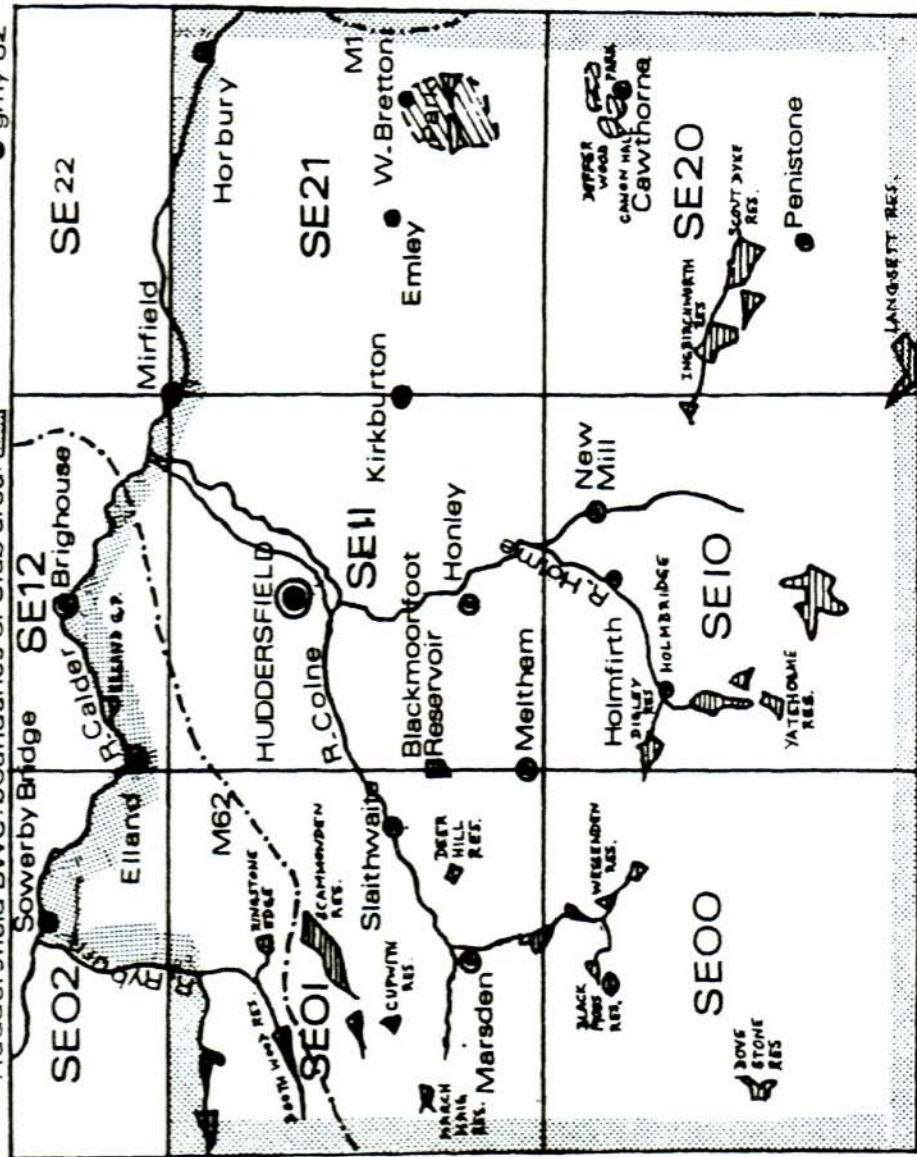


Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 1989



ANNUAL REPORT



Report of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 16 indoor meetings, which included 11 programmed lectures, provided an opportunity for Club members to witness a wide spectrum of ornithological interests. Our first talk of the year came on 10th January when Martin Withers showed us his photographic capabilities with his talk on 'A Wildlife Photographers Year'. This was followed on 24th January by one of our own members, Stephanie Coghlan, who presented a talk entitled 'Birds and Flowers of Crete'. The reasons behind various sites along the River Derwent being scheduled as Sites of Special Scientific Interest was explained by Tim Dixon on 28th February when he spoke on 'Birds of the Lower Derwent Valley'. Dr Jonathan Adams once again kept us entertained and gave us much food for thought with his talk on 14th March entitled 'Sauce for the Goose'. We were taken to warmer climes on 25th April when Dave Collins showed us the 'Wildlife of the Canary Isles'. The first lecture of the autumn session was on 26th September when Valerie MacFarlane showed an evocative array of slides in her talk 'Wild Alaska'. On 10th October Dr Pat Thompson of the BTO gave a very amusing presentation of results from BTO data gathered on 'Garden Birds'. The talk which followed, on 24th October, gave us a fascinating insight into genetics when Dr David Parkin presented his work on 'Genetic finger-printing of House Sparrows and other Species'. In 'Birds in Northumbria' on 7th November Tim Mellin showed us that interesting bird life does not stop at the Yorkshire border. In 'A Naturalist's Way' on 21st November Clifford Hayes gave us something different with his audio-visual display. On 5th December Gordon Langsbury presented us with his now customary outstanding array of slides when he presented his talk entitled 'Birds of the Gambia'. The last meeting of the year saw us yet again 'crossing swords' (or should it be binoculars?) in a quiz with the local RSPB group. Perhaps the least said about this meeting the better; The RSPB won!

Ornithologically, the most significant Club activity was the completion of the field-work in the fourth year of the Tetrads Breeding Survey. The results from this, and the final years field-work in 1990, will eventually be documented in a book on the Birds of Huddersfield. Fuller details of this ambitious venture can be found elsewhere in this report.

This is my final report as your President and, although I have enjoyed the experience, the constant quibbles of a few members have made it one that I am in no hurry to repeat. On taking my leave I would like to thank all officials who have kept the running of the Club on an even keel. Members have also played their part in the continued success of the Club and I would like to thank you all. That the Club will continue to prosper under the leadership of our new President, John Dale, I have no doubt.

M.L.Denton
March 1990

Fairburn Ings & Blacktoft Sands

15 January 1989

As usual, the morning was spent at Fairburn Ings, and we moved on to Blacktoft in the afternoon.

The morning was very interesting, over 60 species recorded, with highlights provided by an adult winter male Slavonian Grebe allowing very close-quarter views of itself over relatively long periods from various points along the 'Causeway'.

Along with this bird we had views of exceptionally large numbers of Mute Swans (120) and Whooper Swans (20) - neither species particularly rare, but good to see in these numbers. Snow was represented by one female, Goosander by four pairs, and Gadwall, three pairs.

We had three species of birds of prey: Kestrel (2f), Sparrowhawk (2f) and Merlin (1f).

A few fortunate people had views of (1-2) Water Rails in the Lin Dyke area, others took consolation in the party of (c30) Corn Buntings, observed roaming the farmland in the general area of the Reception buildings and car park.

Blacktoft Sands was another matter!. We have had some poor days here in the past but this one will take some beating!. Three hours were spent in the area for the most part watching empty expanses of water and empty expanses of sky.

There were ten species of duck, with greatest numbers going to Shelduck (10 pairs), Pochard (15 pairs) and Tufted Duck (20 pairs), but pride of place goes to the male Scaup, which not everyone managed to see.

Of the Bearded Tits and Harriers, which WERE in the area, and which are the "raison d'être" behind the reserve, there was no sign.

Filey, Bridlington Harbour and Barmston Beach.

19 February 1989

The weather was kind to us, being dry, sunny and relatively mild, with winds light, off the sea, and good visibility but with just over 50 or so species from all areas I felt that we should have done better.

There were some good birds, with both Eiders (9) and Common Scoter (4) in Filey Bay, whilst on the cliff tops in that locality many of us managed to find (2) Snow Bunting.

Bridlington Harbour came up with the expected close-quarter views of Shag (1), Kittiwake (smaller numbers than in the past) and Purple Sandpipers (6).

Barmston was the best area to be in today, as it turned out, and here we had sightings of Red-throated Diver (1), three species of auk, including Puffin, and a Short-eared Owl.

Teesside

19 March 1989

It came as a surprise to me to find that our last visit as a Club to this area was in September of 1980!

Within the Teessmouth area we visited Dorman's Pool/Reclamation Pond, [our thanks to ICI Petrochemicals for the permit for this area, and to Mrs. Rita Dunnet, of the Teessmouth Bird Club, for her work in procuring it for us], Seal Sands, Seaton Carew and the North Gare, and finished the day at Hartlepool Bay and the Fish Dock. Despite an hour of quite heavy rain which started whilst we were on the exposed edge of the sand dune system of North Gare, and the scenic and aromatic, industrialised splendour of the region as a whole, everyone, I feel sure, enjoyed the visit, and saw some good birds as well.

Over the whole area a total of 67 species were observed: this included 75 species of wildfowl, 15 species of wader and 7 species of gull.

Dorman's Pool is a shallow flash and is very possibly the best wader pool on Teesside. Reclamation Pond is an embanked lagoon. Ruff and Grey Plover were seen here but more exciting were the (7) Brent Geese and the Short-eared Owl. Larger numbers of Ruff were encountered on the Salthome Pools off the A178.

The walk down the Long Drag towards Seal Sands and the tidal pools west of that area gave good views of displaying Ringed Plovers but other pools south of Seal Sands gave us Red-breasted Merganser, Goldeneye, Pintail and Gadwall to name but a few.

The tidal pools overlooked from the Gatenby Hide gave us views of many more waders, including a Greenshank.

The sand dune system east of Seaton Carew Golf Course gave some of our people views of (3) Snow Bunting, and others their first summer migrant in the guise of an early Wheatear. At North Gare, on the sea, we saw both Red-throated Diver and Eider, and on the sandy foreshore, Sanderling. The rocks on the sea defenses provided suitable habitat for Rock Pipits.

The headland at Hartlepool Bay was visited with the intention of carrying a sea-watch from this vantage point, but this proved unrealistic as the weather closed in, and we had a period of very heavy rain. However, we found a place of shelter which overlooked weed-covered rocks which, we discovered, remained uncovered at high water. Waders congregated here and we enjoyed excellent views, at close quarters, of such species as Knot, Turnstone, Oystercatcher, Redshank, and Purple Sandpiper whilst we dried out!

The last part of call was the Hartlepool Fish Dock from where we hoped to see Glaucous Gull. One was known to be frequenting the area, and those who had the patience to check through the hundreds of gulls in the area were rewarded, eventually, with excellent views of a very white adult. The wait for this bird was, however, far from tedious, as we had a very obliging female Long-tailed Duck on the water at our feet venturing back and forth.

Leighton Moss Nature Reserve Centre, Silverdale; N.Lancs.

23 April 1989

Once again this area lived up to expectations with 74 species recorded from here on the day, including area 'specialities' such as Bittern (7 'booming' males, presumably each holding territory, and visual-contact with single birds in flight over the reed-swamp beyond the Main Drain) and Marsh Harrier (a pair is once again nest building).

We recorded 8 species of wildfowl, 5 species of raptor, 6 species of wader, 4 species of gull, all 3 of the (common) 'hirundines', and 6 species of warbler.

I think that a little more detail is called for regarding some of the above.

Along with the Harrier mentioned previously we observed Sparrowhawk (1f), Buzzard (upto 6), Kestrel (1f), and Peregrine Falcon ((1 -- SE).

The most noteworthy of the waders was a single Spotted Redshank, visible for most of the day in the Scrape/Grizedale Hide vicinity. Unusual amongst the gulls in this locality was (1-2) Kittiwakes.

We had records of singles of both Green Woodpecker (also 'yaffling') and of Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Sand Martin was present in greater numbers than I have seen for a very long time, with a party of c40, and about the same number of Swallows. On the other hand, House Martin numbers were disappointingly low, with only a single bird recorded in association with this larger mixed flock.

Single singing males were heard of each of Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Garden Warbler and Blackcap. There was upto 6 singing Chiffchaffs and 15 singing Willow Warblers.

Another of the area 'specialities' that was observed, and which I failed to mention in conjunction with the others, is Bearded Tit, of which at least two pairs were recorded.

Marsh Tit was heard calling, but was not observed.

Coombes Valley, Staffordshire

21 May 1989

Coombs Valley is an RSPB reserve of 191 acres of mixed woodland flanking the swift flowing, boulder-littered Coombs Brook - a waterway much-loved by Dippers, of which we had a pair, attending two young - along with smaller, but still important areas, of open bracken heath with birches. Redstart is another important bird on the reserve, and with at least 4 pairs observed in various localities around the reserve we managed some more than decent views. One of the areas 'specialities' is Pied Flycatcher. We found the bird a little elusive, but located a minimum of 4 males and 2 females with which we were well pleased.

The areas warblers are its main attraction for most people, however, and especially Wood Warbler, of which we located at least 12 singing males. Estimated totals of other species comprised Lesser Whitethroat (4-6 sing-ing males), Whitethroat (1), Garden Warbler (c40 pairs), Blackcap (2m), Chiffchaff (2 pairs: we were later to learn that this bird is relatively rare on the reserve, and that we should have counted ourselves lucky to have encountered it!), and Willow Warbler (c140 pairs: warden's figures).

Other notable woodland species observed include Nuthatch (1), Green Woodpecker (4) and Sparrowhawk (mf); heathland species include Tree Pipit (4 singing males) and Cuckoo (1); and in the 'parkland' ecotone we can include Turtle Dove (3).

Spurn Point Bird Observatory; N.Humberside
17 September 1989

After last years very successful (October) trip, there was sufficient (god-natured?) banter on the bus to fill me with trepidation over what might be expected this time. I am very pleased to report that number-wise, at least, this years tally of 80 species on the day exceeded that of last year by just 4!. There was also a 'lifer' for most participants in the guise of the female/immature **Scarlet Rosefinch**, which was found in tangled scrub at the foot of Beacon Lane, and for a good many others in the shape of the **Little Bunting**, located at Sammy's Point.

There was much else to interest and tantalise folk. Migrant passerines, both common and not-so-common, were widespread and include the following: **Yellow Wagtail** (3-4), **Black Redstart** (1 female), **Redstart** (8), **Whinchest** (c30), **Wheatear** (2-3), single birds each of **Sedge**, **Icterine**, **Blackcap**, **Greenish** and **Yellow-browed Warblers**, **Barred Warbler** (2-3), **Lesser White-throat** (c6), **Whitethroat** (3 males, 2 females) and **Willow Warbler** (1-2).

A single male **Pied Flycatcher** and a **Marsh Tit** in scrub close by the Warren were nice to find, as were the (2-3) **Red-backed Shrikes** in quite open hawthorn hedgerows on farmland off the road in the vicinity of the **Bluebell Café**. It was in that locality that the **Greenish Warbler** was found!

With birds such as the above in the area, it is easy to understand how they might overshadow all the many other species (non-passerine varieties) that the locality invariably has to offer. At this time, duck were few, but **Common Scoter** was seen, moving south. There were 3 species of raptor, the best being **Merlin**, hunting along Beacon Lane, whose hedgerows were alive with birds. There were 11 species of wader - it is not every day that one has the chance to see **Grey Plover** (1-2 on the estuarine mud), nor **Whimbrel**, 'several' of which were at Sammy's Point.

Final word goes to the single **Short-eared Owl** observed well for over 5 minutes as it hunted over the estuarine salt marsh, eventually disappearing over the Canal Zone.

Leighton Moss Nature Reserve Centre, Silverdale; N.Lancs
15 October 1989

It was something of an experiment coming here at this time of year but, whilst the locality is such that is worthy of a visit at any time of year, it is one that I shall probably not undertake again. 55 species were recorded [74 in April] and, whilst many of the birds seen were the same, and others different, somehow the day spent here lacked (what?) the air of expectancy that an earlier visit often has.

We dropped in at Woodwell prior to our arrival and were successful in finding the hoped-for **Hawfinches** (5-7). Here also were lots **Swallows** (2) and early **Redwings** (8-9).

Mention ought to be made of the areas 'special' birds: both **Bitterns** (1-2) and **Bearded Tit** (1-2) were observed, but neither species really well, which is not unusual with either. An unexpected record, and in some ways, one of the best on the day, was the **Raven** that was observed in flight over the wooded hillside beyond the reserve end which is part of **Grizedale Forest**.

Lincolnshire Coast

Saltfleet Haven, northwards to Salt Box Farm, and overlooking Sand Haille
Hills.

12 november 1989

We entered the study area from the access point by the village of Saltfleet, via a gap cut through the dune ridge. This is an excellent vantage point from which to overlook an immense area of seemingly empty salt marsh and sand and mud flats.

A closer look, however, revealed more than the most obvious birds to be found here which were the (300-400) Dark-bellied Brent Geese and the (200) Shelducks. There were many species of waders occupying the area, but these were difficult to observe closely due not only to distance but also to the depth of the salt-marsh vegetation, the dominant species being a variety of Glasswort, Annual Sea-blite and Sea Purslane, and the now salt-blackened, flowerless stems of Sea Lavender.

On two occasions it seemed that all the birds of the area were put to flight by the passage over the salt-marsh of a 'ring-tail Hen Harrier, which was useful as it allowed us to see, however briefly before they re-settled, just what was to be seen. At these times wader species revealed comprised Bar-tailed godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Lapwing, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover (1), Sanderling, Knot and Oystercatcher. A similar occurrence took place with a hunting Sparrowhawk, but her passing elicited much less of a response from the wader and passerine flocks out on the marshes.. On other occasions Whimbrels (1-2) were observed and a possible Greenshank was heard calling.

Amongst the passerine species observed Starlings were probably the most numerous with several very large flocks roaming widely over the salt-marsh and samphire beds. Skylarks were equally obvious - and singing loudly in the warm sunshine - but, of course, much less numerous. Several pairs of Reed Buntings, along with singles of Goldcrest and Willow Tit, were seen in the sea-buckthorn scrub which clothed the dunes here. However, the species we sought for, and were eventually successful in finding, were the much-publicised, mixed flocks of Snow and Lapland Buntings. The snow bunting flock was reputed to number some 30 birds (I saw only 13) and Lapland buntings encountered numbered no more than 3

Gouthwaite and the Washburn Valley Reservoirs.

17 December 1989

Perhaps this trip was scheduled a little too close to Christmas to allow sufficient numbers of people the freedom to take part; if that was the case then I must accept responsibility, but insufficient numbers of participants forced cancellation, and that was a great pity!

Once again I take the opportunity to thank all those people who took part in the various field trips of 1989 and sincerely hope that they enjoyed them as much as I. I further hope for their continuing support during the coming season.

David Butterfield
Field Trips Organiser
(0484 862006)

Introduction to the Classified List

1989 proved to be one of the driest years on record resulting in extensive shores at some of our reservoir as in 1975 and 1976, but due to dry clear conditions during much of the autumn passage period, fewer migrant waders dropped into these shores than in the earlier years.

173

Amongst the ~~193~~ species recorded, three were new to the area. A Red-rumped Swallow, a species which is being observed in Britain in increasing numbers, was at Bradley Gate on 2nd May. On 10th May a Great White Egret spent a few hours on the upper lake at Bretton Park. Still a very rare bird in Britain, this was the eighth Yorkshire record. An even rarer bird in British terms, a Terek Sandpiper, was on the shores of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on the afternoon of 16th June.

A further eight species that have been recorded less than ten times occurred, with Red-necked Greb, Stone Curlew and Marsh Harrier in the spring, and Raven, Sabine's Gull, Purple Sandpiper, White-fronted Goose and Little Auk in the autumn.

Ruddy Duck continues to spread in northern England and may well have bred at Ingbirchworth, whilst Quail which invaded the country on a grand scale, bred in the west of our area, actually in Greater Manchester, and could have bred near Ingbirchworth.

Pied Flycatcher bred again, two of the sites being new ones, and numbers of breeding Kingfisher were maintained. Little Ringed Plover bred for the first time since 1984 although displaying birds had been noted in three of the intervening years, and for the third time in eight years there was evidence of Fieldfare breeding.

Mike Denton summarised the records for Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, and I thank him and the many members who submitted records, and also the neighbouring societies for further information, to give us a picture of local bird life.

John E.Dale

Recorder

May 1990

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

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

Resident Breeder	Migrant Breeder
Partial Migrant	Winter Visitor
Passage Visitor	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

LITTLE GREBE *Lachybaptus ruficollis*

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Mild conditions during January and February enabled more than usual to spend the early winter on local waters. One to two at Bretton Lakes and at Blackmoorfoot and Scout Dike Reservoirs; one to five at Brookfoot Lake and Ingbirchworth Reservoir, with peaks in January at the last two waters of eight on 29th and six on 14th respectively; and one at Gunthwaite Dam; all in the first two months.

Bred at Ingbirchworth Reservoir (two pairs), Bilberry Reservoir, Bretton lakes, Gunthwaite Dam, Royd Moor Reservoir, Scout Dike Reservoir and Square Wood Dam (one pair each), and possibly at Castle Hill Dam near Penistone. Singles briefly at four other waters in spring, and one to two at five other waters in the autumn.

Autumn maxima included 19 on 22nd August, and 11 on 26th September at Ingbirchworth; 13 at Scout Dike on 17th September, and during December up to four at Bretton Lakes, six at Ingbirchworth, two at Bushaw Whams and Scout Dike, and one at Blackmoorfoot.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1).

As with the previous species more than usual in the area during the winter months.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir

Present from 11th to 19th January and 26th February to 5th November, and on three later dates. Spring maxima of seven in late May, and an autumn maxima of 19 from 5th to 27th August, and 20 on 21st September. Two pairs bred, one failing to hatch any eggs, but a second pair reared three young.

Bretton Lakes

Up to ten during early January followed by an influx in February from 15th (22), up to 26 on 1st March, and 28 on 27th March. Seven pairs nested, with five pairs rearing at least eight young. Peaks of 14 in September and October, and up to nine regularly in the last two months of the year.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir

Present from March to early November with a maximum of six on 6th May. Two pairs bred rearing three young. Probably bred successfully at Scout Dike Reservoir, but the information is incomplete, and a pair bred at Hill Top Reservoir, but the eggs were lost as the water level fell during the dry summer.

At least one pair at Brookfoot Lake but no information after April. One to two at eight other waters in the spring months.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

Rare visitor.

An adult in summer plumage at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th April (MLD et al). Eighth record for the area.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare visitor.

Two singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. One from 7th to 11th May, in summer plumage, and one on 25th September (MLD e al).

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

Rare visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th July departed eastwards after a brief stay (DMO). One found in West Bretton village on 2nd September was taken to Flamborough Head and released (JIM). Tenth and eleventh records for the area.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

One over Brookfoot Lake on 8th January. Noted flying west or north-west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 4th (two) and 26th March (one), and 22nd April (five), and in a similar direction over Crosland Moor on 1st April (four); Lindley Moor on 7th April (one), and Digley on 8th April (six). Three south at Blackmoorfoot on 16th April, and on the reservoir singles on 29th May, 3rd and 30th September, 23rd October and 9th November, and three on 2nd September. One on Bretton Lakes on 18th May.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Resident breeder (2).

At Bretton Lakes 22 pairs attempted to breed, 20 of these laying eggs and 17 raising young to the flying stage. Fortynine young reached the fledging stage from the 65 eggs laid. Thirtyfive of the young were colour ringed (as were some in 1988), and individuals were relocated on various dates from 17th June to 9th August at Winscar, Blackmoorfoot and Scout Dike Reservoirs as well as at waters in the Sheffield area (GMC).

A pair occupied an old nest of Magpie *Pica pica* at Hartcliffe Mills from 24th April to mid-May when occupation ceased. Small numbers again at Hinchliffe Mill through much of the year.

Present at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22 days in the first six months and 84 days in the last six months including five on 12th July. Noted at 30 more localities including five roosting at Armitage Bridge during October.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba*

Rare visitor.

One on 10th May at Bretton Lakes from about 10.00hrs to 17.35hrs when it departed westwards with a few Grey Herons *Ardea cinerea* moving out to feed. It spent its time preening and feeding from branches overhanging the water on the north edge of the Upper Lake (JBB at al). First record for the area. Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*
Resident breeder.

Very few reported. A pair at Cannon Hall on 8th January and 29th March. Two immatures on a dam at Scissett on 16th February, and one on 9th April, and one on Bretton Lakes on 6th April. An adult on Brookfoot Lake on 10th December.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*
Scarce winter visitor.

Four at Winscar Reservoir on 28th and 29th October (JMP). Sixteen dropped in as if to land at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 29th October, then flew off north-west (NEP). Three at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 2nd November (JFR).

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*
Scarce winter visitor.

At Boshaw Whams two adults and two immatures from 19th January to 8th February, with two additional adults on 21st, 22nd and 25th January.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchos*
Uncommon to common passage visitor.

Remarkably few skeins reported over the area, with in January only two of any size, both flying west, these being 80 over Osset on 17th and 62 over Blackmoorfoot on 25th. Twentyfour north-east over Meltham on 23rd February and three west up the Colne Valley on 27th March. One to two regularly in Bretton Park up to 27th March. Equally scarce in the autumn with parties grounded and feeding at Broadstones on 28th October (33), and Gunthwaite on 29th (one) and Ringstone Edge on 9th November (six). Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 7th October and 13th November.

Skeins of unidentified Grey geese over Greenhead Park area on 7th January (15); over Milnsbridge on 2nd March (two); over Wooldale on 23rd October (100 west), and Linthwaite on 13th November (46 north-west).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*
Rare visitor.

Two adults west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir at 15.10hr on 29th October (MLD, TC). The third record for the area and the first for the reservoir.

GREY-LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Singles at Bretton Park on 8th January and Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th April. Forty flying east over Bradley on 11th September.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*
Resident breeder.

Peaks of 350 to 380 in early February, and 300 in early November in Bretton Park. Population control again carried out here but at least nine young reared.
Bred at Dove Stones (four pairs, 15 young), Coxley Dam (two pairs, five young), Horbury Wyke, Winscar and Harden Reservoirs (one pair each). One to two pairs present during April and May at ten other waters.

Maxima at Scammonden Dam of 27 during January, and 21 during October; at Winscar Reservoir of 44 on 1st August, and 16 at Broadstones on 17th December.

DARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*
Rare visitor. Feral birds breeding annually.

Present most of the year on Bretton Lakes where a pair reared two young. Maximum of nine there on 15th November.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*
Uncommon passage visitor.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, four on 8th, three on 18th and one on 24th January; three on 23rd February; on on 22nd and two on 24th April; two on 7th and 9th May; 19 on 11th July; three on 22nd September and 30th October, and one on 7th, and 15 on 22nd November.
Four at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 20th October.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*
common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir

Eight on 20th and three on 27th January. Four on 23rd August, then recorded on 74 dates from 3rd September to 31st December, with up to eight in September (29th) and October (10th and 19th), and 11 in November, but 35 on 13th and 24 on 14th, and up to 12 in December, but 19 on 10th.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir

One on 16th July, then four on 19th September, and present regularly until 31st at least 9th December. Usually only three to five except for 24 on 21st September, and 11 on 20th October.

One to two on Bretton Lakes and Broadstones Reservoir in January, and seven on Brookfoot Lake on 3rd January.
From mid-September to mid-November one to three on occasional dates at Boshaw Whams, Digley Reservoir, Royd Moor Reservoir and Winscar Reservoir, and seven at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 4th October. Eight at Bretton Lakes on 17th and 20th September and seven on 21st, and one on 21st December.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th January; two on 17th May and two on 29th November. Two on Bretton Lakes on 11th February and on 10th September. Two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir from late November to early December. One at Royd Moor Reservoir on 23rd August.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor.

Occurred at eight waters in the early months, with usually only single figures involved, but peaks of 31 at Scammonden Dam on 9th and 20 at Horbury Wyke on 10th February.

Bred at Harden Reservoir (one pair, four young); at Scout Dike Reservoir (one pair), and probably at Rishworth Moor (four pairs), and present at two other possible breeding sites.

Well distributed during the autumn months being present regularly at 15 waters. The highest maxima were mainly during December, with 55 on 9th and 48 on 17th at Broadstones; 64 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 17th; 35 on Bretton Lakes on 28th, and 22 at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd, but there were earlier peaks of 48 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th September; 58 at Royd Moor on 21st September and 49 there on 20th October.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeder (3). Common winter visitor.

Early maxima of 40-45 during January at Brookfoot Lake. Digley and Royd Moor Reservoirs, and 102 on Bretton Lakes on 15th January. Widespread reports of successful breeding.

Autumn maxim of 165 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 21st September, and 201 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 27th September, and 66 at Broadstones Reservoir on 23rd October. 315 at Bretton Lakes on 22nd October, and 242 there on 30th November. Peaks of 28-62 at six other waters.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Four at Bretton Park on 8th January. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir four west on 5th January and three there on 21st. All other records at the latter site, with two there on 28th March, then during September two on 1st and 22nd; four on 17th; singles on 19th and 29th; four on 17th October and 34 on 21st, and finally three on 28th October.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Three at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 8th February, and two at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 23rd May.

A good scatter of records during August, with at Blackmoorfoot three on 6th and two on 14th and 26th; two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 15th and 20th, and at Ringstone Edge on 19th. One on 3rd September, two on 19th October, and one on 28th December at Blackmoorfoot, and two at Ingbirchworth on 28th October.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*
Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir

Three on 7th January, and one to two on four dates from 9th February to 1st April. Singles on 30th June and 24th July; eight on 3rd August; 13 on 9th September and then fairly regularly, with peaks of 14 on 30th October and 21 on 15th November.

Bretton Lakes

Regularly up to early March, with a maximum of 12 on 15th February. Three on 26th July, with single figures regularly to the year-end, and a maximum of 16 on 20th September and 15th November.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir

Present up to at least 15th April and from mid-July to late-December. Early maximum of 19 during January, and monthly maxima from September to December of 25 (30th), 54 (21st) 32 and 29 respectively.

Thirty on Royd Moor Reservoir on 29th January. One to five at Brookfoot Lake up to late March, and at Scout Dike Reservoir 25 on 15th January, and 28 on 12th February.

Fairly regular during the autumn at Royd Moor Reservoir including 21 on 21st September. One to four on two other waters early in the year, and at three waters in the late autumn.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir

Recorded in every month, being present daily from April to the end of November. Early maximum of 16 on 10th April, and over 20 on many dates from mid-July to late-September, including 27 on 5th September.

Bretton Lakes

Present throughout the year, with maxima of 58 on 15th January and 75 on 15th February, but fewer in the autumn, with 30 on 19th October as maximum. No breeding evidence.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir

Present throughout the year, with maximum of 29 during February, and exceptionally high numbers from mid-July into September including 136 on 25th July; 124 on 7th August, and 91 in early-September. Pairs present during the breeding season.

33

Bred at Scout Dike Reservoir (two pairs), Bilberry and Digley Reservoirs (at least two pairs), Coxley Dam (two pairs), and pairs present at five other waters on various dates in the breeding season. Peaks of 33 at Royd Moor, and 103 at Scout Dike on 9th July and 1st September would be of birds moving about the reservoirs in the Ingbirchworth area.

1988 Addition:- Three young at Bretton Lakes where the maximum for the year was 60 on 16th November.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A female remained at Hoshaw Whams up to 24th March. A male at Ringstone Edge Reservoir from 15th February to 4th April. A female at Digley Reservoir on 12th and 19th March. A male at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 26th March and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 29th, and a female there on 27th, 29th and 30th March. A female at

Blackmoorfoot on 20th April, and a male in June from 4th to 13th, and on 20th.

After an exceptional spring a poor autumn, with females at Royd Moor Reservoir on 21st September, and Ingbirchworth on 29th October.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Single males at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th March and 10th August, and a female at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 19th July.

GOLDFENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Regular but uncommon winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir

One to three on 16 dates to 3rd March. Six on 9th October (and on 30th), then otherwise one to four on 22 dates to the year end. Much scarcer than in earlier years.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir

One to two regularly to early April, then three for a few days around 9th April, and the last one on 22nd.

Two on 17th October, and one to three to the year-end, with up to four in late-October.

Occurred (though less regularly) on six other reservoirs in the early months, with maxima of four at Scout Dike and Deer Hill, and on five reservoirs from 17th October (four at Ringstone Edge) to year end.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Rare visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th July (MLD), and two on 30th October (MLD, MT).

Addition to the 1988 Report: One at Elland Gravel Pits on 21st April.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

The increase in numbers wintering locally was maintained.

Brookfoot Lake Area

Regularly from 1st January to 2nd April, with 13 on at least five dates and 17 on 29th March (KF et al).

Bretton Lakes

Four on 24th January, but otherwise only one or two reported on 11 dates from 10th January to 12th March.

Four on 18th and 19th November.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir

Five north-east on 19th, and one north on 20th February, and eight north on 26th March.

On 27th August 71 arrived at 17.45hrs and departed to the south-west five minutes later (PAC). Two west on 1st October. Two on 29th October, 23rd November and 31st December.

Three on Scammonden Dam on 1st January, and one from 1st to 10th February. Three over Bilberry Reservoir on 8th October departed to the south-west. Two on Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 25th November.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*
Scarce visitor.

A considerable increase on previous years. Birds mainly at Ingbirchworth and Scout Dike Reservoirs, commencing with a male and female at the former site on 18th February, and two males there on 16th April, and on 17th and 27th (RD, SEM). At Scout Dike Reservoir a pair displaying on 2nd May (CB). No further report from here until a male on 13th August (NEP), and then up to five from 27th August to 11th September, including an adult male on several occasions, but others all females and/or immatures. Two to three in late July to early August, at Ingbirchworth then five on 10th September, and regularly two to five there to the month-end. Four of these on 19th September were immatures (JED).

A female at Bretton Park on 14th and 19th July, and two female types on 10th, and one on 11th November at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*
Rare visitor.

A *creamcrown* at Deer Hill on 30th April (DMP). Another *creamcrown* near Winscar Reservoir on 15th June (BBSG). Fourth and fifth records for the area.

HEN / MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus cyaneus / pygargus*
Rare visitor.

A ringtail not specifically identified near Booth Dam on 8th May.

GOOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*
Sporadic breeder and rare breeder.

A pair attempted to rear young in the area but the outcome is not known.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*
Resident breeder (2).

At least eight pairs bred in the west and central areas, and probably a similar number in the eastern third of the area. Hunting through gardens at all times of the year is now quite commonplace, and occasionally pursuing Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris* at Town Centre roosts, such as two at the Civic Centre on 6th December. Recorded at Blackmoorfoot on 53 dates, and again reported from about 65 localities.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*
Rare visitor.

One over Thick Hollins, Meltham on 27th March (JT), and one moving north at Heyden Bridge on 15th April (MLD).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*
Rare passage visitor.

Singles at Bretton Lakes during the morning of 2nd May (JBB, MJW), and flying east north-east over Winscar Reservoir on 14th May (DJS).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*
Resident breeder (2).

Recorded regularly at over 70 localities, and pairs bred or probably bred at 22 of these. Positive proof of breeding obtained in the Blackmoorfoot, Booth Dean, Cawthorne, Deer Hill, Deffer Wood, Golcar and Sheepridge areas.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*
Former breeder. Scarce visitor.

Singles at Wills o'Nats on 19th January, Bretton Park on 9th, and Flockton Moor on 16th February, and Broadstones on 18th March. Three pairs bred in the area, two of them at recently located sites. Singles at three other localities between April and June, but on isolated dates. Singles at Blackmoorfoot on 21st September; at Hade Edge on 8th October; at Bradley War on 9th November, and at Ossett on 1st December.

HOOBY *Falco subbuteo*
Rare visitor.

One near Windleden Reservoir on 2nd June (JMP), and one at Royd Moor on 19th August (NEP).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*
Resident breeder (1).

For the fourth year a pair were present at Booth Dam Quarry from March to June, but although laying three eggs these failed to hatch. Pairs present at three other sites, but failed at one of these due to human interference.

Singles over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 8th March; Golcar on 28th May; Kirkheaton on 27th May; Bretton Park on 9th September, and Slaithwaite on 19th September.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*
Resident breeder (3).

Reported from six moorland areas during the breeding season, including over 80 in four tetrads on Withens Moor on 15th April.

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

After a marked increase in records in 1988 there was a sudden decline this year, with two at Digley on 7th March and 12th April; two at Bentley Spring near Emley on 11th May, and one at High Hoyland on 12th September being the only records.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*
Resident breeder (2).

Reported from three localities in the early and late months, and from only 12 places during the breeding season.
A pair with 11 young at Meltham Cop during July, and coveys of 14 at Bretton Park on 24th September, and 13 at Ingbirchworth on 21st October.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*
Scarce summer visitor.

Provisional reports indicate that the British Isles had the largest invasion of the species since 1970. Numbers in the Huddersfield area were the highest on record.

The first was heard calling at Royd Moor on 18th May and a female was seen shortly afterwards (NEP). Calling males reported in this area on 27th May (BS), and from 2nd to 6th July (many observers), with probably two on 5th (BWW), and the last heard here on 28th July (NEP). A male in the Royd Moor area gave excellent views to several people when it used a wall top and pole top as a singing perch.

The Ingbirchworth area has long been the most likely locality in the area in which to find Quail in even quite poor years, and in addition to the birds above two males (possibly three) were calling in the Broadstones Lodge area from 21st May to at least 16th July (SH), being noted also on 28th May (NEP); 10th June (SH, TP); 2nd July (NL, DMP, SP); 7th July (JMP) and 15th July (RD, SEH). One heard calling near Standedge in early June was possibly of the pair that bred near a farm at Castle Shaw, and were seen with six young in July (MC).

Additional birds included singles calling near Langsett in late May (DJS); to the west of Slaithwaite Road near Meltham Grange from 26th May to 2nd June (TD, SP); at Cartworth Moor on 4th June (RD, SEH); at two localities near Bradley in late May and June (GBS, JER); at Gunthwaite from 22nd to 27th June (CB); at Mellor Wood, Almondbury on 21st July (DSI), and two near Colne Bridge during June (JER).

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

During the breeding survey the species has been located in 49 tetrads and has apparently bred in 13 of these, but of course it is reared and released for shooting in many woodlands in the area.

WATER HAIL *Rallus aquaticus*
Scarce winter visitor.

Singles at Gunthwaite Dam on 22nd January (NEP) and 19th February (JED), and at Bretton Park on 23rd February (DP).

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

Pairs bred successfully at Bilberry Reservoir, Castle Dam (Penistone), Gunthwaite Dam, Hill Top Reservoir, Ingbirchworth Reservoir, Shelley, Slaithwaite and Thurgoland, as well as at Bretton Lakes and Cannon Hall each of which had several pairs.

COOT *Fulica atra*
Resident breeder (2).

Pre-breeding season peaks of 22 at Bretton Lakes on 15th January; 26 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 12th March, and 28 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir in late-March. Bred at all these waters and also at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Boshaw Whams, Brookfoot Lake, Cannon Hall, Castle Dam, Gunthwaite Dam, Hill Top Reservoir, Linfit (Slaithwaite), Longwood Reservoir, Meltham Mills and Royd Moor Reservoir. Autumn maxima of 29 at Ingbirchworth on 22nd August, and 62 at Bretton Lakes on 21st September.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Most records from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with one on 12th, four on 13th and two on 25th May; two on 3rd and one on 4th June, and three on 13th July. Singles at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 14th May and 31st July. One west over Booth Dam on 9th June, and two at Winscar Reservoir on 11th. One heard flying over Meltham at 23.25hrs on 31st March.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*
Rare visitor.

One on Black Moor west of the reservoir for a few hours on 19th April (TD, DMP, SP). Fifth record for the area.

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

An excellent year. A pair at Woodhead Reservoir first seen on 30th April actually bred just south of the club area as the water level fell (JMP). A pair at Elland Gravel Pits laid four eggs, but were washed out by thunder showers on 19th May (MLD). At Ringstone Edge Reservoir a pair were present from at least 23rd May, and bred hatching four young by early July, two of which were still present on 11th (MLD, JED, JMD, SH). Singles at Winscar Reservoir on 21st May (JMP), and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th, 22nd and 23rd June and 14th July. One west at Ringstone Edge on 17th August (SH). A pair located at Broadstones Reservoir in July reared four young (DMP, SP,

SH, NEP), and three remained until at least 23rd August (BA, JED). Birds possibly from this site at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 17th July (a juvenile), and at Scout Dike Reservoir on 29th and 31st August (three) and from 1st to 4th September (CB). However additional birds were at Royd Moor Reservoir on 24th June (one); 16th (two) and 17th July (one) and finally one on 21st September (SH, NEP).

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*
Uncommon passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 13th May, and two at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 14th.

A very good autumn, with the more extensive shore lines at the reservoirs than at any time during the 1980's, providing good feeding areas. Blackmoorfoot had two on 30th July, and one to four on eight dates from 17th to 30th August, and 11 on 24th August; and one to six on 19 dates from 14th September to 4th October, with seven on 22nd and 23rd September. Singles at Royd Moor Reservoir on 16th August and 21st September, and five on 24th and 25th August. One to three at Scout Dike Reservoir from 25th to 30th August, then two on 3rd and one on 17th September. One at Scammonden Dam on 28th August.

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

Good numbers in January including 55 at Blackmoorfoot on 5th; 140 at Whitley Common and 300 at Broadstones on 15th, and at the last site 100 on 19th February, and 130 on 15th March. At Ringstone Edge 60 on 22nd February; 85 on 4th April and 182 on 14th May, when 60 of the northern phase were at Hazlehead, as were many in a flock at Blackmoorfoot during April which peaked at 82 on 21st. Widespread on the usual high moorlands in the breeding season. Autumn numbers were higher than in 1988, with over 100 at Ringstone Edge during October, and a maximum of 350 on 17th. Good numbers at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 10th October (52) to 9th December (73), with peaks of 120 on 8th and 136 on 25th November. 114 at Broadstones Reservoir on 23rd October.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*
Rare passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd August, and three flying west over Royd Moor Reservoir on 28th October (JMP).

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*
Resident breeder (3-4). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

As with Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*, larger numbers wintering than in 1988. Regularly at Ringstone Edge, with peak of 4030 on 17th January; up to 600 on 22nd February, and 170 on 5th March; also at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 310 on 16th January and 285 on 15th February, and at Broadstones 500 on 15th January, and 600 on 19th February. Flocks of 200-300 at Cartworth Moor and Emley Moor, but about 700 in flight at Ingbirchworth on 22nd January. Breeding confirmed in 75 of the 110 tetrads in which located.

Early returning birds at Blackmoorfoot and Broadstones totalled about 240 each in late June. Blackmoorfoot had good numbers to the year-end, with 530 on 10th July; 500 on 1st August; 634 on 28th October; 820 on 8th November and 590 on 9th December. Over 100 at Ringstone Edge from mid-August to mid-December, with peaks of 362 on 8th October and 300 on 10th December. At Broadstones good numbers in October including 917 on 23rd; none during November, but 350 on 29th December. Flocks of about 140 at Boshaw Whams, Deer Hill and Ingbirchworth during August. 450 at Royd Moor on 21st September, and 350 at Ingbirchworth in early December.

KNUT *Calidris canutus*
Rare passage visitor.

An adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th August (MLD, JMP et al).

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*
Scarce passage visitor.

All records at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. Three on 15th May. Singles on 7th, 15th and 26th August. Additions to the 1988 Report: Two on 5th July and one on 24th September at Elland Gravel Pits.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*
Scarce passage visitor.

An immature at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 11th September (JED, SH).

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*
Rare passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th and 26th October (MLD, JP, JMP, MJ). Fifth record for the area.

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

Two each at Royd Moor Reservoir on 4th and 5th; at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 13th; Cupwith Reservoir on 17th May; six at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 14th, and four at Chew Reservoir on 29th May. One to six at Ringstone Edge, Black Moss, Black Hill and Deer Hill during June. Four west at Blackmoorfoot on 28th July. A good passage during August and September, with one to three at Blackmoorfoot in August on ten dates, and one to two there in September on 14 dates, and five on 20th. Five at Royd Moor Reservoir on 24th and 25th August, and four at Ringstone Edge on 26th August, and two on 11th September. One at Blackmoorfoot on 9th October, then present on 11 dates from 23rd October to 8th November, including ten on 29th and six on 30th October, and finally three there on 30th November.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*
Scarce passage visitor.

Seven in a marshy area by Issues Road, Digley on 31st March (NL). One in fields near the Flouch Inn on 9th April (NEP). Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd and 12th August, and 18th September (MLD, JMP).

JACK SNipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*
Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Up to three at Elland Grave) Pits from 1st to 25th February (JB, MT). Two at pools on Ringstone Edge in early February, and one on 26th and 28th March (JB). One below West Nab in mid-January (SP). One at Deer Hill on 9th and 14th November (ID).

3

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

Regularly at Ringstone Edge in the early months, including nine in early February. Seven feeding by Whitley Farm on 13th March. Thirty at Royd Moor Reservoir on 27th January. Displaying birds from late March to late May at 15 moorland localities.

Good but not exceptional numbers during the autumn months. Seven at Ringstone Edge on 5th August; seven to eight regularly at Ingbirchworth Reservoir from September, with a peak of 32 in November; 11 at Broadstones Reservoir on 11th, and 15 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 12th November. Regularly at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 10th July to the year end, with double figures on 16 dates including 21 on 28th October, 26 on 4th November, and 18 on 5th, 10th, and 11th November.

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

Singles at Merrydale on 4th and Deffer Wood on 26th February, and at Thongsbridge on 4th and Scammonden on 12th March. Roding birds at Bradley Gate, Bretton Park, Coxley Valley, Holme Styes, Jackson Bridge and Yateholme during April and May.

The wing of a bird found amongst prey of Peregrine, *Falco peregrinus*, at Booth Dam on 24th May.

Singles at Scammonden on 30th October, and 26th December.

WILMOREL *Numenius phaeopus*
Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Two at Broadstones Reservoir on 16th July. Two west at Blackmoorfoot on 21st, and one on 23rd, and one west at Crosland Moor on 22nd July, and one at the reservoir on 30th. One west over Cowcliffe on 3rd August.

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

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 6th March, then singles over the next few days to the 12th when one to three appeared at Digley,

Broadstones and Scammonden. Nine at Broadstones on 13th; 12 at Whitley Common on 15th March, and at Digley on 23rd, and nine at Deer Hill on 29th.

Displaying birds at Black Moss, Booth Dean, Broadstones, Digley, Ingbirchworth, Langsett, Roughbirchworth, Rishworth Moor, Slaithwaite Moor and Whitley Common. Continues to breed and attempt to breed in lower eastern sites near Deffer Wood, Bretton Park and Stockmoor Common.

None recorded at any locality after August apart from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with singles on two September dates, and in each of the last three months up to the last on 15th December, but also three on 18th and 28th October.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*
Rare passage visitor.

One flew into Broadstones Reservoir on 24th August, but departed south a few moments later (NEP).

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*
Migrant breeder (1). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

First two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 12th March, and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir the following day. No more until 26th March after which birds at Broadstones and Whitley Common on 29th. Recorded at Blackmoorfoot on five days each in March and April; 11 days in May and three in June. Displaying birds and other evidence indicating breeding at Broadstones, Cupwith Reservoir, Whitley Common and Winscar Reservoir, and at Black Moss with six on 16th May, and eight on 6th June. Recorded again at Blackmoorfoot on eight days in July and three in August, then three on 15th September, and one on 7th November, and one at Ingbirchworth on 9th December.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Singles at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 5th, and at Broadstones Reservoir from 8th to 10th August; two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd and 31st August, and at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 14th. Three at Scout Dike Reservoir on 20th August, and one to two there from 31st August to 11th September and at Ingbirchworth Reservoir from 3rd to 11th and 16th September. Last singles at Blackmoorfoot on 27th September, and at Scout Dike on 1st October.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*
Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

One heard calling at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th July and singles there on 3rd and 5th September. One at Bretton Park on 28th and 29th August. Singles at Scout Dike Reservoir on 27th August, 1st, 10th and 17th September. One at Elland Gravel Pits on two days during November. Addition to the 1988 report: One at Elland Gravel Pits on 8th and 15th August.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus*

Rare visitor.

One in full summer plumage for about five hours at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th June (MLD, MT, TC et al). First record for the area and the second for Yorkshire. Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2).

One at Langsett on 13th April; three flying north-west over Skelmanthorpe on 15th; one at Booth Wood Dam on 18th and two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 22nd April, and present at five more places by the month end.

Bred in at least 12 localities, with about 15 pairs involved.

Maxima of four at Ingbirchworth on 15th July, and five at Blackmoorfoot on 23rd August.

Late singles at three places in September, and at Ingbirchworth on 7th and Scout Dike Reservoir on 8th October.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th May (MLD, DMD).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor.

An adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th and 15th January (MLD, JMP, MT, JP); a second-winter there on 15th December (MLD, MT), and a first-winter on 25th, 26th and 29th December (MLD, MT, JMP). A second-year bird at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 23rd July (SH).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor.

Six, of which five were adults, at Ingbirchworth Reservoir at 14.00hrs on 22nd April; also seen at Scout Dike Reservoir at 18.30hrs (DJS et al).

An adult and three first-summer birds at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 6th May eventually departed north-east (MLT, MT).

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

Rare visitor.

An adult in full summer plumage at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd August (DMD), and a juvenile there on 31st October (MLD, MT).

Fourth and fifth records for the reservoir and the area.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Resident breeder (1). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Counts of this species combined with Common Gull *Larus canus* roosting at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir showed peaks of 6,150 on 9th February and 4,450 on 7th March, and 5,900 on 9th December. On 23rd August 2,250 of Black-headed Gull only.

As usual peak counts at other reservoirs were much lower with at Ingbirchworth, 300 in January and 350 in December, and at Ringstone Edge 350 on 1st January; 1,500 on 31st July, 430 on 30th September, and 238 on 5th December.

At Black Moss 34 adults present on 16th May when 11 nests held eggs, but by 6th June all nests were empty and no adults were in the area (MLD).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common winter and passage visitor.

No really high counts reported, but recorded in the area throughout the year with lowest numbers from May to August.

Fifty at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 1st January, and 98 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 13th October.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Monthly maxima at the Blackmoorfoot Reservoir roost as follows: January 11 (20th & 26th); February 9 (1st & 21st); March 14 (10th); April 17 (23rd); May 14 (14th); June 7 (25th); July 77 (18th); August 106 (21st); September 183 (21st); October 252 (30th); November 9 (23rd); December 9 (2nd, 5th & 8th). 161 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 24th July, and 154 at Broadstones Reservoir on 28th October. A leucistic first-summer bird at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd & 3rd August, and a bird showing characteristics of the race *Larus fuscus intermedius* there on 22nd October. Singles showing characteristics of the race *Larus fuscus fuscus* at Broadstones on 12th and at Ringstone Edge on 14th August.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

The Blackmoorfoot Reservoir roost had peaks of 73 on 26th January; 99 on 17th February; down to 11 on 13th March and no more than three until October with the next three-figure count 121 on 25th November, and a December maximum of 213 on 30th. Birds showing characteristics of the race *Larus argentatus michahellis* on three July; two August and seven October dates, and at Broadstones Reservoir on 6th, 23rd and 28th October (MLD, JMP).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Scarce winter visitor.

A sub-adult on 16th January (JMP, JP), and a second winter bird on 28th December (MLD, MI, JMP), both at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*
Scarce winter visitor.

A second-winter bird at Broadstones Reservoir on 18th February (DJS).
A first-winter bird at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th December (MLD, MT).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*
Common winter visitor.

Monthly maxima at the Blackmoorfoot Reservoir roost of 137 on 2nd January; 28 on 19th February; singles in March, April and September, but none in the intervening months, then five on 30th October; 44 on 27th November, and 135 on 31st December.

Although noted at six other localities numbers were all in single figures apart from 12-15 on a few days at Broadstones Reservoir in January and February.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*
Scarce passage visitor.

A poor year with a single adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th February, 30th July and 29th October, and an immature west on 9th September.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*
Rare passage visitor.

Addition to the 1988 Report: One at Broadstones Reservoir on 24th September (BDSG).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Singles during May at Inghirchworth Reservoir on 11th, and Boshaw Whams on 12th, and Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th, where also one on 10th and two on 16th July, and during August one on 8th and 24th, two on 19th and 23rd and six on 26th, and three on 5th September.

Birds reported as 'Commic' terns, being either of this or the next species, occurred at Booth Dam on 15th May and 23rd June; at Blackmoorfoot on 6th and 11th May, 18th June (two), 18th July (14), and 24th August (seven); over Leeds Road on 2nd August, and at Inghirchworth Reservoir on 22nd September (three).

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th May and 12th August, and one on 23rd August, and one at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 22nd August.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*
Scarce passage visitor.

Nine at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 8th May; four at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd May, and one on 10th July.

LITTLE AUK *Alie alie*
Rare visitor.

One over Bretton Lakes on 13th November departed to the west (JBB, MJW). Third record for the area.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*
Resident breeder.

Reports from over 20 localities, with breeding at six of these. No large flocks reported the highest counts being 15 west at Blackmoorfoot on 15th January, and 20 near Royd Moor Reservoir on 21st September. A pair attempting to breed in a nest box at Gunthwaite failed because Grey Squirrels *Sciurus carolinensis* built a drey on top of the eggs.

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

For the fourth year in succession no large flocks or movement reported. 86 at New Park, Denby Dale on 6th February, and 65 at Cawthorne Park on 29th March, and in December at Bretton Park 200 on 16th and 100 on 31st.
Very widespread breeding species in all types of woodland.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*
Resident breeder (3).

Over 30 in West Bretton on 8th January; at least 12 roosting at a Lepton woodland on 10th February; 23 in a Meltham garden on 17th March, and 13 at Lockwood Brewery on 25th December.

TURKISH DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*
Migrant breeder.

Singing males in Deffer Wood on 9th (PS), and 22nd May (WNHS). One flew over Cowcliffe on 18th June (GBS). Two in fields opposite entrance to Bretton Country Park on 14th July (JBB, MT), and one at Highfield Farm, Slaithwaite on 12th July (BA).

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*
Migrant breeder (2).

Singles at Digley on 16th April in the Coxley Valley on 18th April; at Thurstonland on 21st and at Lumb Lane, Almondbury on 24th, but no more reported until 6th May when birds were at Crowden, Scammonden and Shelley, and then at Hey Clough, Bilberry on 7th. Present at 12 more localities in May and a further six in June. A pair of Dunnocks

Prunella modularis fostered a chick in Lower Fell Greave. One at Penny Hill near Stainland on 9th July was the last record.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*
Resident breeder (1).

One at Crimble Clough, Slaithwaite on 17th March (DMe). One reported as roosting on an electric power line at Beestonley Lane on 22nd May by a Mr. T. Blackburn.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*
Resident breeder (2).

Bred successfully at Upper Heaton, Kirkheaton, Bretton Park and Hoyland Swaine, and probably bred or attempted to breed at Almondbury, Broadstones, Digley, Lindley Moor and Slaithwaite, and present at a further 15 sites during the breeding season.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*
Resident breeder (2).

Pairs bred at Armitage Bridge, Bretton Park, Deffer Wood, Longwood, Lower Fell Greave and Skelmanthorpe, and probably at Honley Wood and Quarmby as well as being present at 16 other likely breeding sites. A pair attempting to breed in a nest box at Hoyland Swaine incredibly suffered the same fate as a pair of Stock Doves *Columba oenas* in that Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* built a drey on top of the eggs (CB).

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*
Resident breeder (1).

At least one present at a known breeding site on 9th April, and a pair at a new site in the area on open moorland.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*
Resident / migrant breeder (1). Scarce winter / passage visitor.

Singles near Bilberry on 1st January, and at Flight Hill on 22nd. One to two on Slaithwaite Moor and Scammonden from 26th March to 17th April. Many records in the south and south-west of the area, where three pairs probably bred, birds being reported from late March to 14th August. One to two on five dates between 7th September and 10th December (three on last date) in the Cupwith and Dean Head Reservoirs area; one at Deer Hill on 2nd September and 26th December; one at Blackmoorfoot on 31st October, and two on 4th and 5th November - concluding an exceptional year.

SWIFT *Apus apus*
Migrant breeder (2).

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th April, and up to three by 30th; two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 26th and six on 27th April, and two at Hill Top Reservoir on 29th April represent an earlier arrival than

usual. Subsequently arrived at five more localities by 7th May. The highest numbers were observed over the reservoirs at Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth, with at the former 30 on 9th and 10th May; 160 on 12th and 31st, over 200 on 25th May, and 250 on 8th June; and at the latter 34 on 1st; 70 on 10th; 200 on 13th, and 40 on 31st May. An impression of an early departure with all regular sites clear by 11th August. Late singles at Scout Dike on 1st September; Horbury Bridge on 4th; Bretton Park on 14th, and two at Mirfield on 13th.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo althia*
Resident breeder (1).

Numbers maintained at the new high levels reached in 1988. At least nine pairs bred at seven localities. One pair failed when the nest was vandalised. Regularly recorded at six localities at which breeding probably occurred.

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

Pairs bred at Bradley Wood, Deffer Wood, Digley, Lower Fell Greave, Silkstone and Thornhill. Reported from 12 other woodland localities during the breeding season, and singles at six more localities in the winter months.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major*
Resident breeder (2).

Bred at Armitage Bridge, Bradley (five pairs in the area), Bretton Park, Longwood, Meltham (two sites), Thurgoland and Thurstonland, and probably at Beaumont Park and near Denby Dale and near Honley. Present in five other areas in the breeding season. Fed at garden bird tables at Edgerton, Hinchliffe Mill, Meltham and Ossett during the winter months.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus minor*
Resident breeder (1).

Singles at Silkstone Sewage farm on 8th January, and Cannon Hall on 30th April. A total of three pairs at woodland in the Bradley area. One of these pairs reared three young (JER). Recorded in the Bretton Park area on 27 dates, with two birds on three occasions, but breeding not proved. Singles at Royd Moor on 2nd, and Skelmanthorpe on 20th July, and in the Coxley Valley on 28th December.

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

About 30 near Colne Bridge on 21st January and one near Skelmanthorpe on 26th. Birds returned to at least four breeding areas in February. Although recorded in 132 of the 150 tetrads of the breeding survey area breeding proved in only 63. Twenty-six west at Blackmoorfoot on 8th October. Up to six in the Skelmanthorpe area in early December.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*
Migrant, rare breeder.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th March was the earliest ever recorded in the area, but was just one of an influx into the county at that time. Two there on 26th and three on 27th March, and 40 over Bretton Lakes on 28th. Noted during April at both Blackmoorfoot and Ingbyrchworth Reservoirs on three dates, with maxima of seven on 2nd and 23rd respectively, and at Bretton Lakes on eight days including 20 on 16th.

No report of breeding in the area, but recorded again in May at the three localities above including 20 at Ingbyrchworth on 10th. Eight at Blackmoorfoot on 23rd July, and singles on two July and four August dates. Three at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 28th August, and one to two at four sites in September including the last one at Cannon Hall on 19th.

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

An early single at Bretton Park on 28th March, then two there and one at Digley on 1st April; two more at Bretton on 9th and 25 on 11th from which date to 15th April birds arrived at ten more localities. On 23rd April 10 at Blackmoorfoot, 30 at Bretton, and over 20 at Brookfoot Lake. Distribution widened and numbers increased to peak on 12th May, with over 50 at Blackmoorfoot; 180 at Boshaw Whams, and 400 at Ingbyrchworth Reservoir.

Apparently had a satisfactory breeding season, and breeding has now been proved in 108 tetrads in the area.

Autumn counts were not exceptional, and included 80 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 28th August; over 100 each at Ramsden Clough and Cannon Hall on 19th September, and 40 to 60 at seven other places between 2nd and 24th September. Late individuals at Scammonden and Blackmoorfoot on 30th September; Cowcliffe on 13th October, and Bretton Park on 29th October.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*
Migrant breeder (3).

Relatively late in arriving, with four at Bretton Park on 11th April; two at Hill Top Reservoir on 12th, and four at Ingbyrchworth Reservoir on 14th, then small numbers at three other sites before the month-end, including 13 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd April.

Quite widespread during May, but numbers not high, with over 50 each at Ingbyrchworth on 10th, and Silkstone Sewage farm on 25th, and no more than 30 elsewhere. 56 at Blackmoorfoot on 4th June.

Feeding flocks of 40 to 80 at six places between 2nd and 21st September, including 80 over Toothill Bank on 13th, and also over 140 at Blackmoorfoot on 14th, and 82 on 24th September.

Last one at Hill Top Reservoir on 8th October.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*
Rare visitor.

One at Bradley Gate on 2nd May (JER). First record for the area. Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivias*
Migrant breeder (3).

One at Bretton Park on 15th April; singing males near Thurstonland on 24th and 25th; at Bretton again on 28th, and 30th, and Carlecotes on 29th. Appeared at ten localities in the first week of May, with at least 15 in Deffer Wood on 2nd. Fifty-nine singing males located during May including seven in the Holme Styes area. Recorded at various breeding sites into July, but only one later, a bird flying south at Low Common near Broadstones on 15th September.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*
Resident breeder (4-5). Partial migrant.

No records in the early months before the usual return to upland localities during March. Two in song at Scammonden on 12th March, and over 30 there on 25th; 8 at Meltham Cop on 17th; 100 near Rishworth on 25th, and small numbers at other sites by the end of March. Breeding has now been proved in 90 tetrads, with birds located in a further 13. Flocks of 50 at Scammonden on 12th September; 85 on Lindley Moor, and 40 at Royd Edge Clough on 21st September. Visible migration observed from Ellentree Brow (near Snailsden Moss) gave counts of 151 on 23rd, and 360 on 24th September flying south, and also 78 south at Blackmoorfoot on 1st November. Last two at Lindley Moor on 5th November.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*
Rare visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th October (MLD).
Addition to the 1988 Report: One over Pule Hill on 22nd October (JMP).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*
Migrant breeder (1).

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd and 29th April, and Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 26th and 27th April, and at both sites on 1st May. A pair present near the Bretton Country Park entrance from 14th May bred in fields across the road. One to two in the Bretton area on six dates to 22nd June. Singles in the Denby Dale area on 5th and 9th June and 28th July; at Royd Moor Reservoir on 4th July; Deer Hill Reservoir on 14th, and Broadstones on 16th July (a juvenile). One to two at Ringstone Edge Reservoir from 11th July to 28th August (six dates), and at Blackmoorfoot from 16th July to 26th August (11 dates). Three at Scout Dike Reservoir on 10th August; one at Broadstones on 28th August, and singles at Bretton Park on 27th August and 14th September.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*
Resident breeder (2).

Bred at Ashbrow Mills, Aspley Mills, Bretton Park, Clayton West, Denby Dale, Gawthorpe, Hill Top Reservoir, Holywell Brook, Lockwood, Meltham Mills, Nirfield, Upper Little Don and Windy Bank Wood. Pairs present

at eight more sites, and singles at four other possible breeding sites.

Eight at Scout Dike on 8th August, and nine at Holme Styes on 21st September.

Addition to the 1988 Report: 13 at Ingbirchworth on 22nd August.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Resident breeder (3).

Roost of 17 in bushes at Blackmoorfoot on 28th March, and over 50 in willows on 28th June. over 30 roosted on the shore of Booth Dam on 27th April, and 57 roosted on moorland to the west on 10th May.

Proof of breeding in 84 tetrads in the area during the four seasons of the survey.

Fifty at Scout Dike Reservoir on 8th August.

Birds showing the characteristics of White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*, at Ingbirchworth on 26th, 27th and 28th April (two on 28th), and near Booth Dam on 10th May.

Birds possibly roosting at Brook Motors where over 20 present early and late in the day in mid-March.

WAXWING *Bombusilla garrulus*

Winter visitor. Rare-uncommon.

Three present in the West Bretton area from 1st to 14th January, then from five to seven from 19th January to 11th February, were seen by many observers at the roundabout, in the village, and at Spring Wood. Five regularly in the Victoria Road area of Lockwood up to 24th January, but six on 8th. Singles in January at Lepton Wood on 1st; Cowcliffe on 4th, and Lindley Moor on 28th.

Large numbers in the Ossett area from 3rd to 17th April, with 38 on 11th and 17th, and 58-68 on 13th (60 et al). 55 at the edge of Lower Fell Greave Wood on 19th April (JER).

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2).

Pairs bred at Chew Brook (two), Denby Dale, Digley Bottom, Hill Top Reservoir, Holme Clough, March Haigh, Oxygrains Beck, Upper Little Don and West Vale (two broods of five from one pair). Pairs or singles present at 15 other suitable localities.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (3-4).

After another relatively mild winter the species is becoming much more evident, and widespread with good numbers in moorland cloughs and higher woodlands. Breeding now proved in 90 tetrads and present in a further 34.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*
Resident breeder (3).

Breeding now proved for 72 tetrads, and present in a further 40. Up to 15 in Greenhead Park on 31st January.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*
Resident breeder (4-5).

Breeding now proved for 95 tetrads, and present in a further 18.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Rare visitor.

An adult male on the shore of Deer Hill Reservoir on 19th July (MLD, MT).

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Migrant breeder (2).

A male in Windy Bank Wood, Meltham on 29th April; one at Holywell Brook on 1st May, and singles at Bradley Gate, Deffer Wood and Lindley Moor on 2nd May. Present at five more localities by 9th May. Bred at Boothroyd Wood, the Digley area, Cliff Wood (Langsett), Ramsden Clough, and the Upper Little Don totalling at least 18 pairs. At least seven males on territory elsewhere. August records of singles at Scout Dike (12th) and Lindley Moor (17th), and three at Hill Top on 26th, and two at Blackmoorfoot on 27th.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Migrant breeder (2).

None located until 3rd May when a male was at Holme Styes then others at Scammonden and Crowden (three) on 6th May, and Digley on 7th. Eleven males at Holme Styes on 21st May. Bred in the Digley; Scammonden (three pairs) and Rishworth Moor areas, and present at Holme Styes, Crowden, Royd Edge and Little Don areas in the breeding season. Last records on 10th September, with one at Scout Dike and two at Scammonden.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*
Occasional breeder (1). Scarce passage and winter visitor.

One female near Will's o'Nats on 20th January and 19th February and again on 27th September (TD, MLD). Single male at Scammonden on 9th (JB) and Hazlehead on 25th February (CB). A male at Scammonden on 30th September accompanied by a female from 31st October to 5th December (JED, JMD, SH). A male and female at Deer Hill on 9th November, and a male on 26th (TD).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Migrant breeder (2).

A male at Royd Edge Clough on 10th March (MT) was the earliest ever for the area. Two at Whitley Common on 15th March. Singles at Scammonden on 25th (three on 28th); Booth Dam on 26th, Longwood Edge on 28th, and Lindley Moor on 30th; two each at Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth on 26th, and three at Digley on 27th increasing to ten by 31st. Nine in Royd Edge Clough on 9th April. Pairs bred at Deer Hill, Digley, Rishworth Moor, Chew Brook and Scammonden, and were present at eight other probable breeding localities. Seven immatures by Cupwith Reservoir on 5th August. Still present in eight localities during September, with singles at Blackmoorfoot and Leeds Road on 26th, and Broadstones on 30th. Five individuals probably of the Greenland race *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa* near Ingbirchworth on 2nd May (JED).

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*
Migrant breeder (2).

A male at Baitings Dam on 12th March was the earliest ever recorded (BS). Further males at Royd Edge Clough on 19th and Digley on 25th, then two birds at Booth Dam on 26th, and at Ramsden Clough on 29th. The usual build up in the Digley area peaked at 15 on 16th April, and 16 on 19th. At least three pairs bred in that area, and others bred at Booth Dam, Chew Brook, Heyden Bridge, Oxygrains Beck, and Royd Edge Clough, and pairs were present in four other places. Although birds doubtless remained in the area into autumn none were reported after June.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*
Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

At least 22 in Greenhead Park on 31st January. Widespread reports of breeding, which has now been confirmed in 105 tetrads.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*
Numerous passage and winter visitor. Occasional breeder.

Flocks of 40 to 70 at four sites in January, and of 50 to 80 at four more in February. Up to 300 in Bretton Park on 5th and 6th February, and 200 at Scammonden on 17th January. During March flocks of 40 to 80 at six sites; 250 at Broadstones on 1st and 200 south-west over Denby Dale on 25th. 150 at Cannon Hall on 7th April, and further flocks of 60 to 70 at four sites up to 22nd, and finally seven north over Skelmanthorpe on 1st May. A pair food carrying at a site in the area in late May.

Eight west over Lindley Moor on 11th October, and 49 on 16th. Small numbers at six more sites from 12th to 21st October. At Scammonden 60 on 16th, 86 on 18th and 150 on 31st October; at West Nab 250 west on 21st; over Crossley's Plantation 140 west on 28th; 120 at Digley on 18th, and 90 at Blackmoorfoot on 28th October. Few in November apart from 66 at Blackmoorfoot and 40 at Hill Top on 4th, and 50 at Bretton

Park at the month-end. Flocks of 40 to 80 at four sites in December. Three flocks totalling 700 to 1,000 in the Ingbirchworth area on 29th December and 220 at Royd Edge Clough on 30th. A partial albino at Broadstones on 29th December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*
Resident breeder (1).

Breeding has been confirmed in 76 of the 100 tetrads in which the species has been located.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*
Numerous passage and winter visitor.

With the exception of 200 in Bretton Park on 17th February flocks were relatively small, six sites having 40 to 57 during January and February. Very few in the area by late March, and only three April records the last being of two in Bretton Park on 16th. After two in Scammonden on 4th October and one heard over Huddersfield on 10th, a steady influx took place from 11th into early November. Over Lindley Moor 171 on 11th and 131 on 16th October all flying west. 200 south-west over Cupwith and 285 in Bretton Park on 15th October; 400 at Blackmoorfoot on 28th, and 200 at Digley and 120 at Scammonden on 30th October. 68 south and eight west over Blackmoorfoot on 1st November. Few reported during the rest of November and December, with flocks of 30 at Bretton Park and Cannon Hall being the largest in this period.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*
Resident breeder (3).

Good sized flocks in the early autumn of 23 at Deer Hill on 9th July; 28 on 27th August, and 23 on 2nd September at Blackmoorfoot; 19 at Grimescar on 3rd, and 22 at Digley on 14th September, and 42 at Bretton Park on 11th. Breeding has been confirmed in 93 tetrads.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*
Occasional migrant breeder.

One singing at Horbury Wyke on 4th July (PS), and one caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 21st July (MLD).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Migrant breeder (1).

One singing near Helme Hall on 8th May, and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th. Singing males at Horbury on 29th May; Horbury Wyke on 4th July, and Ingbirchworth on 16th July. Singles caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 20th and 22nd July, and 6th and 12th August, and another controlled on 20th July.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*
Migrant breeder (1).

Singles at Horbury on 30th April; Bretton Park and Coxley Wood on 3rd May; Gunthwaite on 6th May, and a male at Leeds Road Playing Fields from 2nd to 23rd May. A male in song at Stockmoor Common on 12th May, and a pair in Bradley Wood in May and June. Four at Scout Dike from 8th to 10th August.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*
Migrant breeder (2).

One at Horbury Wyke and two at Horbury on 30th April. A total of 28 singing males located in the area during May, 11 of which were along the Calder Valley in the Horbury area. Pairs bred at Bradley Wood, Gunthwaite and near Silkstone, and a further five singing males were located during June. Last one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th August. Addition to the 1988 Report: At least five pairs in the Elland Gravel Pits area on 22nd May.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*
Migrant breeder (2).

Three singing males in Deffer Wood on 2nd May. A total of 27 singing males located during May including one each at Digley Bottom and Thurstonland, as well as more usual sites such as Deffer (six) and Bretton Park (five). No late records. The latest noted were singles caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 17th and 18th July.

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

A male at Bretton Park and a female at Lockwood on 17th April. Slow to arrive after this date, with the main influx in early May during which month 42 males were located, and a further 10 during June, most of which were probably at breeding sites. Nine caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir between 2nd July and 2nd September. One caught at Bretton Park on 21st September. A winter record of a male at Blacker Wood on 31st December.

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

Singles in the Coxley Valley on 3rd, and in Windy Bank Wood on 6th May. Located at five more sites during the next seven days, including one at Blackmoorfoot on 8th. Singing males at Boothroyd Wood and Denby Dale (two each), Hagg Wood, Honley Wood, Hoyland Bank, Spring Wood (Netherton), and Spring and Cliff Woods near Lungsett, with one at each site. Breeding probably occurred at most of these. At least two pairs at Digley Bottom, and in the Meltham Mills area where breeding was proved there were possibly up to nine males during May in Slate Pits, Windy Bank and Greasy Slack Woods. One at Bretton Park on 13th August.

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

Several early records including one in Lower Fell Greave on 5th March, and a probable at Elland Gravel Pits on 12th March. Others at Bretton Park on 25th (four on 31st); Elland Gravel Pits on 26th; canal at Golcar on 27th; Lindley Moor and Ingbirchworth on 28th; Hagg Wood and Deffer Wood (five) on 29th, and Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 31st March. Eight males in Deffer Wood on 15th April, but probably only half that number nested, as did about four pairs at Bretton Park. Six singing males at Bank Wood, Emley on 16th April.

At least 17 singing males elsewhere from April to June in 13 localities.

Seven caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot between 16th July and 21st September.

One at Thick Hollins, Meltham on 22nd October.

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

Early singing males at Netherton Fold on 31st March (two); at Bretton Park on 1st April (three); one at Leeds Road Playing Fields on 7th April, then one to five at five sites on 9th April. Appeared at four more sites up to 14th, and then a big influx on 15th (over 30 in Deffer Wood) and 16th, with birds at 20 localities.

Breeding proved in 82 of the 122 tetrads in which the species has been located in the past four seasons.

Late singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th and Royd Moor Reservoir on 26th September.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (2-3). Common passage visitor.

Over 30 in Deffer Wood on 22nd January and 29th March, and up to 60 on 26th February. Some movement through the area in late March and early April.

Breeding proved in 8 tetrads of the 21 in which the species has been located.

Considerable movement through the area from about 16th September to 5th November. Birds in many garden areas, some non-breeding woodlands, and in particular Blackmoorfoot Reservoir where many were caught and ringed.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*
Migrant breeder (2-3).

One at Hagg Wood, Thongsbridge on 13th May, and another at Meltham Mills on 14th, and others at seven places later in May. Bred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Bradley Wood, Bretton Park, Gunthwaite, Hill Top Reservoir and Little Don Valley, and probably at Digley Bottom and Windy Bank Wood.

Last ones at Hinchliffe Mill on 23rd; Scammonden on 28th August, and Blackmoorfoot on 3rd September (eight caught and ringed from 26th July), and by Hill Top Reservoir on 10th September.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*
Migrant breeder (1).

First two males at Cliffe Wood, Langsett on 10th May, where two to three pairs bred. Other pairs bred at Digley Bottom and Boothroyd Wood, and food carrying was observed by the River Colne near Bradley on 17th June. A singing male at Bretton Park on 30th May. One caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 13th August. The species has been increasing in the area in recent years and has now bred in five of the 12 tetrads in which it has appeared.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudata*
Resident breeder (2).

Exceptional numbers in Bretton Park at both ends of the year. Fifteen on 8th January and 5th February, and 20 on 26th February and 19th March; 27 on 25th October, 40 on 1st November, and 30 on 16th December, and double figure parties at Bretton on a few other dates. Flocks seen in other localities were not exceptional, and the larger ones were confined to the year-end including 20 near Denby Dale on 19th September, and 15 on 26th October. Breeding has been proved in 26 tetrads.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*
Rare visitor.

Singles in Deffer Wood on 22nd January (DB), and at Cowcliffe on 31st December (GBS).

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*
Resident breeder (2).

Singles at Hill Top Reservoir on 7th and 14th January; Scout Dike on 12th February, and Boothroyd Wood on 12th March. Pairs at Lower Whitley on 17th March; Elland Gravel Pits in early April; Bradley Wood in April, and Deffer Wood on 2nd May. One nest building at Bank Wood, Emley on 16th April.

Recorded at Bretton Park in March (pair on 26th); then a singing male in the breeding season; in September with three on 8th, and on four more dates up to 16th December.

Singles at Hill Top (15th April, 16th September); Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (20th June); Royd Moor (9th July); Skelmanthorpe (30th July); Blacker Wood (1st October and three on 26th); Scammonden (4th October) and Ingbirchworth (9th December).

COAL TIT *Parus ater*
Resident breeder (3).

Noted regularly feeding in gardens that are in the main away from breeding areas, and in particular from mid-September onwards when there would appear to have been an influx.

No large flocks apart from one of over 20 in Deffer Wood on 29th March.

Breeding proved in 36 tetrads.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*
Resident breeder (5).

No flocks of any size apart from 40 in Bretton Park on 15th November.
Breeding now proved in 107 of the 120 tetrads in which located.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*
Resident breeder (4).

A flock of about 40 in Bretton Park on 15th November.
Breeding now proved in 85 of the 109 tetrads in which located.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europea*
Resident breeder (1).

One at Thick Hollins on 17th February. A pair bred at Windy Bank Wood being seen regularly from 8th March to 10th June, when the young were ready to leave the nest (DSI, DMan et al).
One in Beaumont Park on 25th February, and a pair from 8th March to at least 4th June, when young were ready to leave the nest.

Two visited an Arkenley Lane, Almondbury garden regularly in the early winter. One at Bank Wood, Emley on 16th April, and a pair in Lower Fell Breave in April. A pair at New Park, Denby Dale on 5th and 16th June, with one bird food carrying on 5th.
One to two regularly observed in Bretton Park from early September to the year-end. One at Cannon Hall on 15th October.

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

Pairs at 16 localities in the breeding season, and birds at a similar number in the winter months.
Located in 56 tetrads and breeding in 32 of these.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*
Resident breeder (2).

No exceptional numbers or movements recorded, but obviously widely distributed with records from 25 localities, and has now been proved to breed in 41 tetrads, and is present in a further 36.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*
Resident breeder (4).

Sixty-six were feeding on a slurried field at Elland Power Station on 5th January, and 40 fed on a field by Grimes Lane on 25th. Eighty-three roosted at Blackmoorfoot on 13th January and 74 on 18th February, with 64 to 68 between those dates. 125 roosting at Bradley Boulevard on 7th February, with similar numbers on other evenings to the month end. 08 roosting at Blackmoorfoot on 10th November.
Breeding proved in 98 of the 120 tetrads in which located.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*
Resident breeder (4).

In the Trinity Church area from 250 to 450 moving south-west in the early mornings of late November and early December were presumably dispersing from a roost. A leucistic individual in a feeding flock near Blackmoorfoot on 25th November. Breeding in 52 of the 89 tetrads in which located.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*
Resident breeder (5).

Continues to flourish in many rookeries in the area.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*
Resident breeder (3).

Twenty-seven near Old Lindley on 20th February, and about 40 near Booth Dam Quarry on 25th and 27th March. Breeding proved in 96 of the 126 tetrads in which located.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*
Rare visitor.

One flying north-west over the River Colne at Bradley on 22nd July (JER). Fourth record for the area.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*
Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

The large Town Centre roost is still occupied during many months of the year, but building usage has changed following preventative measures taken since we carried out a survey in the years 1981 and 1982.

At the present time breeding has been proved in 109 tetrads the most for any species, of 122 in which located.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*
Resident breeder (5).

Breeding proved in 104 tetrads of the 112 in which located.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*
Resident breeder (2).

More records than in recent year with reports from 18 areas. Six at Wheatley Hill, Deffer on 22nd January, and 20 on Flockton Moor on 25th. Present at two sites near Almondbury from 15th March to 21st May, with seven at Lumb Lane on the first date. Noted at Thurstonland from 17th April to 24th June, with at least ten in a flock and a pair on 21st April.

Evidence of breeding at Clayton West, Kirkheaton, Linfit, Shepley, Upper Cumberworth and Penny Hill (Stainland).

Singles at Bretton Park on 27th June and Broadstones on 7th July; two at Flockton on 5th May, and at Castle Dam on 4th July and three at Coates (near Silkstone) on 5th July.

A flock of about 40 near Scout Dike Reservoir on 16th July.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor.

Apart from about 150 on the southern edge of the area between Langsett and Upper Midhope on 18th January no large flocks were reported in the early months.

Breeding proved for 70 of the 121 tetrads in which located.

104 south over Ellentree Brow on 24th September, and on 16th October 15 west at Lindley Moor, and 11 west at Ringstone Edge. Flock of over 50 at Bretton Park on 15th October, and flocks of over 30 at Greenhead Park on 15th November and Cannon Hall on 21st.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common winter visitor.

Fed in gardens at Meltham (three), Wooldale, Hinchliffe Mill, Gunthwaite and Cowcliffe, in the early months, usually small numbers, but eight at Hinchliffe Mill in mid-February where one to two occurred up to late-April. Up to five at feeders at Morton Wood and Cannon Hall in January and February. Noted regularly at Hade Edge from January (17 on 30th) into April. A flock of about 50 between Langsett and Upper Midhope on 18th January. Fifteen roosting in bushes at Digley on 27th March, and one on 2nd April. One at Ingbirchworth on 18th March and a singing male there on 15th April. Two at Blackmoorfoot on 16th and 24th April, and singles at Hill Top Reservoir on 12th March, and Deffer Wood on 12th April.

Four in Bretton Park on 12th October then small numbers on several dates up to 25th November (20), and 26th (40), and a peak of 100 to 120 on 27th. Ten to twenty regularly throughout December. One to two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (six dates, 17th October to 31st December); Thick Hollins on 14th November; Slate Pits Wood on 28th December, and Annat Royd on 29th.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4).

Nineteen caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 26th February, and at least 26 on feeders at Cannon Hall on 29th March. Breeding proved in 37 of the 88 tetrads in which located. Flock of 130 at Bradley Bar on 4th August; 30 at New Hall on 15th October and 50 at Bretton Park on 21st.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident breeder (2-3).

Noted at eight sites in the early months, including 21 roosting in Bunney Wood (Scapegoat Hill) on 25th February. Reported from 22 localities in the breeding season. Twenty juveniles in a flock of 28 on Lindley Moor on 14th August. Flocks of 30 at Ingbirchworth on 9th, and Scammonden on 21st September. Fourteen at Broadstones on 1st October, and 38 at Cannon Hall on 12th. Eighteen south at

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st November, and numbers there regularly for a month from 28th October peaked at 25 on 10th November. Noted at twelve sites in the autumn months.

Breeding proved in 30 of the 85 tetrads in which located.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon winter visitor.

Records of single figures from January to April at Blackmoorfoot, Gunthwaite, Deffer Wood, Carlecoates, Lindley Moor, Almondbury, Hinchliffe Mill, Middlestown and Scapegoat Hill, with those at the last four localities all in gardens.

Twenty to 50 on seven dates at Bretton Park from 4th January (50) to 26th February, plus an exceptional estimate of 120 east of the lakes on 8th January (DB). 15 still at Bretton on 30th April. Eighteen at Elland Gravel Pits on 3rd, and 19 at Silkstone Sewage Farm on 8th January; at least ten at Cannon Hall on 16th February, and 30 in Lepton Woods up to March.

Two at Rusby Wood, Ingbirchworth on 1st May, and one in Deffer Wood on 2nd, and one west at Crowden on 6th May. Singles at Heyden Bridge on 2nd June; Swinden Plantation on 10th June and 6th July, and south over Blackmoorfoot on 25th June.

Good numbers again at Bretton Park with singles on 15th and 20th October, then 120 on 22nd (MF et al); 60 on 25th and 40 on 29th, then in November 30 on 16th, ten on 25th, 20 on 27th, and finally 100 on 28th December. Thirteen at Ellentree Brow on 24th September, and one to two at Blackmoorfoot, Digley and Ingbirchworth between 3rd September and 11th November.

Addition to the 1988 Report: 50 at Gunthwaite on 18th December.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Resident breeder (3-4). Partial migrant.

A few in lowland areas such as Deffer Wood and Skelmanthorpe in January and February. Two at Broadstones on 29th March, after which a general return to upland sites during April. Forty at Lumb Lane, Almondbury on 19th April, and 45 in Bretton Sculpture Park at the beginning of June.

Breeding confirmed in 50 of the 105 tetrads in which located.

About 90 on the northern ridge of the Scammonden Valley on 16th July. Good numbers present at various sites between Ingbirchworth and Broadstones Reservoirs from 22nd August (38) to 14th October (60), with other counts of 22 to 30, as well as 60 at Lower Maythorn on 30th September.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Resident and partial migrant breeder (2-3).

An early record of 22 west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd February. Up to 35 feeding at Meltham Golf Course on 27th March, and in the next two weeks a slow return to breeding sites. Seventy near Broadstones Reservoir on 13th April, and 30 again at Meltham on 29th, and recorded regularly in Booth Dam Quarry from late March, with up to 25 feeding there on 3rd April.

Present in the breeding season at Booth Dean, Royd Edge Clough, Scapegoat Hill, Scammonden as well as at regular moorland sites. Sixty

at Deer Hill Reservoir on 9th and 18th July; 20 at Digley on 23rd August; 60 at Broadstones on 17th September, and ten at Pule Hill on 0th October. A late record of 27 over Slaithwaite Moor on 26th November.

Addition to the 1988 Report: Twenty at Winscar on 8th November.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Resident breeder (2). Uncommon winter visitor.

Very few in the early months. Four at Bretton Park on 8th January. Three near Lockwood Brewery on 14th April, and at Cartworth on 29th, and eight at Primrose Hill on 17th.

A general increase in sightings in breeding areas in May and June. Breeding confirmed in 14 of the 47 tetrads in which it was located.

CROSSBILL *Laxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor.

Single females in Deffer Wood on 22nd January (DB) and at Cannon Hall on 4th February (NL).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2).

Recorded at only five localities in the early and late months, and ten in the breeding season. A small flock of nine at Scammonden on 10th February.

Breeding confirmed in 25 of the 74 tetrads in which located.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce to uncommon visitor.

Another good year. Four in Bretton Country Park during January (many observers), and two in Deffer Wood on 22nd (DB).

One sang briefly at a site south of Penistone on 30th May (MLD). Two at Cannon Hall on 12th October (JED).

A juvenile at Bretton Park on 11th September (MT), and present regularly there from 10th October (ten) to at least 13th December (two), with 15 on 15th (JMD) and 22 on 22nd October (MT), but only single figures after that date (many observers).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3).

In January 14 at Thick Hollins on 6th, and 20 preparing to roost in trees at Wheatley Hill Farm (Deffer) on 22nd, and 20 in Deffer Wood on 26th February.

Breeding confirmed in 35 of the 75 tetrads in which located.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Resident breeder (2).

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and Scammonden on 4th and 5th March respectively. Present at four other sites in March, and at 12 more in April and May. Last record in the area on 5th November. Breeding confirmed in 23 of the tetrads in which located.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*
Resident breeder (1).

Male in song at Thurstonland on 21st and 25th April, 7th May and 20th July, and one at High Flatts in late June. Singles at Emley Park and near Blacker Wood on 7th May. Addition to the 1988 Report: A male in song at Royd Moor in the breeding season.

Addition to the 1988 Report

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*
Rare visitor.

An adult seen in flight for ten minutes over Horbury Wyke on 22nd April (J.R.Smithson).

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RINGING REPORT

As in the two previous years the first winter period was unseasonably mild and consequently very few birds frequented the peanut basket at Blackmoorfoot. Hence fewer than normal were caught.

The excellent spring weather, which prevailed throughout the summer months, enabled a good selection of passerine nests to be located. At this time of year inclement weather can dampen nest finding attempts. (Who wants to put their head inside a wet rhododendron bush?).

It was probably due to the weather that breeding birds managed to produce good numbers of young. The nesting period was therefore excellent, not only for the birds, but also the ringer who wanted to ring the pull; the 354 ringed is the best ever in the history of the Club, and nearly doubles some of the previous highest totals. The following pull were ringed:- Kestrel (5 Blackmoorfoot, 4 Deer Hill), Lapwing (3 Holme), Woodpigeon (5 Blackmoorfoot), Swallow (36 Penny Hill), Grey Wagtail (8 Penny Hill), Pied Wagtail (4 Booth Dam Quarry), Dipper (10 Hill Top, 5 March Haigh, 1 Rishworth Moor, 10 West Vale), Dunnock (23 Blackmoorfoot, 4 Crosland Moor), Robin (10 Blackmoorfoot), Whinchat (6 Deer Hill, 10 Deer Hill Moss, 6 Royd Edge Clough), Blackbird (25 Blackmoorfoot, 8 Crosland Moor, 9 Penny Hill), Song Thrush (13 Blackmoorfoot, 5 Crosland Moor, 5 Penny Hill), Mistle Thrush (15 Blackmoorfoot, 4 Crosland Moor), Willow Warbler (7 Blackmoorfoot), Spotted Flycatcher (4 Blackmoorfoot), Blue Tit (4 Blackmoorfoot, 6 Moldgreen, 16 Newsome, 7 Upper Cumberworth), Nuthatch (14 Blackmoorfoot), Carrion Crow (4 Rishworth Moor), Chaffinch (15 Blackmoorfoot), Greenfinch (11 Blackmoorfoot), Goldfinch (4 Blackmoorfoot), Linnet (4 Royd Edge Clough), Bullfinch (11 Blackmoorfoot), Yellowhammer (4 Royd Edge Clough) and Reed Bunting (4 Blackmoorfoot).

Coupled with the excellent breeding season, and the continued mediterranean-type weather, the autumn produced one of the best ever passages of Willow Warbler; 396 being ringed. When this passage had ceased a remarkable movement of Goldcrests commenced. It started unusually early for this species, and continued for longer than is normal. Consequently the total of 109 ringed was another best ever in the history of the Club.

Low water levels at the reservoirs allowed observations to be made for colour-marked gulls and several traceable sightings emanated from these observations. It is unfortunate that recovery details of a large proportion of these birds is still awaited.

It was these same low water levels, however, that left the duck trap at Blackmoorfoot high and dry, and therefore out of commission.

The generally inclement weather experienced at weekends during the last winter period impeded any netting attempts. Consequently few birds were caught during this period.

A period of 39 species were handled, but for the eleventh consecutive year no new ringing species were encountered. It must be admitted, however, that there now remain very few species that are likely to be added to the list. The total of 1,404 birds ringed was very encouraging. It only remains to be seen how many are actually recovered!

RINGING RECOVERIES

KEY TO SYMBOLS AND TERMS USED.

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

Sex : M = Male F = Female

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

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

All recoveries of five kilometres or more are published.

RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDS

HERON

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 88	Bretton, near Wakefield	53 37'N	1 34'W
	VV	3.7.89 to 31.12.89 (23 sightings)	More Hall Reservoir, Stocksbridge	53 28'N	1 35'W
			17Kms S.		
Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 88	Bretton.		
	VV	7.8.89	Scout Dike Res. near Penistone	53 32'N	1 39'W
			9Kms SW.		
Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 89	Bretton.		
	VV	17.6.89	Winacar Res. Dunford Bridge	53 31'N	1 46'W
			17Kms SW.		
Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 89	Bretton.		
	VV	22.6.89 to 3.8.89 (27 sightings)	Blackmoorfoot, nr Huddersfield	53 37'N	1 52'W
			18Kms W.		
colour rings	1	APR/MAY 89	Bretton.		
	VV	19.7.89 to 9.8.89 (7 sightings)	Scout Dike Res.		
			9Kms SW.		
Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 89	Bretton.		
	VV	28.7.89	Underbank Res. Stocksbridge	53 29'N	1 38'W
			14Kms SSW.		

Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 89	Bretton.
VV		11.8.89	More Hall Res. 17Kms S.
Colour rings	1	APR/MAY 89	Bretton.
VV		12.8.89 to 6.9.89 (8 sightings)	Blackmoorfoot. 18Kms W.
BLACK-HEADED GULL			
EH41027	1	13.6.78	Black Moss, nr Marsden 53 34'N 1 56'W
	X	6.8.89	Siladen, nr Keighley, Yorks 53 55'N 1 55'W 39Kms N.
EH69331	1	21.6.83	Black Moss.
	VV	26.2.85	Southport, Merseyside 53 39'N 3 1'W
	VV	28.10.85	Southport.
	VV	10.2.89	Southport. 75Kms W.
Note the age of EH41027.			
KESTREL			
EN17332	3M	28.12.85	Blackmoorfoot.
	+	5.2.89	New Mill, Huddersfield 53 34'N 1 45'W 9Kms SE.
SWALLOW			
FO65179	1	28.6.89	Penny Hill, Barkisland 53 40'N 1 54'W
	V	8.8.89	Fleetwood Power Station, Lanc. 53 54'N 3 2'W 79Kms NNW.
WILLOW WARBLER			
IP1932	3M	8.8.87	Blackmoorfoot.
	V	20.4.89	St Albans Head, Purbeck, Dorset 50 35'N 2 3'W 337Kms S.
BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD			
BLACK-HEADED GULL			
Colour marks	3J	Autumn '88	Alborg, Jylland, Denmark 57 4'N 9 48'E
	VV	15.1.89	Blackmoorfoot. 830Kms WSW.
Colour marks	3J	Autumn '88	Alborg.
	VV	26.7.89	Blackmoorfoot. 830Kms WSW.
SEDGE WARBLER			
E703810	1	12.6.89	Scotsmans Flash, Wigan, Greater Manchester
	V	9.7.89	Scotsmans Flash 53 32'N 2 38'W
	V	20.7.89	Blackmoorfoot. 51Kms E.

TWITE

Colour rings	4	Between 30.11.87	Butterwick Marsh, near Boston, Lincs.
		and 13.12.87	52 58'N 0 6'E
VVM	25.5.89	Rishworth Moor, near Ripponden	53 39'N 1 59'W
VV	27.5.89	Rishworth Moor	
VV	2.6.89	Rishworth Moor	
VV	21.6.89	Rishworth Moor	
		166Kms NW.	

M. L. DENTON

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

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

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

TABLE 1 - Retraps

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	TOTAL
WREN	1			1
DUNNOCK	1			1
ROBIN	3	1		4
BLACKBIRD	1	1	1	3
WILLOW WARBLER	1		1	2
BLUE TIT	7	3		10
CHAFFINCH	2	3		5
GREENFINCH		1		1
BULLFINCH	1			1

TABLE 2 - Recoveries

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	TOTAL
BLACKBIRD	1			1
WILLOW WARBLER		1		1
MAGPIE			1	1

M. L.DENTON

RING TOTALS LIST - 1989

Sparrowhawk	4	Blackcap	9
Kestrel	9	Chiffchaff	7
Lapwing	4	Willow Warbler	403
Woodpigeon	5	Goldcrest	109
Swallow	40	Spotted Flycatcher	10
Grey Wagtail	8	Pied Flycatcher	1
Pied Wagtail	15	Coal Tit	4
Dipper	27	Blue Tit	169
Wren	40	Great Tit	65
Duncock	52	Treecreeper	3
Robin	85	Magpie	14
Redstart	5	Carrion Crow	4
Whinchat	22	Chaffinch	37
Blackbird	54	Greenfinch	98
Song Thrush	24	Goldfinch	13
Redwing	1	Linnet	5
Mistle Thrush	19	Bullfinch	21
Grasshopper Warbler	1	Yellowhammer	4
Sedge Warbler	4	Reed Bunting	7
Garden Warbler	2		
		GRAND TOTAL	1404

M.L.DENTON

THE TETRAD BREEDING SURVEY - PROGRESS REPORT

At the end of the forth season of field-work an average of over 38 species per tetrad have been recorded, and a total of 114 species have been logged in the area, with breeding confirmed for 100 species.

10Km Square Number	SE00	SE01	SE10	SE11	SE20	SE21	Totals
Tetrads with <20 species	11	2	4			5	22
Tetrads with 20-39 species	11	4	5	9	7	10	46
Tetrads with >40 species	3	19	16	16	18	10	82
Total registrations	561	1145	989	1118	1183	838	5834

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