 100 at **Digley** on 8<sup>th</sup>, and c.120 in a stubble field by **Windmill Lane** on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** had more records during the first winter than normal: in January up to 200 (18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>) were seen on 14 dates, February had up to 300 (10<sup>th</sup>) on 12 dates, in March numbers dwindled but up to 130 (29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>) were present on 12 dates, and in April there were 17 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 74 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. The final count for the first winter was of 20 birds at **Harden Moss** on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a flock of 47 on 25<sup>th</sup> October began the autumn influx for this site, and next day at least 630 flew N, as did 69 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 60 flew NW on 31<sup>st</sup> and 65 flew S on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Records thereafter were very sporadic, with birds being present on a further seven days in November and nine days in December. With the exception of 54 which flew W on 5<sup>th</sup> November and 45 on 6<sup>th</sup> December all other records involved groups of less than 30.

The first returning birds were recorded on 20<sup>th</sup> October when two flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** and one did likewise at **Harden Quarries**. At **Dewsbury** c.500 roosted in Hawthorns on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 160 flew S over **Thornhill Edge** the same day while the following day saw c.650 at **Wholestone Moor**, 150 in the **Calder Valley** and 130 at **Broadstone Res.** The next couple of weeks saw flocks of up to 50 strong reported from a number of widely distributed localities but the only three-figure counts were of c.100 at **Fulshaw** on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, and c.100 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup>.

### SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.

As with other thrush species the 56 records include regular details of garden and local patch behaviour, and at first sight this total seems to suggest that last year's slight improvement has continued. Alas, several comments indicate otherwise, especially that of the **Marsden** observer who reported a sharp decline in sites from an average of 25 over the past five years down to 12, and in territories, from 18 to 10. Similarly, a **Golcar** contributor laments only two sightings of a once common bird, and records in a **New Mill** garden were equally scarce. Two pairs were present throughout the year at **Horbury Wyke**, and between three and six frequented **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**. One paid occasional visits to a **Hepworth** bird table, on one occasion amid a bustle of Long-tailed Tits, and other gardens were visited with varying frequency by one or two birds in **Almondbury**, **Meltham**, **Bird's Edge**, and **Netherthong**. Single or several singing males were heard at **Colne Bridge SP**, **Fixby**, the **Holmfirth** area, **Riding Wood Res.**, **Shelley Whins**, **Hagg Wood**, and in mid-March one was mimicking Crossbill at **Langsett Banks**. At **Blackmoorfoot** a single was present all year and a male was singing as early as 26<sup>th</sup> January. Three pairs eventually took up territories and bred around the reservoir (including one in Orange Wood). Just one or two were seen at several other sites, except for six at **Elland GP** on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, and two adults with a juvenile at **Longwood Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup>. Breeding was also confirmed at **Shelley Whins** and **Langsett**.

Several autumn visual migration counts at **Harden Quarries** recorded one or two on passage, including a noticeably grey non-British bird which arrived from the north on 13<sup>th</sup> October (MC *et al.*).

### REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

As is the normal pattern for this species large flocks were more common in the second winter period.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** had up to 100 (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February), but usually less than 30, on 26 days between 2<sup>nd</sup> January and the last, a single, on 6<sup>th</sup> April. There were no other treble-figure counts during this period, but 55 were present at **Hall Ing, Honley** on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 50 flew N over **Cowcliffe** on 14<sup>th</sup> February, when 50 were also seen at **Ingbirchworth**, 60 were present at **Deer Hill** on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 30 flew E over **Bretton Park** on 5<sup>th</sup> April, and the last spring straggler was in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 15<sup>th</sup>. One or two visited gardens in **Marsden** and **Almondbury**, but a garden in **Hepworth** attracted 12 on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

The first returning birds involved a single at **Harden Quarries** on 6<sup>th</sup> October, followed by three the following day, when four flew over **Shelley**. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** three appeared on 11<sup>th</sup> October, five on 14<sup>th</sup>, four on 17<sup>th</sup> and 13 on 18<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter up to 28 were recorded on a further 21 days until 26<sup>th</sup> December. In addition 80+ flew N on 26<sup>th</sup> October and 35 flew NW on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Back at **Harden Quarries** further migration counts recorded the first big influx, consisting of 508 (496 SW + 12 NE) on 13<sup>th</sup> October, and 518 SW the following day. Later in the month 260 flew over **Dewsbury** on 25<sup>th</sup>, and c.200 featured in another migration count at **Wholestone Moor** the following day, when c.500 were seen in the **Calder Valley**. Small numbers visited gardens in **Cowcliffe**, **Meltham**, **Bird's Edge**, and **Almondbury**, and, other records, inevitably, spoke of mixed flocks with varying proportions of Fieldfares. A flock of c.200 near **Thunderbridge** rounded off the year on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

### MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

Just over 100 records were received from many sites, with two thirds referring to the first half of the year. Breeding was confirmed at seven sites, which is half of last year's figure, and another six considered it probable. In the **Marsden** area birds sang at fourteen localities but there were thought to be just six territories, well down on the average tally. A count of 15 at **Thornhill** on 8<sup>th</sup> February was the only one to reach double figures during the first winter period. A handful of summer records included 22 on **Tinker Hill** on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Unlike its winter cousins, this is not a species that we expect to see in large flocks, and so a count of 40 in fields at **Meltham** on September 15<sup>th</sup> stands out, even if less remarkable than last year's 78-strong autumn gathering near **Lane** village. The only large-number counts at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** featured 12 on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 22 on 19<sup>th</sup> August and 28 on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

A solitary bird attempted to defend the only tree left with berries after the depredations of over 60 Waxwings at the well-known **Folly Hall** venue on 14<sup>th</sup> November, while 14 were seen at **Oldfield** the following day. Small numbers (up to 3) visited gardens during both winter periods.

Visible migration was noted at two sites between late September and late October. At **Harden Quarries** a total of 21, most of which flew SW, were recorded on seven dates between 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> October, the maxima involved 13 SW on 13<sup>th</sup> October. At **Pule Hill, Marsden** a flock of 12 which flew out over the moor on 27<sup>th</sup> September returned and flew off

NE; all other records were in October and concerned birds flying in a SW direction: three on 4<sup>th</sup>, a single on 13<sup>th</sup> and three on 20<sup>th</sup>.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.

Nine reeling males were reported, the first involved a single at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 20<sup>th</sup> April (JRS). Thereafter singles were reported at:

**Windmill Lane, Broadstone** – 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Deer Hill Res** – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May (presumably the bird was present throughout this period).

**Broadstone Res** – 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**Horbury SW** – 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Litherop Lane/High Hoyland** – 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Winscar/Broadhill** – 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Scammonden** – 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**Meltham Catchment/Brow Grains Road** – 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Although a pair bred at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**, the only evidence concerned a bird carrying food on 17<sup>th</sup> June. The male was not heard to sing and the pair was not seen prior to this date, nor were they seen afterwards, showing how secretive this species can be.

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Recorded from six locations, one less than last year, with breeding occurring at two of these. The first were at **Horbury SW** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and the last at **Harden** on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**Horbury SW** – about four males were singing on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and at least two pairs eventually bred.

**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – a single on 10<sup>th</sup> May attracted a mate and raised young. The last sighting was on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a singing male was near the inflow on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – one on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July.

**Harden** – a single was in a garden at 390m a.s.l. on 19<sup>th</sup> August (MC).

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

Recorded at four sites (the same number as the previous two years).

**Colne Bridge SP** – birds were recorded as 'present' on 8<sup>th</sup> May but numbers were not indicated. By 10<sup>th</sup> May two were seen and eventually two pairs raised young, the last record being of a single on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**Bretton Park** – a single male sang from the small reedbed on the Lower Lake on 15<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> July.

**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – a pair bred, with food carrying being noted on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Birds were then present until 11<sup>th</sup> August, when two were seen.

**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

Records were from over 50 locations across the area. Overwintering birds were noted in both winter periods.

A female in **Butternab Wood** on 3<sup>rd</sup> March was more likely to have been a wintering bird rather than a migrant. A run of records in late March, however, suggests that there was an influx of true migrants at this time: a male was at **Shelley Whins** on 26<sup>th</sup>, a single was in **Linthwaite** on 27<sup>th</sup>, two were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 28<sup>th</sup>, three were at **Bretton Park** on 29<sup>th</sup> and single males were present at **Tunnel End** and **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 31<sup>st</sup>. Birds became more widely distributed in early April, but most records were of singles or two individuals and it was not until mid month that numbers increased.

The first for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> April. From 30<sup>th</sup> April until 22<sup>nd</sup> July five singing males took up territories, with seven singing on 9<sup>th</sup> May, but only one secured a mate, eventually fledging young in Orange Wood. The only records thereafter involved singles (at least 2 birds) on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September.

During the summer months maximum numbers, based on singing males, concerned 13 at **Bretton Park**, nine at **Langsett Banks**, six at **Elland GP** and at least 20 territories between **Hey Green** and **Sparth**. This later figure is a marked increase on the last nine years average of 14 territories. Breeding was only confirmed at a small number of widely scattered localities but probably occurred at many others.

Singles were recorded from a number of gardens during autumn, including one in a garden at 390m a.s.l. at **Harden** on 19<sup>th</sup> August. The only September record, with the exception of those noted above at Blackmoorfoot, involved a single at **Clough Lee, Marsden** on 15<sup>th</sup>.

A male in a **Cowcliffe** garden on 4<sup>th</sup> December was the only record during the second winter period.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Reported from just over 20 sites, about a third less than in previous years. Records spanned the period 16<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Due to the decrease in records, which was hopefully caused by the lack of people in the field due to the bad weather, all records are given. One observer, however, did report that the species was absent from four sites at which it normally occurs.

The only April records involved singles at **Shelley** on 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and **Elland GP** on 27<sup>th</sup>.

The majority of the other records were of singing males during May/June:

**Thurstonland Bank** – at least two singing male were present throughout May, one of which attracted a mate and fledged young, being last seen on 7<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – two between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Bretton Park** – three on 4<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Royd Edge Clough** – one on 6<sup>th</sup> and two on 12<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Langsett Banks** – three on 8<sup>th</sup> and two on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.  
**Trans-Pennine Trail** – one on 12<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Royd Moor Res** – a single on 13<sup>th</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Scout Dike Res** – two on 13<sup>th</sup> and a single on 19<sup>th</sup>.  
**Tunnel End Res** – one on 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May.  
**Cooper Bridge SW** – a single on 16<sup>th</sup>.  
**Langsett Barn** – two on 18<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Blackmoorfoot Res** – singles in Orange Wood on 18<sup>th</sup> May and along the west bank between 28<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Cliff Wood, Langsett** – a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.  
**New Delight, Marsden** – one on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.  
**Crosland Hill Quarries** – a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.  
**Ingbirchworth Res** – two on 28<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Wogden Foot NR, Dunford Bridge** – four on 28<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Broadstone Res** – one on 29<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Netherwood Heys** – a single on 5<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Langsett** – one on 19<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Bulcliffe Wood** – a single on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*  
Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Records were received from 13 sites (16 in 2011) but there were no breeding records (3 in 2011). Records spanned the period 2<sup>nd</sup> May to 29<sup>th</sup> August but most records, as can be seen from the table below, were during May.

**Horbury SW** – two males on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.  
**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a singing male near Reservoir House on 4<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Ingbirchworth Res** – singing males on 5<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May.  
**Flockton** – a single on 12<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Scout Dike Res** – a single on 13<sup>th</sup> and two on 19<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Royd Moor Res** – two on 13<sup>th</sup> May and one on 13<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Colne Bridge SP** – a singing male on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May. On this latter mentioned date there was a conflict with a Whitethroat, and the Lesser Whitethroat was not seen afterwards.  
**Thurstonland Bank** – a single on 14<sup>th</sup> May.  
**New Dam, Netherthong** – a single on 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Shelley, in the Shelley Ozzings Farm area** – a single on 8<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – one on 13<sup>th</sup> and three on 17<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Bretton Park** – a single on 29<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – one on the 24<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Thornhill Millbank** – a single on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

(COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*  
Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

Records were received from 51 sites (1 more than 2011).

The first records concerned a singing male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April and the following day one was seen at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**. During the following week birds arrived at a number of widely scattered localities but numbers were generally low, four singing males at **Royd Edge** on 13<sup>th</sup> May and a maximum of four singing males at **Scout Dike Res.** (where there had been 15 last year) being the maxima.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were late to arrive and only one pair bred. The first record involved a singing male from 10<sup>th</sup> May and between 15<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May two males took up territories. Only one bird attracted a mate, fledging young in late June. Although the family party remained until 4<sup>th</sup> July, the only records thereafter involved singles on 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> August and, in September, on 2<sup>nd</sup> and between 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the pair which bred at Blackmoorfoot, breeding was reported from **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (4 pairs), **Colne Bridge SP** (1), **New Dam, Netherthong** (1), **Dewsbury SW** (2), **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) (2) and **Thornhill Milbank** (3).

After the breeding season reports only involved one or two birds from nine localities (some of which had held breeding pairs) and, with the exception of the Blackmoorfoot records mentioned above, the only September occurrences involved singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (the last of the year), **Royd Moor Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup> and **Horbury SW** on 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Red listed.

The only record involved a singing male at **Langsett Banks** on 14<sup>th</sup> May (MCW).

#### **CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

Records were received from nearly 60 sites, a good increase from last year's 40+ but less than the 70 in 2010, which rather confirms that observer inactivity was a governing factor in last year's low figure.

During the first winter period birds were recorded at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** as follows: three on 5<sup>th</sup> January, two on 24<sup>th</sup> January and a single on 6<sup>th</sup> February. What may have been the first genuine migrants of the year were then recorded at this site on 10<sup>th</sup> March, a male in full song, and two were present on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Remarkably, by the end of March singing males had been recorded from 23 widely scattered localities, most of these involved one or two individuals, but 10 were in **Bretton Park** on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> (with 13 there on 29<sup>th</sup>), five were in the **Longwood Valley** on 25<sup>th</sup>, six were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> and 18 were present along the canal between **Marsden** and **Golcar** on 27<sup>th</sup>.



The first for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male on 18<sup>th</sup> March. From 24<sup>th</sup> March, and throughout the summer months, three or four singing males were in residence and for the first time in recorded history a pair bred, raising two broods in Orange Wood.

Good numbers continued to be recorded throughout the summer months, with double-figure counts from a number of sites: 16 were at **Bretton Park** on 5<sup>th</sup> April (with 21 there on 23<sup>rd</sup>), 12 at **Horbury Strand/Wyke** on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 12 at **Elland GP** on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and the 14 males which held territories at **Marsden** doubled the areas average for the past 10 years.

Although numbers dwindled during the autumn passage period six were present at **Whitley Beaumont** on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, eight were at **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) on 7<sup>th</sup> August, c.15 were at **Colne Bridge SP** the following day and an obvious fall occurred when eight appeared in the otherwise dead copse at **Harden Quarries** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Autumn passage at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved a single between 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August, one to three (usually only 1) on 19 days in September and a single on 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October. The only other October records involved singles at **Marsden** on 1<sup>st</sup>, in a garden at **Shelley** on 6<sup>th</sup>, in a garden at **Hepworth** on 6<sup>th</sup> (the bird having been present since 26<sup>th</sup> September) and **Skelmanthorpe** on 9<sup>th</sup>.

At **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** unprecedented numbers of *Phylloscopus* warblers, mainly this species, were feeding on flies which had originated from the nearby sewage works in September, maximum numbers involved 30 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 52 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 15 on both 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> (JRS).

Up to five wintering birds were thought to be at **Horbury SW** from 9<sup>th</sup> December until the year end (RJS, DHP, DT *et al.*). One of these birds was considered to show characteristics of Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* and much erudite analysis was undertaken of photographs but, without the bird calling or singing, it is impossible to reach a conclusion as to the race involved. Three birds, probably part of the aforementioned group, were seen at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 26<sup>th</sup> December (JRS).

### **WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

Reports were received from 43 locations, a much reduced number from last year's 60+, but this is likely to be a result of reduced observer activity caused by the weather rather than a true decrease. Records spanned the period 26<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> October but breeding was only reported from eight locations.

The first reported arrivals, all single males, were rather early: **Wessenden Res.** and **Golcar** on 26<sup>th</sup> March, **Royd Moor Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup> March and **Colne Bridge SP** on 1<sup>st</sup> April. It was not until the following week that birds became more widely distributed and, although numbers rarely exceeded five, 12 were present at **Scout Dike Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> (with 10 on 20<sup>th</sup>), 20 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** from 16<sup>th</sup> and 14 sang in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The first arrivals at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male on 7<sup>th</sup> April and three males between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April. Six males then took up territories and remained until early August. Up to six, with 10+ on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> August, were then present on a daily basis until 10<sup>th</sup> September. The only records thereafter concerned two on 13<sup>th</sup>, a single on 17<sup>th</sup> and two on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

The largest concentrations during the summer months, all involving singing males, were 20 at **Windmill Lane, Broadstone** on 17<sup>th</sup> May, a minimum of 27 in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 10 between **Hey Green** and **Tunnel End Res.** on 27<sup>th</sup> May, a maximum of 17 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> May and 21 in the **Wessenden Valley** on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Autumn passage, which brought singles to a number of gardens, was generally very light and, with the exception of those at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see above) the only double-figure count concerned 14 at **Scammonden** on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

The last record for the year involved a single in **Windy Bank Wood** on 9<sup>th</sup> October, but this was an isolated individual as all others had vacated the area by mid-September.

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from 36 locations, somewhat lower than the 47 in 2011, but higher than the 20 in 2009. There were no confirmed breeding records, although several singing males were located at potential breeding sites during the summer months, and it was considered probable around **Shepley**, at **Bretton Park** and in the **Langsett** area.

Although widely distributed during the first winter period, numbers were very small and the only groups above three concerned five at **Bretton Park** on 24<sup>th</sup> January (with four on 19<sup>th</sup> March), four at **Woodsome Golf Course** on 30<sup>th</sup> January and about five at **Langsett** on 10<sup>th</sup> March. There were a good number of garden records during this period but these only related to one or two transitory individuals which only stayed for short periods.

Records during the breeding season were widespread but, as noted above, breeding was not confirmed and the largest number recorded never exceeded three.

Between September and December the species was only recorded from 10 sites, most of which only held single birds, the only exceptions involved five at **Harden Quarries** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, four at **Royd Moor Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup> November and c.10 at **Squirrel Ditch** on both 11<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December. In sharp contrast to the first winter period, the only garden records involved singles at **Netherthong** on 24<sup>th</sup> October and **Almondbury** on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

The increase in records noted at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** in 2011 continued, although there were only one to three birds on 27 days. Records in the first half of the year only concerned singles on two days in January, three in February and four in March. There were then no records until three were seen on 29<sup>th</sup> August. Thereafter one to three (usually only 1) were present on five days in September, six in October, five in November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

A most interesting observation occurred at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 27<sup>th</sup> September when a group of eight calling birds flew SW over the site during a heavy passage of Chaffinches (D Shields).

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Records were received from 18 localities (4 more than 2011). The first birds (5) were seen in the **Langsett** area on 18<sup>th</sup> May and a single was at **Windy Bank Wood** the following day.

Confirmation of breeding only came from a site close to **Langsett** (1 pair), but a pair probably bred at **Carlecotes Ponds**.

Other records of this increasing scarce species were as follows:

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – singles on 27<sup>th</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> June were the only spring records. In autumn a single on 4<sup>th</sup> August was followed by between one and four birds on a further 13 days until the last (3) on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**Pighill Wood** – a single on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

**Scout Dike Res** – three on 18<sup>th</sup> June and one on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**Wessenden Lodge** – a single on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**Scout Dike Res** – two on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**Longside, Bretton** – two on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Bretton Park** – two on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Harden Quarries** – singles on 26<sup>th</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> September (the last record of the year).

**Upper Park Wood** – four on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

**Winscar Res** – three on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Thornhill Millbank** – one on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 1-5 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

Records were received from four locations, three of which were in the **Langsett** area. The first record was of two males and three females at **Cliff Wood, Langsett** on 6<sup>th</sup> May where three pairs eventually formed and bred in nest boxes, a total of 13 young fledged (MCW). The last record from this area involved two on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

The only other record was of a single in a **Harden** garden on 19<sup>th</sup> August (MC).

**LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Reports were received from 50 sites but breeding was only confirmed at 11 of these.

In January a flock of 18 were in **Beaumont Park** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16 were at **Elland GP** on 15<sup>th</sup> and c.24 frequented **Browns Knoll Wood** on 24<sup>th</sup>. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were present throughout the year in small numbers although there were only three records in January, three in August and one in December. Three pairs bred (Orange Wood, south bank wood and along the west bank) fledging two, six and six young respectively. With the exception of the family parties, numbers rarely exceeded eight, the exceptions being 11 on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 14 on 11<sup>th</sup> September and, in October, 11 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 14 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Flocks, although widely distributed, rarely reached double-figures, the following being the exceptions: a flock of 12 were along the River Calder at **Horbury** on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 12 were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 10 were at **Oldfield** on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 10 were in the **Grimescar Valley** on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 23 were in **Meltham Mills** on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 14 were at **Bradley** on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 10 were at **Honley Moor** on 26<sup>th</sup> October and up to 16 frequented the **Grimescar Valley** during the last quarter of the year.

One of the breeding pair in **Dean Wood** had a pure white head which was fragmented with dark speckling on the lores and ear coverts – a pitfall for the unwary as brief views may lead one to believe that it belonged to the nominate race (TD, CH).

There were garden records in every month except May, the maxima involved 12 at **Marsh** in early January and 10 in **Lockwood** later in the month; c.20 in **Cowcliffe** in early September, c.10 at **Netherthong** from autumn to late November and nine in **Thick Hollins, Meltham** in late December.

An unusual record involved 15 (5 + 1 + 9) which headed south over the moor at **Harden Quarries** on 7<sup>th</sup> October (JLu, NWM).

#### **BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This very common species was reported from 60 sites throughout the Club area but breeding was only noted at 11 of these, most of which involved garden nest boxes.

The only counts of any magnitude involved 30 at **Bretton Park** on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 24 at **Lindley Moor** on 18<sup>th</sup> March, a flock of c.30 in the **Longwood Valley** on 25<sup>th</sup> March, a maximum of 32 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 8<sup>th</sup> April and c.30 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 28<sup>th</sup> April. In a garden at **Lockwood** at least 60 passed through in a five minute period on 19<sup>th</sup> July. With this exception flocks in the second half of the year never exceeded the c.15 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> October and 16 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

If the six pairs at **Langsett**, which only managed to raise 21 young to fledging, were a reflection of breeding success in the area, then it was an abysmal year.

An unusual record concerned two which flew SW over **Harden Quarries** on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **GREAT TIT** *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

Very common throughout the Club area but breeding was only reported from seven sites.

The largest groups noted were c.30 at **Bretton Park** on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 26 in the **Longwood Valley** on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 31 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 8<sup>th</sup> April (with 22 on 12<sup>th</sup> May) and 20 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

The only breeding outcome reported concerned five pairs at **Langsett** which raised 15 young.

Visible migration was noted at three sites in October: two flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 4<sup>th</sup>, a single flew W over the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 7<sup>th</sup> and at **Harden Quarries** five flew SW on 13<sup>th</sup>, two flew SW on 14<sup>th</sup> and on 20<sup>th</sup> a single flew SW and four NE.

### **COAL TIT** *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

Records were received from 43 locations, similar to 2010, but mostly from gardens and mostly from the west of the Club area.

Most garden records were of one or two birds, but up to four were present in a **New Mill** garden throughout the year, three were in a **Marsh** garden on the last day of September, a maximum of four in an **Almondbury** garden in late November and four were present in a **Cowcliffe** garden on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Other records above the usual one or two involved a minimum of 20 in the **Riding Wood/Yateholme** area on 29<sup>th</sup> February, four in the **Grimescar Valley** on 24<sup>th</sup> March (with 5 on 8<sup>th</sup> July), four in the **Longwood Valley** on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 10 in the **Langsett** area on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** up to six (but only 1 or 2 during the winter months) were present on a near daily basis. Three pairs attempted to breed, one aborted before eggs were laid, but the other pairs both fledged young.

Interestingly, several birds were noted flying over two migration watch points in October:

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – two flew SW on 4<sup>th</sup> and six did likewise on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Harden Quarries** – six flew SW on 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 (7 flew SW + 3 NE) on 14<sup>th</sup> and a single SW on 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **WILLOW TIT** *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

This locally and nationally declining species was reported from nine sites, three less than last year, and there were no breeding records.

With the exception of one or two birds which visited a feeding station at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** throughout the year, records from other sites were very sporadic.

Other records were as follows:

**Bretton Park** – a single on 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January and two on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**High Hoyland** – two (1 of which was singing) on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Royd Moor Res** – two on 21<sup>st</sup> January, one on 27<sup>th</sup> February and two singing males on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – a single on 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February, three on 12<sup>th</sup> February, two singing males on 6<sup>th</sup> March and two on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Scout Dike Res** – a singing male in Maze Brook on 6<sup>th</sup> March, a single on 19<sup>th</sup> May, three on 25<sup>th</sup> August and one on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – two on 19<sup>th</sup> March and a singing male on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – a single on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Broadstone Lodge** – a single on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder, increased to (2-3), 50-150 pairs.

Records were received from 61 sites (16 more than 2011) but breeding, which involved at least 15 pairs, was only confirmed at nine of these. Localities with more than one pair were **Dean Wood** (3 pairs), **Pighill Wood** (2) and **Bretton Park** (2).

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two (occasionally 3) were present throughout the year. A pair raised five young in the same nest hole in Orange Wood that they had used for the previous two years. (An additional 2 pairs nested in the immediate vicinity: 1 in Helme Wood and 1 in a large tree 200 yards S of Orange Wood).

The species is firmly established in the **Marsden** area, being recorded from 13 sites, but no breeding evidence was obtained. No records were received from **Woodsome Valley** where 10+ pairs were recorded last year although five birds were seen on **Woodsome Golf Course** on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

Garden records attest to the increasing numbers and distribution of this species, with several gardens having one or two birds visiting throughout the year.

Most records were of one or two birds, but c.20 were at **Bretton Park** on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> March dates, seven were at **Langsett** on 19<sup>th</sup> June and four were in a **Thick Hollins, Meltham** garden on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

A most unusual record concerned one which was found dead on the pavement in **Railway Street, Huddersfield** on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The bird, although not aged, was presumably a dispersing juvenile which found itself in difficulty when over the town.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

Records were received from 34 sites (5 less than 2011) but breeding was only confirmed at **Magdale** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see below).

There were garden records of one or two birds from **Lockwood, New Mill, Hepworth, Thick Hollins, Meltham** and **Netherthong**, most of which were in the first four and last two months of the year.

At **Blackmoorfoot** records were very sporadic and, with the exceptions of a single on 10 days in January and the pair which attempted to breed in Orange Wood, only amounted to one or two records of up to two birds per month. The pair in Orange Wood, resident between 8<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> June, were nest building by 28<sup>th</sup> March but failed to raise young.

Other records of this unobtrusive species were from widely distributed localities across the Club area and were mostly of one or two individuals, but four were in the **Grimescar Valley** on 11<sup>th</sup> March (3 on 7<sup>th</sup> May), three were in a **Thick Hollins, Meltham** garden on 3<sup>rd</sup> April (4 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April) and three were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**GREAT GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

The bird reported in the **High Hoyland/Jebb Lane** area on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 remained into 2012, being seen until at least 16<sup>th</sup> January (MC, JLu, DHP *et al.*). The bird wandered widely in the immediate area of High Hoyland, being seen beside Deep Haigh Wood, the High Hoyland game crop fields and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park visitor centre car park.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

Records were received from 45 sites but this probably underestimates the presence of this widespread species. Breeding was only reported from two sites: **Healey House** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see below) but were suspected of doing so at **Crimble Clough**.



Most records were of between one and three birds, but five were at **Hepworth** on 11<sup>th</sup> January, four at **Lindley Moor** on 12<sup>th</sup> February, six at **Windy Bank Wood** on 3<sup>rd</sup> April (7 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November), four at **Deffer Wood** on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and four in the **Grimescar Valley** on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

There were garden records throughout the year from a number of sites which generally involved one or two individuals but a maximum of six were in a **Cowcliffe** garden in July, birds attempted to use feeders in a garden at **New Mill**, where up to four visited in November/December and **Thick Hollins, Meltham** had a maximum of six in late December.

Present on a near daily basis at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with a pair raising at least one young along the east bank. The majority of records involved one or two birds, but in January five were present on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>. There was a marked increase in numbers between late September and late November: up to eight were regularly seen but in October 10+ were present on 6<sup>th</sup>, 14+ on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 flew high to the W on 13<sup>th</sup>.

Interestingly, the increase in numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** noted above was not reflected at other localities, but there was a corresponding increase in records from the visible migration sites:

**Harden Quarries** – 14 (12 flew NE + 2 SW) on 6<sup>th</sup> October; 19 (12 flew N + seven SW) on 7<sup>th</sup> October; 21 (18 flew SW + 3 NE) on 13<sup>th</sup> October; eight (5 flew SW + 3 NE) on 14<sup>th</sup> October and six (5 flew SW + 1 NE) on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill** – three flew SW on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – a flock of five which flew high to the S on 13<sup>th</sup> October were the first record for the site.

(COMMON) **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

There were records from 50 locations including many of birds in gardens, although the maximum in any one garden was five (10 in 2011). Breeding evidence was only supplied from four sites, showing how under recorded the species is in the Club area.

In a **New Mill** garden up to four were present for most of the year and frequent damage to hen's eggs was attributed to this species. The erection of extra netting around access holes prevented further damage!

The largest assemblages consisted of 22 by the River Calder at **Horbury** on 8<sup>th</sup> January with 12 there on 1<sup>st</sup> February; 20 were at **Lindley Moor** on 18<sup>th</sup> March; 14 were in the **Longwood Valley** on 25<sup>th</sup> March; there were double-figure counts from the **Grimescar Valley** on six dates with a maximum of 19 on 31<sup>st</sup> March; **Horbury SW** had a maximum of 23 on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

At **Netherthong** on 24<sup>th</sup> April four Magpies were bouncing about on the road outside the observers' house when two of them sat on their rear ends, tails vertical, and began clawing at each other. A Carrion Crow then flew towards them and landed close by. The fight stopped and the Magpies flew off and landed close by, whilst the Carrion Crow flew to a nearby tree. The Magpies immediately returned and began fighting again, but when a second Carrion Crow flew down the Magpies again retreated, this time not to return (SC).

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** flocks of 16 on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 18 on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> November and 14 on 27<sup>th</sup> December were unusually high counts for the site. Long gone are the days when treble-figure roosting aggregation occurred.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

There were records from 46 widely scattered sites but breeding records were very few, indicating that the species is under recorded in the Club area.

A small number of gardens were visited fairly frequently. Flocks of 50 were regularly recorded during both winter periods from a good number of localities but the largest concentrations were as follows:

**Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – c.100 were present throughout the year.

**Marsden** – c.100 were in the village centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 14<sup>th</sup> February.



**Almondbury** – c.350 flew N from a roost on 16<sup>th</sup> January.  
**Wooldale** – c.90 on 1<sup>st</sup> March.  
**Brun Clough Res** – 100 on 21<sup>st</sup> July.  
**Blackmoorfoot Res** – 110 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 100+ on 20<sup>th</sup> October.  
**Ingbirchworth Moor** – c.220 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.  
**Deer Hill** – c.300 flew E to roost on 10<sup>th</sup> November.  
**Annat Royd Lane** – c.100 feeding with Rooks on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Visible migration was noted from three sites between late September and early December. At **Pule Hill, Marsden** a total of 261 were noted flying SW on five dates between late September and 1<sup>st</sup> November, the maxima involved were 70 on 13<sup>th</sup> October and 136 on 20<sup>th</sup> October. The largest concentrations at **Harden Quarries** were during October: 12 flew SW and 61 NE on 6<sup>th</sup>, 68 flew NNW and 6 E on 7<sup>th</sup>, 63 flew SW on 13<sup>th</sup>, 91 flew SW and 60 NE on 14<sup>th</sup> and 153 flew SW and 47 NE on 20<sup>th</sup>. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had at least 90 (in small flocks) which flew S during the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### **ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs (2,450 during the Club survey in 2005).

Remains a fairly common species across the rural areas of the Club with reports from 35 locations.

With the exception of those breeding in a garden at **Hepworth**, the only other garden records relate to two in a garden at **Marsden** on two January dates and a single in a garden at **Marsh** on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Rookeries were reported from:

**Stretch Gate, Shepley** – over 60 nests.

**Crosland Moor** – eight nests.

**Hepworth** – rookeries in the garden of Lark's House and in trees near the A615 held 13 and 12 nests respectively.

**Thornhill Lees** – six nests.

**Whitley Beaumont** – two nests near Black Dick's Tower.

**Howgate Road, Slaithwaite** – 32 nests (down from 53 a few years ago).

**Mount Road, Marsden** – five nests.

**Bretton roundabout** – breeding occurred but no numbers were forthcoming.

The largest flocks were noted as follows:

**Fulshaw** – c.100 on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

**Bretton Park** – 100 roosting in early February.

**Longwood Res** – 50 on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ravensthorpe** – 120 on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Calder Farm, Ravensthorpe** – 120 on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Royd Moor Res** – 120 on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Broadstone Res** – c.100 on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**Annat Royd Lane** – c.70 feeding with Jackdaws on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*  
Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

Records were received from 57 widely scattered locations, including gardens, but breeding records were few and far between.

Groups of up to 20 were regularly reported from a number of localities. At **Dewsbury SW** between 100 and 150 were present throughout the year but the only other large concentrations concerned c.40 at **Brun Clough Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> March; 44 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 28<sup>th</sup> April; 45 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 7<sup>th</sup> May; c.60 at **Bradshaw** on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 30 at **Longwood Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

A single in the **Bradshaw** flock on 21<sup>st</sup> October was leucistic – on the ground it appeared normal with only a few white primaries visible but, in flight, all its primaries and secondaries on both wings were pure white.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April one was seen hanging upside down from a telegraph wire near **Flight Hill**. It was watched for about 20 seconds after which it fell momentarily before flying off.

**RAVEN** *Corvus corax*  
Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

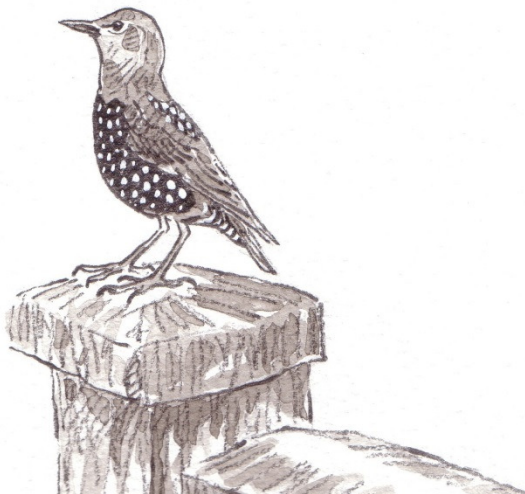
Recorded from 23 locations and, with the exception of a single which flew NW over **Cowcliffe** on 29<sup>th</sup> May, all were from upland locations. Most sighting involved no more than four individuals (generally only one or two) and the only records in excess concerned birds overflying migration watch points. There was no confirmed breeding but four juveniles were seen at one site.

Movements over **Harden Quarries** were evident on eight days between 8<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October. Most records were of one to three individuals but 16 (in small groups and including 3 which were tracked from the Isle of Skye Quarry) flew SW on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and six (4 SW + 2 NE) on 13<sup>th</sup> October. In October four flew S at **Flight Hill** on 5<sup>th</sup>, two flew S and one W over the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 7<sup>th</sup> and five flew N at **Cheesegate Nab** on the same date.

There were three records from **Blackmoorfoot**: a single drifted N at 15.35hrs. on 10<sup>th</sup> April, one flew W at 09.45hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup> June and a flock of five, the largest group ever recorded at the reservoir, flew N along the east bank before turning W up the Colne Valley at 09.35hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*  
Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.

Records were received from 49 locations widely distributed localities. Although breeding evidence was only forthcoming from two sites records of juveniles were widely reported and indicate success across the Club area. There were many garden records spanning all months of the year, most of which related to less than 15 birds, but gardens in **Almondbury** and **Marsh** were particularly favoured with a maximum of 30 and 24 respectively.



The largest flocks noted were:

**Fullshaw** – 200 with c.350 Fieldfares on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – 250 on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 300 (mainly juveniles) on 28<sup>th</sup> May and 350 on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

**Spicer House Lane** – c.300 with a similar number of Fieldfares on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

**Broadstone Res** – c.150 on 8<sup>th</sup> May and c.170 on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

**High Hoyland** – c.150 on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Lower Maythorn** – c.300 on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – c.200 on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**Low Common, Ingbirchworth** – c.400 on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Whitley Edge** – 2500 on 13<sup>th</sup> November with 1480 the following day.

Visible migration counts at **Pule Hill, Marsden** revealed a total of 493 flying SW on 10 dates between early August and mid-November, the maxima involved were 220 on 1<sup>st</sup> November and 194 on 14<sup>th</sup> November. At **Harden Quarries** 709 flew NE on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 78 did likewise the following day, 23 flew SW and 3 NE on 20<sup>th</sup> October and 161 flew W on 5<sup>th</sup> November. At the **Isle of Skye Quarry** 110 flew NW on 29<sup>th</sup> October and 50 flew W on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

### **HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Records came from 33 sites this year (36 in 2011) and once again most records were from gardens.

The largest assemblage was reported from **Calder Farm, Ravensthorpe** where up to 50 were present throughout the year and a maximum of 78 occurred on 20<sup>th</sup> March and 100 on 10<sup>th</sup> November. At **Knotty Lane, Lepton** 35 birds were observed regularly feeding around the chicken runs. A garden at **White Rose Avenue, Dalton** continued to attract birds with up to 35 being seen. In **Kirkheaton** 30 were seen daily in an observer's garden and up to 20 were in gardens in **Butterley Lane, New Mill** and **Golcar**.

Proof of breeding came from **Shelly/Far Bank** where up to six juveniles were seen in June, two pairs nested in newly erected boxes at **Calder Farm, Ravensthorpe**, and two juveniles were being fed in **Holly Bank Road, Lindley** in early June, juveniles were seen at a few other sites where breeding doubtless occurred.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Reported from 22 sites this year, six less than 2011, but there is nothing to suggest any decrease in the population.

There were three sites where breeding was confirmed. A small colony was discovered at **Emley Moor** but further details are unavailable. A pair bred in **Helme** and an adult in a **Shelley** garden was feeding young by mid-June. Birds probably bred at **High Hoyland/ Litherop Lane**, where numbers increased from about 10 to 20 birds during the latter part of the year and at **Haigh** which also had a stable colony of about 20 birds throughout the year.

Birds were also recorded at the following sites:

**New Mill/Butterley Lane** – a single was frequently seen near feeders in a garden in January, two were present in March, April and May, then again in July, August and October.

**Almondbury/Lumb Lane** – records of two birds, including a singing male, but no specific dates were forthcoming.

**Kirkheaton/Thurgory Lane** – one to two were seen throughout the year with six on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Lepton/Botany Lane** – one or two were present throughout the year.

**Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sands Lane GP) – 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Windmill Nurseries** – six were seen from the café on 27<sup>th</sup> February and it was also noted that some birds were present on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Birds Edge** – four on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> March had dwindling to two the following day.

**Woodsome Valley** – two on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Houses Hill/Healey Green Lane** – one on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Hepworth/Larks House** – two were seen briefly in a garden on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Scout Dike Res** – two on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Denby Dale** – a single at Denby Hall farm on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Lower Whitley** – 12 visiting a feeding station at Howroyd Farm on 2<sup>nd</sup> September had increased to 16 on 8<sup>th</sup> September, but there were no records thereafter.

**Hade Edge** – a single in a garden on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Records came from 50 sites covering a widespread area, many of these being garden records.

During the first three months of the year, the largest flocks reported were c.30 feeding on the game crop at **High Hoyland** on 9<sup>th</sup> January and c.50 feeding on beech mast at **Bretton Park** on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Double figure counts were recorded on **Marsden, Browns Knoll Wood, Pole Moor, Ingbirchworth Res., Grimescar Valley**, and **Shelley Whins** but these never exceeded the c.15 in a Marsden garden on 17<sup>th</sup> January. The first singing males reported were heard at **Riding Wood**

**Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> February and males were also heard singing at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Broadstones Res.** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** in March.

Breeding was only confirmed at three sites: **Crimble Clough** where nest building was observed in early May and young were subsequently seen, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where at least four pairs bred and two or three pairs bred at **Shelley Whins**. Obviously Chaffinches must be prolific breeders in the Club area but no other confirmed records were submitted. Birds were recorded throughout the summer months at a number of widely scattered sites but numbers were generally low.

The majority of reports in September, October and November, were of passing birds during visible migration counts.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 3088 birds were seen on 10 dates between 13<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> November, all heading in a S or SW direction. The highest count involved 1277 on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harden Quarries** – 606 were seen on 10 dates between 15<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> November, again all heading in a S or SW direction. The highest count concerned 224 SW on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Six other sites recorded birds in November and December but these never exceeded single figures.

#### **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

A greater distribution of birds was reported this year with records being received from 30 sites. Only one or two sites had significant numbers, the rest were mainly from gardens with counts of one to four birds, most of which were during the first winter period.

A mixed flock of around 100 Brambling and Chaffinches were seen at the junction of **Wilshaw Road/Thick Hollins Road** on 5<sup>th</sup> January. A single was present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> January. The prime site for this species was **Windy Bank Wood** where up to 15 were noted between 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February, up to 12 were then present between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March with c.30 on 17<sup>th</sup> March, in April up to eight were recorded on five dates, with the last (7) on 13<sup>th</sup>. A **Netherthong** garden held six birds (5males and 1female) on 4<sup>th</sup> April and a male was singing at **Ing Lees, Marsden** on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

The first returning birds involved two which flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 4<sup>th</sup> October and a single at **Blakeley Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Thereafter birds were in very short supply, with one or two being recorded from a dozen widely distributed localities, the only exceptions being three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 14<sup>th</sup> October, three at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> October and nine which flew SW at **Thornhill Edge** on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

#### (EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

This common and widespread species was reported from 27 sites, with most sites only recording birds in single figures. Once again most records came from observers gardens, showing just how important feeding stations are for this species.

In the early months the only significant records involved birds visiting garden feeding stations in January: 12 were at **Almondbury** on 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 at **Meltham Road, Marsden** on 17<sup>th</sup> and 16 were present at **Lockwood** on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Small numbers of birds (all in single figures) were recorded during the summer months but the only reports of breeding involved a nest building attempt at **Crimble Clough** on 28<sup>th</sup> March which was aborted the following week due to heavy snow and at **Shelley Whins** where the observer reported a good breeding season.

In autumn post breeding flocks were in evidence at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** with a maximum 40 being seen on 5<sup>th</sup> September. At **Blackmoorfoot** 40+ were present on both 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Visible migration counts at **Harden Quarries** totalled 112 birds, most of which flew SW, on 11 dates between 8<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 27 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 33 on 20<sup>th</sup> September. At **Pule Hill, Marsden** some 238 birds (mainly flying in a SW direction) were counted on seven dates between 9<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 70 on both 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

This colourful and widespread finch was once again well recorded, garden feeding stations having a very important part to play in supplementing this bird's diet, with small numbers frequenting gardens throughout the year. Elsewhere birds were seen in larger numbers, which were swelled in late summer and early autumn by flocks which included many juvenile birds. At the end of the year numbers dropped significantly as winter drew on.

During the first winter period c.20 birds were coming to feeders daily in gardens in **Dalton** and **Crimble Clough**. The largest flocks encountered during this period, all in January, concerned 30 at **Blackmoorfoot** (where birds were present on a near daily basis throughout the year) on 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 at **Horbury** on 8<sup>th</sup>, 30 at **Elland GP** on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 at **Greenhead Road** on 29<sup>th</sup>. The only large flock thereafter involved 15 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Breeding season records came from **Colne Bridge SP** where four pairs bred and from **Blackmoorfoot** where a pair nested in the SE corner for the fifth consecutive year. Breeding was also confirmed at **Broadstone Res.** Apart from 12 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup> May there were no other double figure counts during this time.

The first of the post breeding flocks was observed on 6<sup>th</sup> August when about 150 were seen feeding on thistle heads in the **Bretton Park/ High Hoyland/Litherop Lane** area; many of these birds were juveniles, pointing to a good breeding season. A flock of 20 were at **Scammonden** on 10<sup>th</sup> August and, in September, 35+ were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 15 juveniles were at **Annat Royd Lane** the same day, 30 were at **Broadstone Res.** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 25+ at **Blackmoorfoot** from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 30 at **Wilshaw** on 15<sup>th</sup> and 50 at **High Hoyland** on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Visible migration counts at **Harden Quarries** totalled 225 birds, most of which flew SW, on 11 dates between 6<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 29 on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 48 the following day. At **Pule Hill, Marsden** some 245 birds (mainly flying in a SW direction) were

counted on 10 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 44 on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 72 on 4<sup>th</sup> October and 47 on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

During the second winter period c.20 birds were seen daily as they visited feeders in the same gardens as earlier in the year at **Dalton** and **Crimble Clough**. The only large gathering at the end of the year concerned up to 20 at **Thornhill Edge** which were seen on feeders between 1<sup>st</sup> November and the year end and 20 at **Elland GP** on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

Recorded from 43 sites this year, but breeding season records were few. The largest flocks occurred during both winter periods and in autumn birds were seen on passage throughout the Club area.

In **Marsden** and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were recorded in small numbers throughout the year and at **Shelley/Far Bank** up to four were present during most months. Once again garden feeding stations attracted small numbers of birds with records from a total of 13 gardens. One particularly favoured garden in **Holmfirth** held between 20 and 30 during both winter periods and a garden at **Thick Hollins, Meltham** regularly attracted up to three between January and August.

First winter period flocks appeared to be down in numbers from last year. In January records came from **Elland GP** which held eight on 11<sup>th</sup>, five were at **Mag Dale** on 14<sup>th</sup>, a small flock were near the **Flouch** on 15<sup>th</sup>, a flock of 30 were at **Bretton Park** on 18<sup>th</sup> and five were in the **Grimescar Valley** on 30<sup>th</sup>. The largest flock in February involved 15 in larch trees at **Colnebridge** on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Numbers in March were also on the low side with 16 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 17<sup>th</sup> and 30 at **Langsett/Swinden Walls** on 20<sup>th</sup> being the only double-figure flocks reported. With the exception of a small number of garden records and those from Blackmoorfoot and Shelley outlined above, the only April record concerned a flock of 17 at **Riding Wood Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In the breeding season birds were seen in suitable breeding habitat with probable pairs/singing or displaying males at **Harden, Bretton Park, Storthes Hall Wood, Crossley's Plantation, Swinden Plantation** and **Langsett Banks**.

After the breeding season no other flocks were reported until **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had 33 on 26<sup>th</sup> August and 15 on 29<sup>th</sup> August and c.50 were at **Meltham Golf Course** on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Visible migration records were gathered from only two sites:

At **Harden Quarries** a total of 472 flew S or SW on 14 dates between 18<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 93 on 8<sup>th</sup> September and 69 on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. At **Pule Hill, Marsden** some 149 flew S or SW on eight dates between 9<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 40 on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

The largest flocks reported during the second winter period involved 50 in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 20 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 32 in Orange Wood at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 20 in a **Cowcliffe** garden on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 10 at **Golcar** on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and 10 at **Thornhill Edge** on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Recorded from 39 mainly rural sites with the largest concentrations being seen in spring and autumn.

The earliest returning birds involved a flock of 30 at **Upper Cumberworth** on 4<sup>th</sup> February, none were then reported until 17<sup>th</sup> March when eight were seen at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and a flock of 50 were present at **Deer Hill End Road** on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Unusually birds were feeding in a garden at **Shelley/Far Bank** where one to seven were noted between February and April, and a garden at **Crimble Clough** where one to three were seen in April. A flock of 26 were at **Hullock Bank** on 1<sup>st</sup> April and 20 were at **Castle Hill** on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Thereafter only single figure counts were received in May and June with the exception of 10 at **Wholestone Moor** on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Nine birds were at **Brun Clough Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup> July and 20 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

Although small numbers of birds were reported from various sites during the breeding season, breeding was only confirmed at **Shelley Whins**, where an estimated three or four pairs nested, and a single pair nested on **Edge Moor, Blackmoorfoot**, this was down from seven nests last year due to most of the Gorse/Broom having been removed during the winter by the owner. Birds noted singing at **Blake Lea, Marsden** and **Tunnel End** suggested breeding. Surely this species breeds more widely in the Club area than records suggest.

The highest counts were recorded in the post breeding season. Up to 100 were seen at **Litherop Lane, High Hoyland** on 6<sup>th</sup> August and the same number was present at **Bretton Park** on the same day and 20 were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup> August. September records came from **Healey Mills/Kerry NR** where 26 were present on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with 60+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, 20+ on 15<sup>th</sup>, 80 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 30 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25+ on 29<sup>th</sup>. Other September records involved 14 at **Outlane** on 12<sup>th</sup>, 26 at **Ossett Spa SF** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 35 at **Royd Moor** on 26<sup>th</sup>. October records came from **Isle of Skye Quarry** where 14 were noted on 1<sup>st</sup>, **Annat Royd Lane** held 70 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 were at **Blackley** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 13 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 14<sup>th</sup>.

Visible migration was witnessed at two sites:

**Harden Quarries** – 31 flew S or SW on seven dates between 18<sup>th</sup> August and 27<sup>th</sup> October, with a maximum of 10 on 7<sup>th</sup> October. These numbers are down on previous years.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a total of 27 flew S or SW on four dates between 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October, the maxima being nine on both 27<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**TWITE** *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

This moorland finch seems to be holding its own this year, records showing a slight improvement in numbers although this could be due to more vigilant reporting, but the species is still very vulnerable in our area.

The majority of records were from the feeding station at **Deer Hill Res.** The first record was of seven on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, there was then a slow build-up in numbers to a maximum of 30 on both 1<sup>st</sup>



and 19<sup>th</sup> April, but numbers had dropped to 15 by 28<sup>th</sup> April (DMP *et al*). The only other records from this site involved two on 27<sup>th</sup> May and a single on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (DHP).

Other sites recording Twite were:

**Ramsden Clough** – three on 18<sup>th</sup> March (MC).

In the **Wessenden Valley** birds were present on 27<sup>th</sup> March (HQ), three were at **Wessenden Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> April and **Blakeley Res.** held three on the same date and two on 9<sup>th</sup> August. A flock of 11 feeding on grass seeds at **Butterley Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> September (JMP).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – two were in the fields to the west on 11<sup>th</sup> May (CH). One of these birds had been colour- ringed at Deer Hill during the summer of 2008 (Sean Gray pers. comm.).

**Brow Grains, Meltham** – a flock of six, probably a family party, were present on 8<sup>th</sup> July (DMP).

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – 14 which flew W on 13<sup>th</sup> October were presumed to be the same birds seen at Gilberts (quarter of a mile to the W) an hour later (JMP).

### **COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor.

An average year for this species, with records from three sites.

**Fixby** – a single in the observer's garden on 4<sup>th</sup> February (DT).

**Langsett/Little Don Valley** – three with Lesser Redpolls on 11<sup>th</sup> November (JLu).

**Thornhill Edge** – three visiting feeders on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 10 on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> December (JRS).

### **LESSER REDPOLL** *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Records came from only 21 sites (26 in 2011) and, with fewer birds in evidence, numbers seem to be slightly down compared to 2011. Birds were quite widely distributed during the first half of the year and frequented a number of garden feeding stations but numbers later in the year were abysmal.

In the early part of the year there were quite a few single-figure garden records. The largest concentrations occurred at **Thongsbridge** where up to 11 frequently came to feeders between 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February and **Fixby** where 35 were present on 9<sup>th</sup> February and up to 40 were seen regularly between 14<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March. Away from gardens a flock of 40 were noted at **Elland GP** on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 20 were at **Bretton Park** on 6<sup>th</sup> February, nine were on **Kilner Bank** on 14<sup>th</sup> March and c.10 were at **Langsett/Swinden Walls** on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, following an isolated single on 25<sup>th</sup> January, there were more records than normal with up to seven (usually only 1 or 2) being seen on a total of 46 days between 21<sup>st</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> October. The only record thereafter concerned two that flew W on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Spring records came from **Langsett** where a single was displaying and also from **Holme Styes** and **Carlecotes Ponds** where several birds were song flighting. Small numbers continued to visit garden feeders at **Meltham** and **Hepworth** during this period. A single, partially leucistic individual, was with six normally plumaged birds at **Holme Styes** on 24<sup>th</sup> April (DHP, NWM).

Visible migration was witnessed at two sites:

**Harden Quarries** – 90 flew S or SW on 10 dates between 25<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> November, with a maxima of 20 on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 32 on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – 53 flew S or SW on eight dates between 13<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> November, the maxima being 12 on 1<sup>st</sup> October and 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Birds were very thinly distributed during the second winter period and groups never exceeded four with the exception of 12 at **Colne Bridge SP** on 12<sup>th</sup> October and eight at **Elland GP** on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.



The **Langsett** area continues to be a stronghold for this species.

**Flouch** – 14 on 15<sup>th</sup> January (NWM) and four on 1<sup>st</sup> July (JLu).

**Langsett Banks** – four singing males on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 34 on 13<sup>th</sup> March, seven juveniles (broods of 4 and 3) on 14<sup>th</sup> March and two on both 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> December (MCW).

**Swindon Plantation** – five on 27<sup>th</sup> March (MCW).

**Langsett Res** – six on 18<sup>th</sup> May (SRG).

Other records were as follows:

**High Hoyland** – about six were in the Jebb Lane/Green Acre Pond area on 2<sup>nd</sup> January (DButt).

**Yateholme** – a single on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 11 on 12<sup>th</sup> February and seven on 18<sup>th</sup> February (MC).

**Winscar** – three on 14<sup>th</sup> January, six on 11<sup>th</sup> February and three on 7<sup>th</sup> July (DMP).

**Harden** – two near Ellentree Brow on 28<sup>th</sup> January (HQ).

**Riding Wood Res** – 15 on 19<sup>th</sup> February (MC), five on 28<sup>th</sup> February (MCW), nine on 29<sup>th</sup> February (DBu, AK *et al.*) and 30 overflying on 5<sup>th</sup> May (DMP).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a single flew E at 11.00hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup> March (MLD), one flew N at 11.10hrs. on 27<sup>th</sup> July (MLD), a male flew N at 10.40hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> October (MLD) and two did likewise at 08.15 hrs. the following day (MLD, CH).

**Ramsden Clough** – a single on 18<sup>th</sup> March (MC).

**Crossley's Plantation** – four on 24<sup>th</sup> April and c.20 on 31<sup>st</sup> May (A Cockroft)

**Hade Edge** – c.15 were near the Fox House Inn on 11<sup>th</sup> August (MC).

**Harden Quarries** – an incredible total of 87 flew over on 13 dates between 18<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> November. Most flew in a S or SW direction and were generally in single figures, the exceptions being 13 on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 16 (2 SW and 14 NE) on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 13 which appeared from the S pitched into the wood on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 12 (2 SW and 10 NE) on 20<sup>th</sup> October (MC, JLu, DHP *et al.*)

**Holme Styes** – a single on 22<sup>nd</sup> September (JMP).

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a single flew SW on 4<sup>th</sup> October (JMP).

**Boshaw Whams** – two flew W on 14<sup>th</sup> November (JMP).

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

This widespread brightly coloured finch was recorded in every month from about 40 sites (50 in 2011).

Records came from a number of gardens, where up to five (generally 1 to 3) were regularly encountered. Some of these gardens held birds throughout the year and breeding occurred in those at **Lockwood, Shelley/Far Bank** and **Golcar**. Breeding was also confirmed at **Colne Bridge SP** with probable breeding occurring at **Dogley NR**.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a male and female were present throughout the year, but there were no signs of breeding. Numbers in excess involved seven on 13<sup>th</sup> April, five on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August, up to six in October then up to four were seen daily until the year end with eight on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Other notable reports came from a garden at **Meal Hill, Hepworth** where up to seven were present during both winter periods, five were at **Fixby** on both 11<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> December, five were at **Horbury** on 27<sup>th</sup> January, five were in **Greenhead Road** on 29<sup>th</sup> January. In the **Marsden** area birds were recorded from nine localities.

A single flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** during a heavy finch passage on 4<sup>th</sup> October and two flew N over **Harden Quarries** on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Records were received from 26 sites (43 in 2011 and 36 in 2010), but there were good numbers of birds reported from their favoured sites at High Hoyland and in the Calder Valley.

In the first winter period the game crop at **High Hoyland** held c.20 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, c.40 the following week and a maximum of c.100 on 13<sup>th</sup> January but this had reduced to 30 by 15<sup>th</sup> February. At **Park Lane, Bird's Edge** up to eight were reported on various dates in January/February, those in January were visiting garden feeders and c.10 were visited feeders at a farm at **Tinker Hill** on 11<sup>th</sup> March. A flock of 20 were present at **Calder Farm, Ravensthorpe** on 21<sup>st</sup> March and had increased to c.60 by 27<sup>th</sup> March but had decreased to 30 some three days later. An unusually large assemblage for the time of year concerned a flock of c.60 at **Ladywood Lakes** (formerly Sand Lane GP) in late March.

Other sites where one to three birds were seen were **Shelley Whins, Honley, Grange Moor, Upper Cumberworth/Upper Dearne Woodlands, and Royd Moor Res.**

Singing birds were noted at the following sites:

**Ingbirchworth Res.** (5 males), **Hullock Bank, Cheesegate Nab, Bullcliffe Top Wood, Broadstone Res., Horbury, Thurstonland Bank, Castle Hill, Farnley Tyas and Emley Moor.**

Records following the breeding season were very sparse: two flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 13<sup>th</sup> October, two were in **Park Lane, Bird's Edge** on 14<sup>th</sup> October and c.25 overflew the game crop at **High Hoyland** on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

At the latter mentioned site SRG noted that Maize, rather than the usual Sunflower, had been sown and it will be interesting to see what effect, if any, this has on finch/bunting numbers.

### **SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

A single was at the Twite feeding station at **Deer Hill** on 2<sup>nd</sup> January (DMP).

### **REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Records came from 42 widely scattered sites this year, five more than in 2011, with encouraging numbers of singing males on territory.

The only garden where birds visited a feeding station was at **Meltham Road, Marsden** where six to eight were present from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January. This is in sharp contrast to last year when birds were reported from a number of gardens during inclement weather.

In the first winter period birds were reported from the game crop at **High Hoyland** which held five on 13<sup>th</sup> January and 10 on 6<sup>th</sup> February. Up to four birds were recorded from six other sites until the end of March, with the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs being a particularly favoured area.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were no records until a male appeared on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March. Thereafter birds were very sporadic in appearance with no more than singles on ten days in April, one in May, three in June, 15 in July, four in October (with 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>) and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

In the breeding season singing males were seen on territory at **Ingbirchworth Res., Boshaw Whams, Scout Dyke, Tunnel End, Brighouse, Elland GP, Shepley, Brun Clough Res., Cannon Hall CP, Melham, Bretton Park, Horbury Strands and Snape Res.** Confirmed breeding took place at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (2 pairs), **Colne Bridge SP, Broadstones Res.** (2 pairs), **Carlecotes Ponds** and **Deer Hill.**

Although birds were widely scattered during the second winter period all counts were in low single-figures and the only double-figure count concerned 10 overflying the game crop at **High Hoyland** on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

Visible migration was witnessed at three sites:

**Harden Quarries** – two flew NE on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and two flew SW on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – a single flew S on 1<sup>st</sup> October and one flew SW on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill, Marsden** – a single which flew S on 1<sup>st</sup> November was the first definite migrant at this site for many years.

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## ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

### **GOLDEN PHEASANT** *Chrysolophus pictus*

Introduced.

What may have been the same female was seen along the edge of Hagg Wood on 7<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> September (SCK).

### **HARRIS' HAWK** *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Escape.

A single bird which was wearing jesses was seen over West Nab on 7<sup>th</sup> April (DMP). A few days later what was presumably the same bird was seen by the same observer over Crosland Heath.

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## ADDITION TO THE 2011 REPORT

### **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** *Anas carolinensis*

Rare visitor.

A male on the River Calder at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 12<sup>th</sup> February (CP) was the third record for the Club area.

## ERRATUM – BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 2011

### **WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba alba*

The photograph in the centre of the report does not depict this race and was included in error. The record was not accepted by the Club adjudication panel and is not featured in the Classified List.

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# EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS


	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2012		EVER		2012	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	4/4	Site A	29/9	1969	8/7	Site C
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	15/4	Blackmoorfoot & Wessenden	21/11	1959	2/9	Blackmoorfoot
Common Tern	12/4	1996	23/4	Horbury Strands/ Wyke & Bretton Park	16/10	2001	16/7	Blackmoorfoot
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	22/4	Coxley Valley	27/10	1977	26/6	Langsett
Swift	16/4	2000	25/4	Healey Mills	8/11	2001	10/9	Ingbirchworth
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	29/3	Horbury Strands/Wyke	23/10	1971	5/10	Blackmoorfoot
Swallow	10/3	1959	30/3	Blackmoorfoot & Meltham SW	5/12	1995	14/10	Upper Cumberworth
House Martin	20/3	2005	4/4	Ladywood Lakes	27/11	1959	6/10	Blackmoorfoot
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	21/4	Swinden Plantation	5/10	2000	29/9	Marsden
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	5/5	Meltham SW	24/10	1952	6/10	Harden Quarries
Redstart	21/3	1942	11/4	Royd Moor Res.	24/10	1976	17/9	Bretton Park
Whinchat	11/4	1949	4/5	Deer Hill	9/11	1999	20/9	Blackmoorfoot
Wheatear	1/3	1997	17/3	Broadstone Res. & Blackmoorfoot	4/12	1997	20/10	Wholestone Moor
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	27/3	Little Don Valley	25/12	1855	20/10	Upper Holme Valley
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	20/4	Horbury Strands/Wyke	29/8	2000	27/6	Brow Grains Road
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	2/5	Horbury SW	26/9	1999	19/8	Harden
Reed Warbler	20/4	2011	8/5	Colne Bridge SP	29/9	2001	11/8	Healey Mills
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	16/4	Shelley	24/11	1984	7/7	Thurstonland Bank
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	2/5	Horbury SW	27/9	1973	19/8	Thornhill Millbank
Whitethroat	1/4	2011	28/4	Ingbirchworth	12/10	1999	14/9	Ingbirchworth
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981	14/5	Langsett Bank	4/9	1956		No records
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	26/3	Wessenden Res. & Golcar	27/10	1987	9/10	Windy Bank Wood
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	18/5	Langsett	16/10	1985	23/9	Harden Quarries
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	6/5	Cliff Wood, Langsett	19/9	1969	19/8	Harden

 Denotes a new earliest/latest ever record.

**Note:** **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds.

## LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS

	LATEST				EARLIEST			
	EVER		2012		EVER		2012	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Whooper Swan	3/5	2006	12/4	Linthwaite	28/9	2011	21/10	Winscar Res.
Pink-footed Goose	12/4	2009	23/2	Ringstone Edge Res.	11/9	2007	15/9	Meltham
Goldeneye	mid-May	?	27/4	Langsett Res.	mid-Sept	?	25/10	Blackmoorfoot Res.
Waxwing	29/4	1991	24/3	Silkstone	24/10	1965	8/11	Birkby & Fixby
Redwing	7/5	1975	15/4	Little Don Valley	27/8	1941	6/10	Harden Quarries
Brambling	13/5	1976	15/4	Marsden	13/9	1983	4/10	Marsden

 Denotes a new latest/earliest ever record.

Note: **Fieldfare** - in view of the fact that this species previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has been removed from the table.

.....



# LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

(with apologies for any omissions)

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Burton. P	King. A	Silver. G
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## Organisations:

Barnsley Bird Study Group

Bird Guides

Greater Manchester Bird Recording Group (GMBRG)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

## THE BLACKMOORFOOT HOPOE

In the days leading up to 22<sup>nd</sup> August, birds at Blackmoorfoot had been rather interesting. Ducks had included a Common Scoter, two Shoveler and up to five Teal, an immature female Peregrine had been present on a number of occasions and on one of these it was mobbed by a Hobby and two Kestrels, occasional Spotted Flycatchers had put in an appearance, and Whinchat and Wheatear (both singles) had been seen in the fields to the west of the reservoir. The 22<sup>nd</sup>, however, was rather quiet and the only birds present were a Cormorant, four Common Sandpipers and four Sand Martins. In the late morning the authors were standing at their usual station on the south bank when Robin Millard, one of the occupants of 1 Orangewood, appeared and informed us that a Hoopoe had been resident in his garden since the 20<sup>th</sup>. As birdwatchers tend to be sceptical, especially when dealing with records from less experienced people, he was quizzed. It was not until asked about the birds' bill, which was described as being "long and curved like a Curlews" that we became convinced that he actually did have a Hoopoe in his garden. Robin then told us he had a photograph of the bird and, if we could wait about 30 minutes, he would produce a copy.

Prior to Robin's return Tim Duckworth had arrived on the scene and a light-hearted discussion as to whether the photograph would be of a Hoopoe or an escaped exotic ensued. When Robin returned we were delighted to find that his photograph showed the bird to have been correctly identified, it was indeed a Hoopoe. Robin, being the kind person that he is, then invited the three of us to his garden in an effort to see the bird. We had only been present for 10 minutes when Robin's wife, Margaret, shouted from the house that the bird was present on their other lawn. As the lawn is only visible from within the house we were invited in and, there in its full glory only 10 feet away, was the bird in question – the first Blackmoorfoot and the thirteenth Huddersfield record of Hoopoe.

Although the bird had been seen in all the gardens along the row, the area offered no convenient place to watch the bird from. Indeed, the bird had taken a liking to Robin and Margaret's lawn, and was only visible from within their home. As a consequence we were asked not to broadcast the news and, out of respect, we agreed. That same afternoon, however, the bird appeared in Tim Duckworth's garden in Helme (500 metres away) and the news of this sighting was put on the Club website. Although at least two Club members visited Helme that afternoon in an effort to see the bird, neither was successful. The following day (23<sup>rd</sup>) the bird had returned to Robin and Margaret's garden and was then seen in all the Orangewood gardens and, occasionally, that of Barry and Jennifer Lockwood at 22 Reservoir Side Road (50 metres away) until the final sighting on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

Nowadays, the vast majority of localities are, or can be, made accessible for birdwatchers to view the bird of their desire. In this case, however, the bird in question was in private gardens and only visible from within the houses. This was not a deliberate attempt to deny members the privilege of seeing the bird, as some have suggested, but out of total respect for the house owners privacy (none of whom had to divulge the birds presence) who would have had to endure unknown numbers of birdwatchers on their property had the news broken.

See rear cover for photo.

Mike Denton and Chris Horne

## VISIBLE MIGRATION AT HARDEN QUARRIES, PENISTONE

Eighteen watches totalling 63.5 hours were made at Harden Quarries (SE153037) between 18<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012 by Mick Cunningham (MC), David Pennington (DHP), Nick Mallinson (NWM), Jeff Lunn (JL) and Russ Boland (RJB). MC, DHP and NWM conducted most of the watches with RJB and JL present for some. A total of 20,555 birds of 62 species were recorded migrating, mostly in a southerly direction. Total numbers recorded were less than in recent years, but this can be attributed to the watches not coinciding with major movements of Woodpigeons and thrushes.

Poor weather (a feature of 2012) hampered a number of opportunities for further watches at ideal times. However there were some significant highlights for the autumn. There was a good passage of raptors including 38 Buzzards, 7 Peregrines, 7 Sparrowhawks, 4 Merlins, 3 Marsh Harriers, 2 Kestrels and single Hobby and Red Kite. Passerines were mixed, with a less than average passage of finches (although Crossbills were of note), but a superb showing of 5151 Meadow Pipits (2475 on 29<sup>th</sup> September) and 6 Tree Pipits, with a smattering of 93 'alba', 4 'flava' and 4 Grey Wagtails, and unusually 16 Ravens on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 2 Yellowhammers were good records. Swallows (3992) were well in evidence in September.

Relatively small totals for Woodpigeon (5674), Redwing (1036), Fieldfare (34), Starling (992) and Pink-footed Goose (134) – usually the most abundant migrants along with Meadow Pipit and Swallow – were disappointing.

Highlights included:

Species	Year total	Dates
Red Kite	1	19 <sup>th</sup> August
Marsh Harrier	3	18 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> August, 9 <sup>th</sup> September
Buzzard	3)	29 S on 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
Merlin	4	
Hobby	1	22 <sup>nd</sup> September
Peregrine	7	
Woodpigeon	5674	1950 on 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Swallow	3992	1358 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
House Martin	124	59 on 9 <sup>th</sup> September
Tree Pipit	6	singles on 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> August and 8 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2 on 9 <sup>th</sup> September
Meadow Pipit	5151	504 on 8 <sup>th</sup> September and 2475 on 29 <sup>th</sup> September
'flava' wagtail	4	
'alba' wagtail	93	42 on 6 <sup>th</sup> October
Long-tailed Tit	25	14 on 13 <sup>th</sup> October
Coal Tit	17	10 on 14 <sup>th</sup> October
Redwing	1036	518 on 14 <sup>th</sup> October
Jay	49	8 on 13 <sup>th</sup> October
Jackdaw	538	200 on 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Raven	30	16 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
Starling	992	709 on 13 <sup>th</sup> October
Chaffinch	606	224 S on 6 <sup>th</sup> October

<b>Species</b>	<b>Year total</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Greenfinch	112	33 S on 20 <sup>th</sup> September
Goldfinch	163	93 S on 8 <sup>th</sup> September
Siskin	472	174 on 9 <sup>th</sup> September
Lesser Redpoll	90	32 on 13 <sup>th</sup> October
Crossbill	87	

Jeff Lunn

## **HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS - OR - 'INVISIBLE MIG' - 19th AUGUST 2012**

My house is one of three in the upland hamlet of Harden between Holmfirth and Penistone. At 390m ASL we are definitely high. We are surrounded by Grouse moors. But there's more to the local habitat than that. From my front porch looking roughly WSW, I overlook Harden reservoir which feeds Winscar reservoir. Harden reservoir is at the southern end of Harden Quarries (disused). Bare Bones Road runs parallel to the northern boundary of the quarries. The boundary abuts a ridge running East-West from Flight Hill. The cryptographers amongst you will note the place name with interest. The ridge affords good views North over Kirklees, Calderdale and almost into Airedale west of Bradford, where I learned my 'vis mig'. The quarries (grid ref SE153037) have been my favourite local vis mig site for the last couple of years. I'm often joined there by 'vis' stalwarts Nick Mallinson (NWM), Dave Pennington (DHP) and Jeff Lunn. In fact, it was Jeff who initially tipped me off to the quality of vis mig at this site. Before then, I had tried various places but never found the 'sweet spot'. So I usually defaulted to watching from my house nearby. This was ok but little did I realise how much I was missing just across the quarries. Owing to a minor fold in the topography 100s, sometimes 1000s, of birds were zapping south and west out of sight of my house. I was getting the crumbs. Jeff's sweet spot has 360 degree viewing so catches everything moving, including scoters, geese, ousels, pipits, finches and snow buntings. Not to mention 20k+ day counts of Woodpigeons. What a difference a few hundred yards can make! And we expect more to come. That Russ Boland found a south-bound Great Grey Shrike on Flight Hill as he left a vis mig watch in 2011 seems proof of that.

The local migrant species profile is, in part, determined by the habitat. We get a lot more open country birds but there are enough trees to add a few arboreal species. Mature deciduous trees and scrub are rare at the actual watch point. But there is a small deciduous copse at the north end of the quarry and a large conifer plantation just below the ridge. The nearest large trees south of there, are a couple of mature sycamores adjacent to my neighbours' house. The gardens at our hamlet offer an isolated, if small, oasis of shrubs, bushes, smaller trees and a couple of ponds. Johnny Mac once said "they remind me of Fair Isle gardens". "Yes. Minus the falls of migrant birds" I said ruefully. Until this year, that is.

My vis mig season had always started in earnest in September. But even casual watching over the years has shown migration starts in July and can be well underway by August. Waders, chats, hirundines and raptors are all moving by then. I even had a large summer flock of Common Scoter once. I'd intended vis migging all August in 2012 but work scuppered that. Finally, my season started the weekend of the 18th and 19th of August. NWM is addicted to building his Huddersfield list. He's active and finds a few for himself. I enticed him to join me vis migging with dark hints of - maybe - a decent flyover wader or, more likely, a Marsh Harrier given some anti-cyclonic weather south and east of us. He still needed any Huddersfield harrier so, like the tick junkie he is, he said he'd be there. We mustered at the quarries the morning of the 18th. Note the date well. In fact, vis mig was slow. But I did eventually pick up a cream crown Marsh Harrier drifting lazily SE. Nick the tick snapped away in delight. The result was an atmospheric vis photo of it sailing past Castle Hill. Otherwise, it was quiet on the migrant front.

So I wasn't surprised to find myself alone at the watch point at dawn on Sunday 19th August. It was warm, calm and very cloudy at first with intermittent drizzle and periodic thin, swirling mist. This weather wasn't too good for vis mig, but its possible significance for other types of migrant watching escaped me at the time. Things started looking up when the second cream crown in two days tracked west from Broadstones. It landed on the nearest piece of heather moor to the

quarries and rested and preened from 06.55 to 07.25 before flying off west again. Little else seemed to be happening. Then, another scarcity appeared. A Red Kite, which also went west. I decided to head home to my favourite raptor watching spot: my porch, with tea and toast on supply.

At about 09.00 a.m. I was scanning the horizon from said porch when I saw a passerine perched on telegraph wires just south of me at Stanhope House. Even through bins I knew it was something 'good' (yes I know - a relative statement for all you folk up to your knees in decent birds). Its jizz suggested flycatcher and I expected to see a Spot Fly as I swung my scope lens towards it. I looked through the eyepiece and exclaimed "Pied -house tick"! Yes, a Pied Flycatcher. My next thought was, 'it'll head for the sycamores'. At which point it did just that. It pitched into the aforementioned trees next to my neighbours' house. I legged it into their garden. I saw the bird in the sycamores before it dropped into their back garden which has several small trees and bushes enclosing ponds.

I can't really remember the sequence of events that followed. At some point I texted DHP and continued scouring the foliage for the flycatcher. No joy, even in a tiny area it seemed to have vanished. But then things started happening. A Tree Pipit flew over calling loudly. A Willow Warbler peered out at me from the bushes, then another and another. Next, I was distracted by a Blackcap suddenly hopping into full view; closely followed by a second. Then a wary song thrush slunk past. It might just have been a local breeder dispersing but Song Thrushes are very rare in these gardens. Suddenly it dawned on me. A fall! Sure, not Fair Isle fodder. But still...

I became aware of an insistent monosyllabic call. Quite a hard 'tic' crossed with 'tac'. It didn't sound like the Pied Fly calls I grew up with (they weren't too uncommon where I started birding). But I had become so out of touch with the species I wasn't sure. It was coming from trees near one of the neighbours' ponds. Try as I might, I could not find the vocal culprit. Suddenly, I saw a movement low down in vegetation fringing the pond. I raised my bins and was amazed to see the head of a Sedge Warbler poking out furtively. I definitely wasn't expecting this in a garden on the moors 390 mts above sea level. In fact, given the date and the reminder that anything can turn up anywhere I even checked it for Aquatic. No harm in trying eh? It remained resolutely a Sedge. But, still, I was chuffed.

At some point DHP arrived on a quick dash from work. We searched the garden again. A second Tree Pipit "beezed" overhead. The Blackcap duo performed and the Willow Warbler count grew to four, possibly five. Another Song Thrush went south. All this within a few square feet. But time was pressing and the two star birds still eluded us. At last, just as DHP had to leave, I clocked the Sedge again and he ticked off his highest local acro ever. Sadly, the Pied Fly was never seen again. Equally, because I didn't see the Sedge on, or from, my property I couldn't add it to my House list. Still, I'll check my own pond more thoroughly in future.

I continued intermittent watching for migrants from home all day. A Hobby added to the raptor tally. It might not have been a migrant. The finale was provided by a Short-eared Owl which suddenly appeared after a shower at about 17.00 pm. This was a welcome sight given the inexplicable (not) failure of several local breeders this year. It floated south past my garden wall, looking at me in passing. A lovely end to an eventful day. There might not be gold in 'them thar hills'. But maybe there's more than we think.

March 2013

PS by the way, the mystery insistent call? Juvenile Goldfinch.

## **Was this a Weather-Induced Fall of Continental Drift Migrants at a High Moorland Inland Site?**

The rather breathless account above might seem over the top. After all, none of the species involved is rare. All breed in Britain, so they might not have come far and don't even warrant the label 'scarce migrant'. But I was intrigued to know why this fall had happened. A study of the weather shows the birds might have come from the Northern UK. But I suggest there is enough circumstantial evidence to believe they were, in fact, Continental drift migrants of the type I'm more used to seeing on the East coast. Indeed, the day before Spurn had just such an event as described below. The weather maps show conditions were sufficient to encourage drift inland over the 18th and 19th August. If the birds I saw were part of such a movement it raises the real possibility of seeing similar falls *locally* in future whenever date, fellow traveller species, weather and isolated habitats combine appropriately. Ever the optimist, this makes me think it's not too outrageous to suggest that a proper scarce migrant might be found in these circumstances for example, a wryneck, red-backed shrike or even a real rarity. Here's why.

### **Analysis**

In the run up to the fall, European weather charts show high pressure firmly established over the continent with a significant area of low pressure in the Atlantic. By Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>, my first visit day, the weather was changing. Birds drifting in on the high from the Continent were heading towards a long cold front stretching across the country between Devon and Teesside. Temperatures rose quickly and the 18th became the hottest day of the year so far in the south-east. That day, Spurn had a fall with Ortolan Bunting, two Barred Warblers, Red Backed Shrike, and many common migrants: including Tree Pipits. And 25 Pied Flycatchers!

Overnight into Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>, barometric pressure rose considerably. To the south and east of Holmfirth the night was dry and muggy following the hottest day. The inclement frontal weather stretching through inland Yorkshire would have acted as a block to any movement from the east or southeast, where freshly developing conditions induced night migrants to move. As the map shows, by the next morning, there was a bad weather 'road block' right over my watchpoint. It seems very likely the birds involved in this fall were night migrants heading through inland Yorkshire. On hitting the bad weather, they simply dropped from the skies. Berthold's classic study of migration shows how, in such circumstances, migrants will do this. Landing where they can, they immediately scan around for the most suitable habitat and make a bee line for it. Which is why our little oasis of trees and shrubs, in the middle of the uplands, played host to some lost, but very welcome birds!

Mick Cunningham

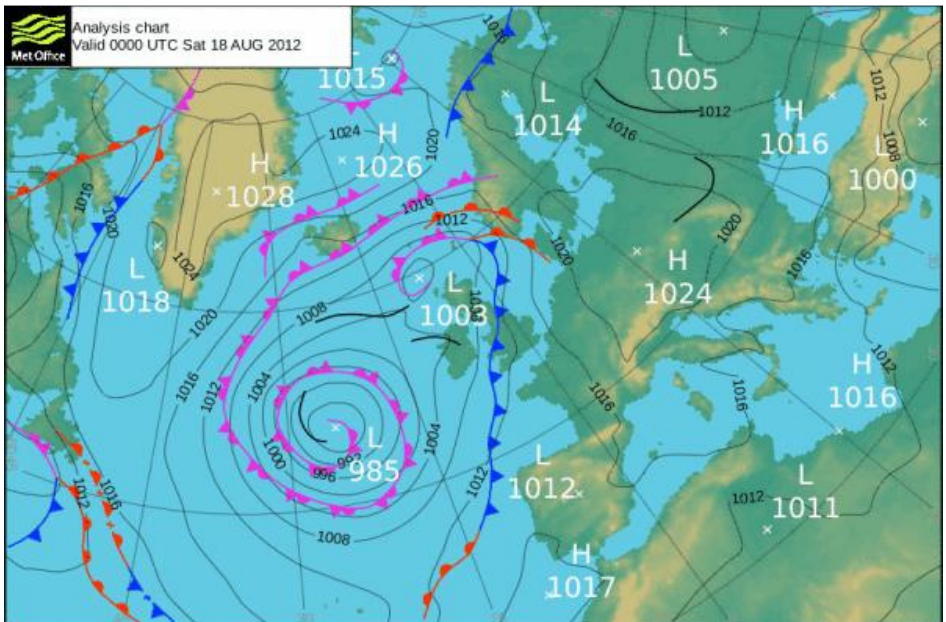
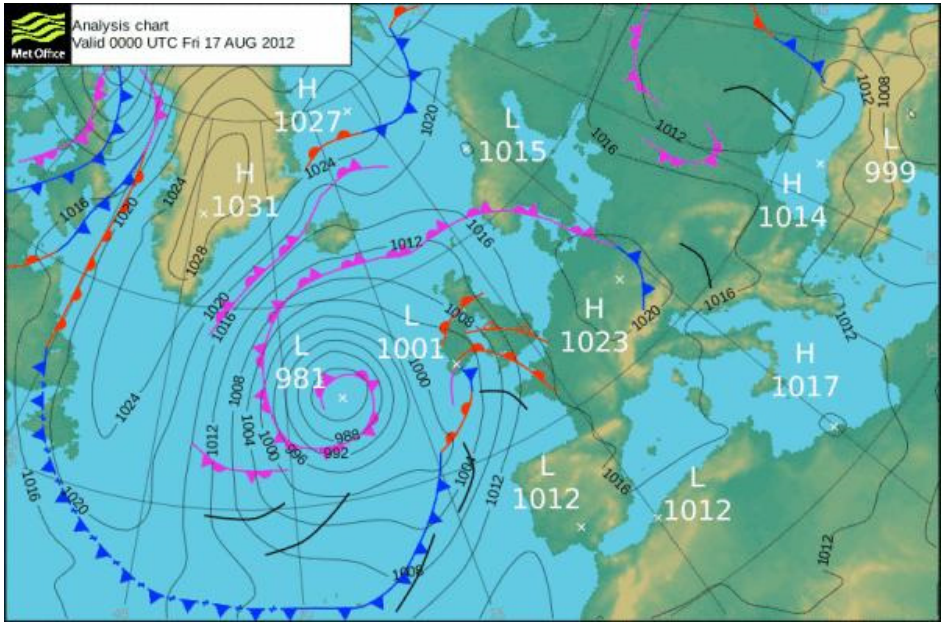
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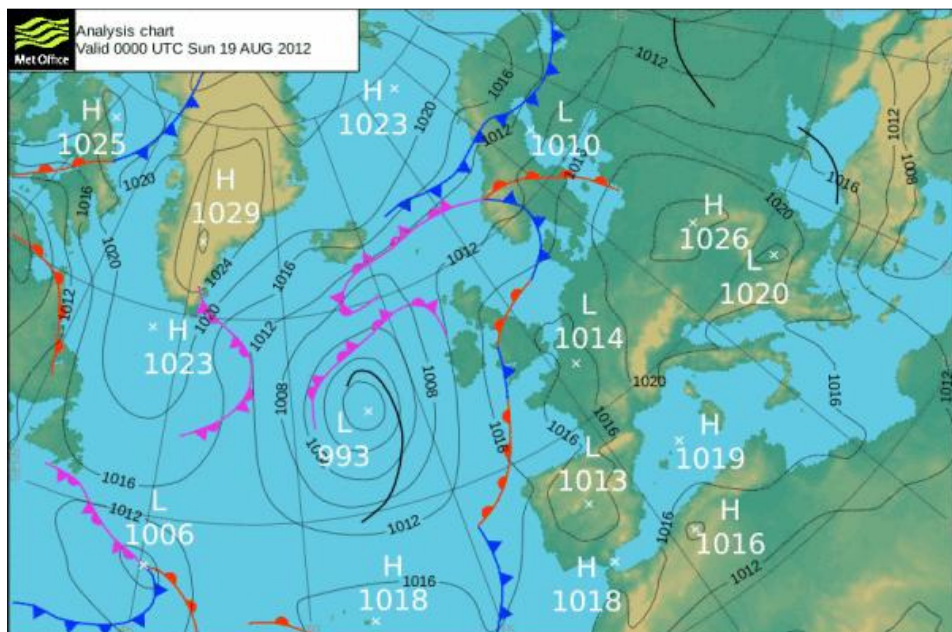
### **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to David Barker for his expert insight into how weather affects migration. The analysis is largely his.

Thanks to the Met Office for permission to use the weather charts.







## S. L. MOSLEY AND THE BIRDS OF HUDDERSFIELD

Those of us who now own a copy of Paul and Betty Bray's excellent book *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area* will have noticed frequent references to S.L. Mosley and his book on the *Birds of Huddersfield*, but few of us will have seen a copy of this important historical document. This short article is intended to throw some light on the book and to pay tribute to a pioneer of local ornithology.

Seth Lister Mosley (1848 - 1929) must have been a remarkable character. He was the son of a sometime hand-loom weaver, carpenter, gamekeeper and bird-stuffer in Lepton, and he had little formal education because of a sickly childhood. From this humble background he became the leading authority on many aspects of the natural history of the Huddersfield area. His father was clearly a big influence on him, passing on his interest in ornithology as well as other skills, including bird stuffing. While working as a painter and decorator, Mosley set up and ran his own private Economic and Educational Museum in his home near Beaumont Park. He later devoted himself full-time to studying and teaching Natural History, being appointed as curator of the Technical College Museum. For a large part of his life, he lobbied Huddersfield Corporation to form a Town Museum. He offered his own collection as a nucleus for its natural history section, but there was little response from the Corporation. Eventually, he disposed of most of this collection, only to find that within a few years, the Tolson Memorial Museum was set up. He did finally (at the age of 72) becoming the first curator of the new museum, and among his achievements was the setting up of the Bird Room.

Mosley corresponded with T.H. Nelson prior to the publication of that author's *Birds of Yorkshire* in 1907, and was a regular contributor to *The Naturalist* on various topics. He was a prolific writer of newspaper and magazine articles and co-edited a journal for young naturalists. He was also a one-man author, illustrator, printer and publisher of books on British birds, British butterflies and gardening, as well as collections of illustrations of flowers and butterflies. He also published books from his Museum on various aspects of natural history by other authors, many of which he illustrated. Among these publications was *An Account of the Birds of the Huddersfield District*, published in 20 parts by subscription, each part costing 6d (2.5p). It was printed by the author "on a small hand press" and was illustrated throughout with his own coloured plates, together with several of his line drawings. The book was completed in 1915, with F. O. Mosley as co-author, but I have been unable to discover what role he played, or what his relationship was with S. L. Mosley.

Like most of his contemporaries in the study of Natural History, Mosley was responsible for the 'collecting' of many specimens, an activity which he later regretted. This change of heart is reflected in the preface to his book, where he writes "I regret that this book is a record of murder and plunder from beginning to end. I do hope that the time will come when men will respect bird life, when the rare birds which visit us may be encouraged to settle down and remain, and the local species be permitted to do the good service they were sent to do". He encouraged those who found rare and scarce breeding birds not to broadcast the information, and in this attitude he was well in advance of his times.

*An Account of the Birds of the Huddersfield District* deals with an area smaller than the present Club recording area. Mosley restricts himself to the areas drained by the Colne and Holme, and does not include the areas to the east and south which are now covered by our Annual Reports. Each species account starts with a short quote from Hobkirk's first edition of *Huddersfield, Its History and Natural History* (1859), followed by a brief summary of its status at the time he was

writing. There are often quotes from Nelson's *Birds of Yorkshire*, especially where Nelson is himself quoting from earlier unpublished sources. Mosley then goes on to describe the species' habits and habitat, and to give more detail about its status. In most cases, this is a lament for the glories of "fifty years ago". Local names for the commoner birds are often given, and these are fascinating. For example, a local name for Wood Pigeon was Stock Dove! This obviously led to some confusion, but Mosley could find no acceptable records of the 'real' Stock Dove.

Mosley was a critical assessor of old records, and his book questions several of these for their lack of evidence, or as being very unlikely to have occurred. He is usually tactful about this, but is occasionally scathing, especially where he considers there to have been an unscientific approach to recording. He is justifiably dubious about some old records and rightly discounts a record of Andalusian Hemipode. He accepts a record of Purple Martin, but is careful to explain that he has been unable to trace the specimen. He also highlights inaccuracies in *The Birds of Yorkshire*, published eight years before his own book, but does so in the politest terms. Excluding the species whose occurrence he considers questionable, he sets the Huddersfield list at 187 species, a very respectable total, given the paucity of observers and the fact that he was dealing with a smaller district than the current recording area.

A truly revolutionary aspect of the book is the inclusion of distribution maps for 37 species, and this must be one of the very earliest books on birds to have this feature, if not the first. These maps show the areas of distribution in pink and, although he does not say so in the text, it is possible that he tried to give some idea of population density. On many maps, the area of pink fades gradually from east to west, but Red Grouse is a very obvious exception to this, with the colour fading from west to east, which would be a logical representation of the species' population density. The maps are mainly of breeding distribution, but there are also maps showing the winter distribution of Fieldfare and Redwing. There is a map showing the sites of all the rookeries, and that for Magpie shows the locations of individual nests. That this was a practical proposition was a reflection of much more intensive game preservation in those days, although he says, when writing about (Grey) Partridge, that it was more intensive in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. In this context, however, it is worth noting that he writes of a great many Ring Ouzel being shot on Slaithwaite Moor because "they set the grouse up with their alarm notes"! Although he bemoans the decline in the Land Rail (Corncrake), which he correctly ascribes to the advent of mechanical hay cutting, the map he provides still shows a wide distribution in the area, which we can only envy today.

Mosley was a passionate educator and this is obvious from the frequent footnotes found under many species accounts. These are addressed variously to students, farmers and gardeners, drawing attention to the positive aspects of the birds' habits. There are also many biblical references and even the occasional "economic" note. Mosley's personality pervades the text. Even his rather caustic sense of humour comes through. In his account of Pallas's Sandgrouse, he tells the story of a Shepley man who shot two birds near Tinker's Monument in 1888. The man refused an offer of £5 for the stuffed specimens, a tidy sum at that date. Mosley's comment on this was "I thought there were two fools - one who offered the money and another who did not take it".

From the information on the coloured postcards Mosley produced to promote the book, it is apparent that he originally planned 40 plates and 40 maps but for unknown reasons, he seems to have fallen short of this ambition. As far as is known, none of the extant copies contain more than 39 plates and 37 maps. All the species with distribution maps are illustrated.

It seems that few complete copies ever existed, perhaps only about 40, but even fewer are known

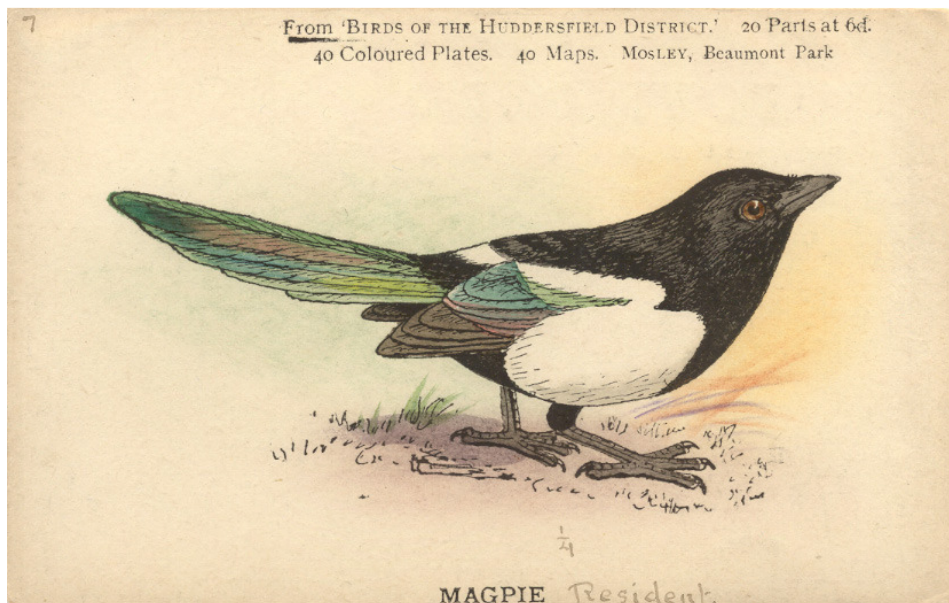
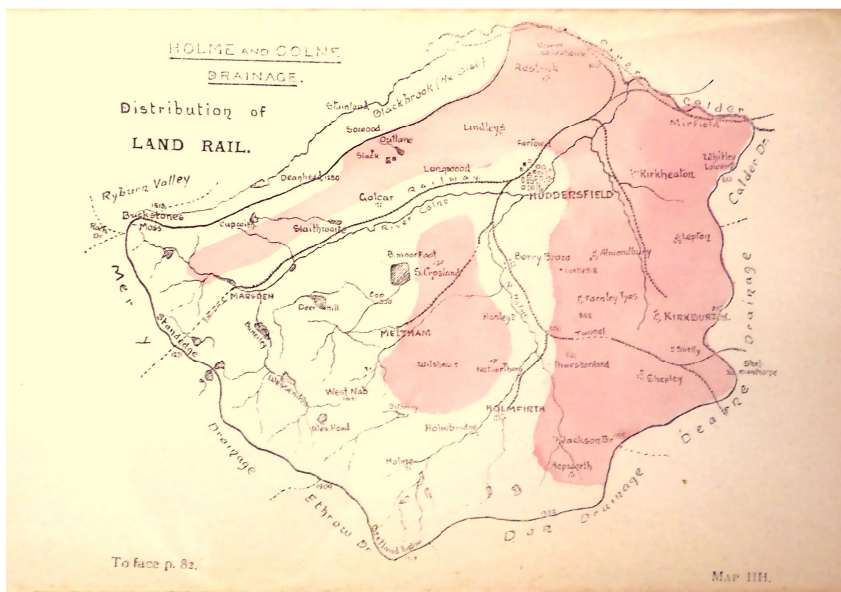
to survive now. Because of this scarcity, and the fact that they are attractively illustrated, any copies of the book that come on the market fetch very high prices, especially if they are complete. Such a copy sold for £731 in 1995, and even an incomplete one sold for £260 in 2010. Fortunately for Club members without very deep pockets, there are three copies (one of which is incomplete) in the Local History section of Huddersfield Library, where they can be consulted at any time. For those interested in Mosley's wildlife illustrations, over 300, mainly of birds, can be viewed on the Kirklees Image Archive website at <http://www.kirkleesimages.org.uk/>

It is sad that its scarcity has meant that *An Account of the Birds of the Huddersfield District* is not more widely known or appreciated. For such a localised avifauna, and for its period, the standard is remarkably high, and the inclusion of distribution maps deserved to be much more widely known and emulated by other contemporary ornithological authors.

Mike Pinder

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Breeding distribution map for Land Rail (Corncrake) from *An Account of the Birds of the Huddersfield District* by S.L. Mosley 1915

## TRIBUTES TO THE LATE RUSSELL SMITHSON (Died 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013)

The following tributes were read at Russ's funeral by Brian Armitage and are reproduced here by kind permission of Brian, Peter Smith and Russ's wife Grace.

### **A tribute from Peter Smith, Russ's longstanding birding friend from Wakefield:**

I have known Russ for well over thirty years due to our joint love of birding. He has always been a proper birder in my eyes, as he has always loved birds and covered his local patch year after year no matter what the weather.

He was also widely travelled abroad, with birding trips to such varied destinations as Norway, Sweden and Finland, well above the Arctic Circle in the lands of the midnight sun, to the jungles of Thailand and India.

Foreign trips can be eventful and was especially so on one trip in the jungle when Russ and his team got lost as the night was fast approaching. They realised they were in danger so took refuge on a small island in a river. As it grew dark the jungle came to life with all manner of screams and noises, as well as eyes glowing all around them in the dark. No one slept a wink and Russ said it was cold, miserable and the scariest night of his life. When daylight came they followed the river to safety. These experiences are character building and ensure you live life to the full. Russ did just that in abundance!

He could also surprise us at times as he did when we arrived at Varanger in arctic Norway. Mouth-watering rare birds awaited us and then Russ chirped up "Shall we go shopping first?" We looked at him aghast and said "What?" We went birding! I suspect he was missing Grace and wanted to buy her a present.

Another of his loves was Spurn and many a weekend was spent birding during the day and then recuperating at night in the Crown and Anchor discussing birds and drinking copious amounts of beer - another of his passions!

He did his fair share of twitching rare birds in the early days, but in later years he preferred to bird his local patch – the Calder valley. His enthusiasm was infectious and he was instrumental in organising many conservation projects involving many people. This included nest box schemes, bird feeding stations and setting up local nature reserves, among many other things.

He was also involved in the birding scene in southern Spain where he had a retirement property. As usual Russ soon got to know the local Spanish birders and helped them with their raptor studies. He also found good birds there like the Citril Finch and breeding White-rumped Swifts which elevated him to hero status in their eyes.

As far as I'm concerned Russ has been taken from us far too early. He had lots of plans and still many things to contribute to. He will be missed immensely by all who knew him, particularly his family and birding friends here and in Spain. We will all realise how much in the coming weeks and months.

Pete Smith

### **A tribute from Brian Armitage, former Club Recorder and long time friend of Russ:**

Like Pete, my connection with Russ is through bird watching, but in a somewhat different context. We met in the early days of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, which was formed over forty years ago.

After a gap of several years I like to think that I was instrumental in bringing him back to the Club more recently. When I was Club Recorder I used to pester him to send in his records and to buy a Club report, which he unfailingly did. He was an excellent birder, a careful and meticulous observer, counter and recorder.

As Pete has already mentioned he was a one-man conservation body in the Calder Valley, always prepared to get his hands dirty and often with no help from others. Apart from erecting dozens of nest boxes, establishing feeding stations, he also chopped down invasive vegetation, created wildlife friendly habitats and dug out ponds and ditches. He was instrumental in establishing the reserve at Kerry's, Ossett, did a lot of work at the YWT's eco-farm at Stirley Hill in the shadow of Castle Hill and was in the throes of getting things moving at Rectory Park, here in Thornhill.

Russell was a "one-off". He did more for the environment and for conservation in the Huddersfield/Dewsbury area than the rest of our bird Club's membership put together. In the fields of conservation and improving habitats for the benefit of wildlife he was a Colossus. If I might make a literary allusion, I would compare him to Gulliver in his voyage to Lilliput. It is no exaggeration to say that he was a giant in a land of pygmies.

His enthusiasm, his energy and his achievements make me feel very humble.

We shall not see his like again; he is irreplaceable. I shall miss his cheery "Hiya mate, what do you know?" greatly.

But more important than any of this however, is that he was a loving and much loved son, husband and father, and my heart goes out to those he has left behind.

Brian Armitage

## THE NEED FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND THE NEED TO SUBMIT THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER!

It has always been the aim of the Club to present our annual report with complete accuracy. Generally speaking, most bird records will be accepted for publication on face value! However, some species - those which are rare or unusual - require a description to be accepted by an adjudication panel before they can be published. The current Adjudication Panel for the Club consists of Mike Denton, Mick Cunningham and Russ Boland.

Species whose records require descriptions are listed in *The Huddersfield List to end 2011*, which is to be found on the Club's new web site ([www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk](http://www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk)) and in this report. They fall into three broad categories:

1. **HBC** description species – for obvious reasons this is by far the longest list and all species are assessed by our own adjudication panel
2. **YNU** description species - which are assessed by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union and
3. **BBRC** description species - national rarities, which are assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Note: the Club will require a description for any species or race not on the current Huddersfield List.

These bodies each take time to assess and decide upon descriptions submitted to them, though, of course, our own panel should be able to reach their verdict much quicker than the others. But they still require time to review, assess and adjudicate fairly and honestly and we would like the finders of birds that are on these lists to keep this in the forefront of their minds.

**I would like to stress that it is imperative the finder of a description species should furnish a description as soon after the event as can be managed.** As has happened on occasions in the past, it doesn't help to find a first notification of said species amongst a batch of other records six months or so after the bird was seen.

Although the following protocol has been devised by David Butterfield, Mick Cunningham, Russ Boland and Mike Denton in an effort to overcome problems relating to species which are currently on the HBC 'Description required' list, it has changed little over the history of the Club.

### HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB DESCRIPTIONS REQUIRED

1. Records of description species/races will only be entered on to the database if they are accepted by the relevant rarities committee (HBC, YNU, BBRC).
2. If an observer doesn't supply a description he/she will be asked by the Recorder to do so and sent the appropriate form – a copy of which is on the Club website.
3. The description, as has been the case in the past, will then be forwarded to records panel members by the Recorder, and each individual will then report back to the Recorder with their decision. Any descriptions of a YNU or BBRC species will be forwarded to the appropriate body. The highest authority will have the casting vote.
4. Photographs posted on the Club website, or published anywhere else in the public domain, or submitted to the Recorder which prove correct identification may be



accepted in lieu of a description, but the Club reserves the right to decline publication if there is no evidence it was taken when and where claimed.

5. In the event of a bird which is seen by a number of observers, a written description may be deemed unnecessary.
6. The panel will be prepared to accept records from a reliable observer should they give a verbal description which adequately describes that species. As this will generally be undertaken shortly after the observation, pertinent questions allow for a quick decision to be made. This has long been the case in HBC and has worked well with a good number of observers/species.
7. Call only records will only be accepted from observers who know the species well or describe the call convincingly. Generally, the bird should be seen and described as belonging to that family.
8. If a description is submitted to a club which overlaps the HBC recording area and that club accepts it, then HBC will do likewise, ditto if they reject it.
9. If a species/race is outside the panel's experience but not on the YNU or BBRC lists the panel will call on someone who knows that particular species.
10. Records from BirdGuides/pagers will only be considered if the observer (if one can be found) submits an acceptable description/photographs.
11. The panel reserve the right to request descriptions of species/races not currently on the HBC list or out of season sightings.

## **A WORD OF CAUTION**

When writing a description it is worth bearing in mind that a written account is required so as to convey to the adjudicating panel that the species which has been named is correct. In some cases, however, the record fails, not because it is thought that a misidentification has occurred, but because the record lacks sufficient detail to convince the panel.

With descriptions it is all too easy to assume that the panel realise that the species you are describing actually belongs to the correct family. In a good number of cases it is not sufficient to start a description with "A grebe seen at 50 yards range was identified as a Slavonian because.....". Why was the bird a grebe? The following observation, which occurred at Fairburn Ings in 1966, exemplifies this problem. In the winter of 1966 the Main Bay at Fairburn hosted a 'redhead' Smew and a winter-plumaged Slavonian Grebe. Both species have a similar plumage pattern, and a good number of people were recording either two Smew or two Slavonian Grebe! Had these people taken the time to look at the bill of these birds (let alone the colour differences) they would have realised that one was a duck and the other a grebe! In this case, a written description without details of the bill or plumage colour would result in the record been rejected.

Although this may seem trivial, this is the type of detail required to see a record through the adjudication process without stumbling. The panel only see what you have written on the form – the more detail included will assist the panel in coming to the correct decision.

Mike Denton

On behalf of the Adjudication Panel

## REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

It is imperative for all Club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the Club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e. ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the Club forum; to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the Club area then do contact Mike Denton (01484 646990) who holds the necessary licence to monitor and document proceedings.

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place, then contact Mike Denton or the recorder urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from Mike Denton. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within

UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within the Club area. It is by leaving these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

#### **Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species**

Black-necked Grebe  
Bittern  
Pintail  
Garganey  
Honey-buzzard  
Red Kite  
All harriers  
Goshawk  
Osprey  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon  
Avocet  
Stone-curlew  
Little Ringed Plover  
Dotterel  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Little Tern  
Barn Owl  
Kingfisher  
Firecrest

#### **Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area**

Nightjar  
Buzzard  
Raven  
Short-eared Owl  
Long-eared Owl

## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2012

The following is a list of the 269 species of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2012. Twelve additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species, then, highlighted, the less common 'additional' race(s). For those species and races that have been recorded only once or twice, the years in which the birds appeared are also listed.

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

No species or races new to the area were recorded in 2012. However, one race has been added to correct a previous omission: the Icelandic race of Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*.

The 'Description required' column indicates those species and races for which records of sightings must be accompanied by a description and, if possible, photographs, as required by the Club (HBC), the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee (YNU) or British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Consult the YNU and BBRC websites for lists of other species and races for which these organisations require descriptions. Descriptions for the YNU and BBRC should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarce species, to the Recorder (see page 148).

You may wish to use the sheets to record your own year and lifetime lists for the Huddersfield area. Note that for some species distinguishing between races can be problematic at certain times of year and allocation to species only is advised – refer to a quality field guide.

## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2012

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>				
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	1996	YNU		
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>		HBC		
	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>		HBC		
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>		HBC		
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>				
9	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>				
10	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		HBC		
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>				
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2002	YNU		
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	2002	HBC		
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		HBC		
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				
23	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	2010	YNU		
24	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		YNU		
25	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				
26	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>				
27	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	1983, 1985			
28	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		HBC		
29	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>				
30	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		HBC		
31	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				
32	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>				
33	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				
34	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				
35	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>				
36	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>				
37	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>				
38	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				

## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2012

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
39	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				
40	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				
41	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				
42	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		HBC		
43	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		HBC		
44	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		HBC		
45	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				
46	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				
47	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		HBC		
48	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		HBC		
49	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		HBC		
50	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		HBC		
51	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		HBC		
52	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		HBC		
53	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
54	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		HBC		
55	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				
56	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		HBC		
57	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		HBC		
58	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2008	YNU		
59	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				
60	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1989, 2010	YNU		
61	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				
62	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2008	HBC		
63	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		HBC		
64	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2008	HBC		
65	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		HBC		
66	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		YNU		
67	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				
68	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005	YNU		
69	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		HBC		
70	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		HBC		
71	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		YNU		
72	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		HBC		
73	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				
74	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				
75	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		YNU		
76	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982	YNU		
77	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		HBC		
78	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				
79	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1983, 1994	YNU		
80	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				

## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2012

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
81	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				
82	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				
83	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				
84	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		HBC		
85	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874	BBRC		
86	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		HBC		
87	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				
88	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				
89	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		HBC		
90	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				
91	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005	HBC		
92	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i>		HBC		
93	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				
94	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				
95	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		HBC		
96	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				
97	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				
98	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				
99	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				
100	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				
101	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		HBC		
102	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		HBC		
103	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990	YNU		
104	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2007	YNU		
105	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		HBC		
106	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		HBC		
107	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				
108	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>		YNU		
109	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				
110	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>				
111	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				
112	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		BBRC		
113	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				
114	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	2012	HBC		
115	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				
116	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				
117	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				
118	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989	YNU		
119	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				
120	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	1983, 1990	BBRC		
121	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				

## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2012

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
122	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				
123	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				
124	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		HBC		
125	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				
126	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				
127	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978	YNU		
128	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985	YNU		
129	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		HBC		
130	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		HBC		
131	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		HBC		
132	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988	HBC		
133	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992	HBC		
134	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		HBC		
135	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>				
136	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				
137	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				
138	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		HBC		
139	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				
140	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		YNU		
141	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>				
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>		HBC		
142	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>				
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>				
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>		HBC		
143	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		HBC		
144	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	2002	YNU		
145	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>		HBC		
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>		HBC		
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	2008	YNU		
146	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		HBC		
147	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				
148	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		HBC		
149	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		HBC		
150	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998	YNU		
151	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		HBC		
152	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				
153	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		HBC		
154	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964	HBC		
155	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		HBC		
156	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		HBC		
157	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		HBC		



## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2012

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
158	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>	1888	BBRC		
159	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)				
160	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				
161	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				
162	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				
163	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				
164	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				
165	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		HBC		
166	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				
167	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				
168	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>				
169	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>				
170	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				
171	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				
172	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	1872	YNU		
173	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				
174	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968	BBRC		
175	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		HBC		
176	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		HBC		
177	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				
178	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				
179	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>				
180	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947	HBC		
181	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				
182	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000	HBC		
183	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				
184	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				
185	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				
186	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989	YNU		
187	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				
188	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				
189	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>		HBC		
190	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		HBC		
191	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>				
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>		HBC		
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	1990, 2010	HBC		
192	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				
193	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>				

## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2012

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		HBC		
194	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>				
195	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				
196	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				
197	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				
198	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				
199	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		HBC		
200	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		HBC		
201	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				
202	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				
203	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>				
204	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
205	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>				
206	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				
207	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				
208	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				
209	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>				
210	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				
211	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>				
212	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				
213	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				
214	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				
215	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				
216	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>				
217	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				
218	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977	HBC		
219	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985	HBC		
220	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		HBC		
221	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>				
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000	HBC		
222	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				
223	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				
224	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		HBC		
225	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				
226	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				
227	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				
228	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				
229	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				
230	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>				

## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2012

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
231	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>				
232	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		HBC		
233	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				
234	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				
235	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	2010	HBC		
236	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		HBC		
237	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		HBC		
238	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				
239	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>				
240	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				
241	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				
242	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>				
243	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>				
244	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				
245	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				
246	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	1859	HBC		
247	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				
248	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				
249	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				
250	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>				
251	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				
252	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				
253	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>				
254	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				
255	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>				
256	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>		HBC		
257	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>				
258	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				
259	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983	BBRC		
260	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				
261	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				
262	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>		HBC		
263	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		HBC		
264	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				
265	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>		YNU		
266	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999	YNU		
267	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				
268	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998	BBRC		
269	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>				

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

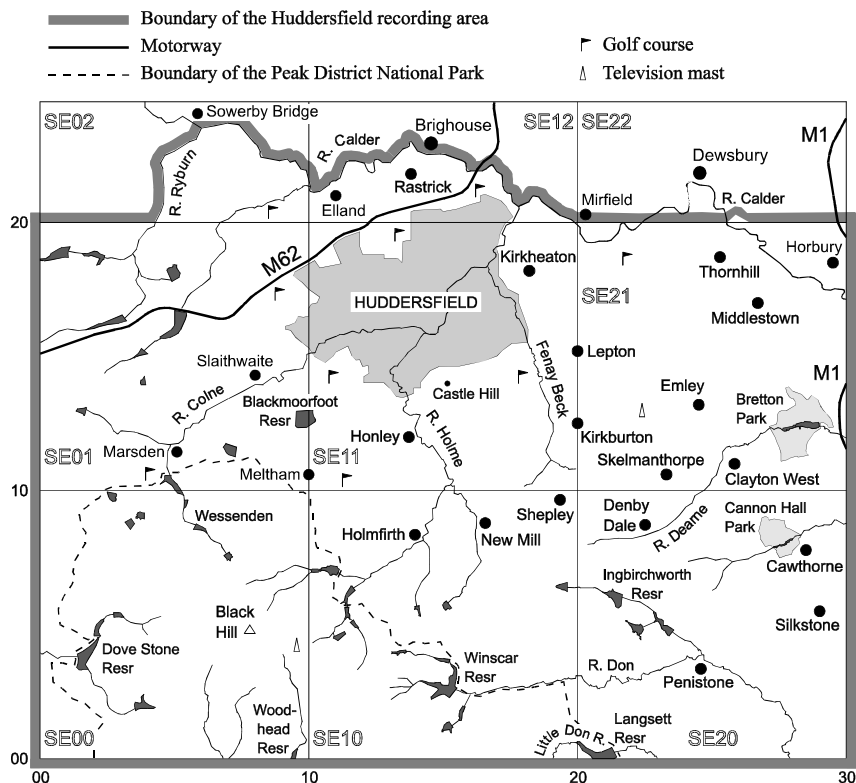


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area



# Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296



**Hoopoe, Blackmoorfoot, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

**This Hoopoe, a scarce summer visitor to Britain that winters in Africa, took up residency in a Blackmoorfoot garden for a week in August, to the delight of the owners.**



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

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