



**Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

# **Birds in Huddersfield**

## **2009**



*'Birds in Huddersfield 2009'* is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of such reports produced annually by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and a number of systematic surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Front cover: **Oystercatcher over Winscar Reservoir by Stuart Brocklehurst.**

Rear cover photograph: **Bar-tailed Godwit, Deer Hill 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009 (David Pennington).**

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# **Birds in Huddersfield**

## **2009**

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

Welcome to the 2009 Birds in Huddersfield which is a timely demonstration of our continuing effort to speed up the production of such reports, to the benefit of all. This appears to have been a year of little change in bird numbers, but with further evidence of decline in a number of species of concern, together with great misgivings regarding the cause of such declines. In particular the status of a number of the birds of prey, including owls, is an issue that organisations such as the RSPB have highlighted, stating categorically in some cases that these declines result from malicious human intervention. Whilst there has been no direct proof of such in the club area, suspicions will naturally remain where similar problems can be seen to have such common cause. It is incumbent on us all to be vigilant regarding these matters as well as very careful in disclosing breeding sites of sensitive species, as outlined in this report.

As Russ Boland has written elsewhere, the year's total of 168 species represented quality not quantity and he highlights those special birds of the year in entertaining style. The development of the web site and forum together with greater networking between individuals is allowing many more of our members to connect with the rarer birds in our area, and long may that continue. It is worth reminding everyone that you get out of the hobby what you put into it, so do be prepared to share sightings and encouragement with friends and colleagues, provided that you observe the caveat above.

Club membership continues to grow, which is encouraging, and this places a greater responsibility upon us all to be welcoming of new members, share our knowledge of sites and species with them and hope that they will gain the enjoyment from club membership that many of us have over the years. Whilst it is a point that I may have laboured too much over the years, it's **your club** so do all that you can to help make it increasingly successful.

Once again this report has been produced by a hard-working consortium ably led by Mike Wainman, fed by data diligently compiled by David Butterfield and contributed by an encouragingly broad spectrum of observers. In addition we have a slew of excellent colour photographs, all taken by members within the club area, together with a number of evocative illustrations. To everyone involved we owe our thanks for their considerable efforts. This structure has proved very effective over recent years and we look forward to building upon this with even more success in the future.

This whole task was at one time undertaken by just one person, that being the club Recorder. It is worth recording here, for posterity's sake, the deep debt of gratitude that we all owe to Brian Armitage who took over this role on a temporary basis in 1997 and has only now been allowed to step down for a well earned rest.

Enjoy the report and good birding.

Alf King

## ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Club Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering over 40 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological research and *Birds in Huddersfield 2009* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

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

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

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

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

Our lecture and meeting programme runs between September and May each year, at which visiting experts present on a wide range of birding topics, from local to overseas, with some stunning still and video photography. There are also club nights, with, for instance, members showing photos of their own birding trips, local and further afield, a 'brains trust' of experienced members to answer your question or quiz nights using video footage of birds in the field to test your identification skills – an excellent way of improving them !

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simply contact any member of the Committee (see page 134) or visit our website for more information.

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

## 2009: THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 168 species were reliably recorded in the Club area. A year of quality, rather than quantity, there were no additions to the area list but there were several major highlights and a good showing from our other scarce visitors.

In early January Oldfield hosted a Mediterranean Gull - one of only two this year - and the first Waxwings of the year, while two Whooper Swans at Blackmoorfoot heralded an excellent early year run of records. As temperatures dropped we began to experience the first hard winter weather for some years, and the game crop at High Hoyland once again provided a 'finch fest' for local observers as good numbers of birds exploited this valuable food source. Redwings and Lesser Redpolls were also seen in higher than usual numbers in the Horbury area. Following a very interesting Song Thrush seen in Broadstones area, the now expected big Pink-foot movement took place on 21<sup>st</sup> with some 900 birds involved. A Water Rail at Ingbirchworth Res. was particularly notable and obviously a hard-weather mover and further Whooper Swans passed over Lepton and Bretton Park. The highlight of the winter period turned up at Blackmoorfoot late month in the form of a splendid Black-throated Diver. An excellent, though very cold January ended with eight more Whooper Swans on Winscar Res.

The Black-throated Diver' remained at Blackmoorfoot through the first week of February before it was 'frozen out'. Numbers of the ever-popular Waxwings had increased, with over 100 counted at Meltham and in the Longwood Valley, but our smaller passerines continued to have a hard time of it, as 200 Pied Wagtails at Horbury Sewage Farm would testify. An even larger Pink-foot movement take place - some 1,300 birds - on 14<sup>th</sup>, the same day as a fine, appropriately-attired drake Smew began a month-long stay on the Calder and another upland Water Rail sought refuge at Scout Dike. A big surprise of the month was the two very early Red Kite sightings at Elland and Skelmanthorpe - the first of another record year for this majestic raptor. Blackmoorfoot hosted single, and increasingly rare, Kittiwakes and Glaucous Gulls, whilst up to 15 Mealy Redpolls entertained urban birders at Linthwaite.

March began with the discovery of a Brent Goose among noisy, and far less popular, congeners at Royd Moor Res. and was only the eighth-ever for the Club area record. Observers at Blackmoorfoot the same day were left frustrated by a diver sp. as difficult viewing conditions prevented positive identification. The drake Smew graced the Calder at Horbury until mid-month, when a party of Crossbills at Deffer Wood heralded a small spring influx, and impressive herds of fly-over Whooper Swans thrilled observers at Horbury and Blackmoorfoot. The month was certainly setting the standards for the remainder of the year with very early Common Scoters at Blackmoorfoot, brief Little Egrets at Aspley and Scout Dike and the continuing performances of Mealy Redpolls at Fixby and Linthwaite. Eight of our summer migrants had arrived by the month end, Sand Martin leading the way at Healey Mills.

April opened with two White Storks over Colnebridge on 1<sup>st</sup>, bringing with them the Harewood assumptions, but there certainly wasn't anything foolish about the splendid herd of 70 Whooper Swans seen over Lepton the same day. Migration moved up a gear in the second week, the starring role going to a superb male Montague's Harrier at Deanhead Res. - the first for Calderdale and a very early bird to boot. By mid month Short-eared Owls were putting on breathtaking displays on the southern moorlands, whilst a Little Gull paused at Ingbirchworth Res. Scout Dike hosted its first ever Common Scoter, and an early Hobby passed over Denby Dale. Late month witnessed a further flurry of activity, and along with the commoner but always very welcome fire came Bar-tailed Godwits at Blackmoorfoot and Deer Hill, a Black Tern at

Ingbirchworth, another Red Kite in the Harden/Snailsden area, a Hen Harrier on the western moors and yet more Whooper Swans at Blackmoorfoot.

The spring rush abated slightly during early May, before more migration thrills recommenced with an Osprey over Crosland Moor, followed by a superb trip of five Dotterels which entertained a appreciative audience for two days in fields to the west of Blackmoorfoot. A fairly reliable Whimbrel hung around the Flight Hill area, but a Wood Warbler at Sparth Res. for one day only was a sorry sign of the decline of this superb songster. On a more positive note Hobby is a migrant which appears to be on the increase and three more were claimed in the month. Following another Osprey, this time over Blackmoorfoot, a Quail put in an appearance at Windy Bank Res. at the month end.

June began with the discovery of two singing male Turtle Doves - at Snailsden and Reynard's Clough, both excellent records raising hopes of a long-awaited return of this former breeding species. Passage was still evident, with an Arctic Tern at Blackmoorfoot followed by one of the surprises of the year in the form of a Spoonbill flying over Linthwaite - only the 4<sup>th</sup> ever Club record. Mid-month brought a Red Kite to Scout Dike and, much more surprisingly, a Little Gull to the tiny upland Harden Reservoir. The surprises continued as a pair of Turtle Doves then took up residence in the Harden area, and quickly became more popular than Posh and Becks with local birders! A party of 12 Common Scoters paused at Ingbirchworth and a nearby calling Quail late month brought a more eventful than usual June to an end.

There appeared to be little change in the status of our breeding birds. Of our waders, it was an excellent year for Little Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher continues to prosper and Redshank retains a toe-hold in the area. Although there were no reports of breeding Common Buzzards, the impressive number of records received makes one wonder if they are now being over-looked. Peregrine enjoyed a better year than in 2009, but it was another blank return for Merlin. Unfortunately, it seems, our two rarer owls fared no better.

It was better news for two of our residents, Teal and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, with breeding confirmed for the first time since 2004 and 2006 respectively. It is also pleasing to report a big increase in the number of Ravens reported.

Of our migrant songbirds, there was a worrying drop in records for Ring Ouzel. Yellow Wagtail fared a little better, there was an encouraging increase in the number of reeling Grasshopper Warblers, and also the reports of Common and Lesser Whitethroats. It was 'business as usual' i.e. the serious concerns continue regarding Redstart, Pied and Spotted Flycatcher, Whinchat and Tree Pipit.

With most birds engaged in breeding activity, much of July was typically quiet, but the unusual is always out there to be found. Ingbirchworth attracted another mid-summer Common Scoter and early month saw the start of a Crossbill influx, with several sites hosting these charismatic finches, albeit only as fly-overs in some cases. Another Quail was found at Buckstones, several Hobbies were sighted and Mediterranean Gull was a good find at Ingbirchworth. The undoubted highlight was the brief appearance of a Woodlark at Langsett Res. late month, but only a single observer witnessed this fourth ever record.

Autumn migration began rather slowly in August. Another Common Scoter paused at Blackmoorfoot in the second week, followed by two Marsh Harriers on the southern moorlands. A Red Kite took up residence in the Whitley Beaumont area for what would become a record stay and the Turtle Doves continued to entertain at Harden. In what was a poor month wader-wise, the

year's only Greenshank passed through Blackmoorfoot, with Hobbys recorded here and at Birchcliffe, and encouraging numbers of Twite began to appear at Deer Hill.

Most of September's highlights passed through in the first half of the month. Pick of these was an Arctic Skua which must have been a splendid sight as it passed over Langsett Res. Osprey is another species which demands you be on site at the right time and one made its way over Scout Dike the next day. Common Scoter and Pintail at Blackmoorfoot, plus a Marsh Harrier over Linthwaite added more variety to the mix. Passage waders were thin on the ground; by far the best birds were two Grey Plovers at Dewsbury Sewage Farm mid-month. A migrating Rock Pipit just rewards for an early 'vis migger' at Holme Moss, further Red Kites were noted at Flockton and Bretton and the first returning Pink-feet passed over Meltham and Marsden before the month ended.

Things were fairly quiet for the first few days of October, but the situation improved markedly in the second week with a rather late Arctic Tern passing through Blackmoorfoot and a Rock Pipit visiting Dewsbury Sewage Farm. An impressive 1200 Redwing passed over Denby Dale but autumn migration wouldn't be the same without Pink-footed Geese and numerous skeins brought their own indefinable quality to proceedings. Crossbills were recorded at four sites as more winter thrushes arrived, including an impressive four-figure Fieldfare count over Pule Hill, Marsden. Indeed, the uplands continued to score to the month end with three more Common Scoters at Blackmoorfoot and the first Snow Bunting records for six years.

November opened with yet more Whooper Swans; fly-overs at Fixby followed by further parties at Blackmoorfoot and Broadstones. Wildfowl continued to be the main focus of attention with several more skeins of Pink-feet passing over, a Common Scoter at Scammonden Res. and a Scaup at Boshaw Whams - the latter staying well in to December. Another Snow Bunting was just reward for a hardy 'vis-migger' at Harden mid-month, but the month's major attraction was the superb Great Northern Diver which took up residence at Blackmoorfoot during the last week, and which would be the first of a remarkable influx of this species.

December began with a second Great Northern Diver arriving at Blackmoorfoot, both birds staying put until the onset of freezing conditions at the month end. Next it was the turn of Scammonden to host two more of these impressive birds, both of which remained to the year end. With what was assumedly to be one of these birds briefly visiting Deer Hill mid-month, local birders were certainly in danger of being driven 'loony' by Christmas! As harder weather began to move in at the year end the Calder valley was beginning to come in to its own, with Smew, Red-breasted Merganser and some 80 Teal at Horbury, and a Scaup, perhaps the Boshaw Whams bird, at Elland Gravel Pits. A record count of Gadwall at Scammonden brought yet another very eventful year to a close.

Russ Boland



## THE WEATHER IN 2009

Unlike 2008, January 2009 started the year cooler than average and indeed it was the coldest January since 1997. Despite the below average temperatures, January was generally dry and the sunniest for several years. February started as January finished but by mid-month the weather turned milder, the month was around the long-term average. However, as we will all remember, we had around several inches of snow at the beginning of February which hung around for a couple of weeks. It was noticeably dull and rainfall was also rather high.

As spring approached, March was particularly mild with the average temperatures between 0.5 – 1.5C above the long-term average. Sunshine levels were well above average and it was the driest March since 2003. April was another mild month and turned out to be the third warmest since records began in 1914. Rainfall was below average and sunshine levels were about average. May, became rather lively at times with unseasonable strong winds and localised flooding in some areas. Although rainfall was above average it was a warmer than average month.

As the past two summers, the summer of 2009 will be remembered for not being the BBQ summer the Met. Office had promised us! Even on sunny days there was often a breeze and some cloud. June just about had everything with some hot weather early in the month followed by some thundery downpours. It was a warm month some 1.5C above the long-term average. Late June produced some of the hottest weather of the year. Following on into the first few days of July, the heat wave eventually broke down and lead to thundery downpours and the wettest July on record. July turned out to be average overall in terms of sunshine and temperature though. August was rather disappointing yet again, although temperatures were about average. It was an average month in terms of sunshine and temperature.

September was rather warm and sunny and the driest since 1997. October continued in a similar vein. November was unsettled throughout, with showers or longer periods of rain and some strong winds at times. However, it was very mild, with mean temperatures everywhere at least 1.0 °C above the 1971-2000 average. It was the warmest November over England since 1994 and the third-warmest in a series from 1914. There were very few days with air frost. Rainfall was well above average everywhere. It was the second wettest November in the series from 1914 and almost as wet as November 1929.

Most of December was changeable, the first 10 days being mild but it then became colder with snowfalls after mid-month. Overall, it was a cold month with mean temperatures typically between 1.5 and 2.0 °C below the 1971-2000 average. It was the coldest December since 1996. Rainfall was close to normal. Sunshine totals were generally well above normal.

## NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

The area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE 12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits and Dewsbury Sewage Farm. See also the map on page 135.

In 2005, 2006 and 2007 there were major changes to the taxonomic order, which now follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

Anseriformes (swans, geese and ducks) and Galliformes (grouse, partridges, pheasants and rails) were moved to the beginning of the Systematic List.

Changes were also made to some scientific names and to the species order of shanks (genera *Xenus*, *Actitis* and *Tringa*), gulls, warblers and tits.

The following were split from the *Larus* genus of gulls – Little Gull becomes *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* and Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. Little Tern becomes *Sterna albifrons*.

Great Skua became *Stercorarius skua* and Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*.

The *Sylvia* warbler sequence was re-arranged and became Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* and Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

The Tits (genus *Parus*) were split into smaller genera and their order re-arranged. New scientific names were applied to the following: Blue Tit becomes *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Coal Tit *Parus ater*, Willow Tit *Poecile montana* and Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*. Rose-coloured Starling became *Pastor roseus*.

Other minor changes in order were made to conform to the latest BOU advice.

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

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

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

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

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

Species that are 'red listed' in the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) 2009 list of Birds of Conservation Concern, i.e. those of high concern, are marked accordingly. Precise locations for

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

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

c.	-approximately
N	-North
S	-South
E	-East
W	-West
CP	-Country Park
GP	-Gravel Pit
NR	-Nature Reserve
SF	-Sewage Farm
SP	-Sludge Plant
Res.	-Reservoir

On page 124 is a complete list 'The Huddersfield List' of the 267 species and eleven additional distinct races, of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2009.

Please note that The Huddersfield List now incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

All reports of rare and unusual species that require a description have been accepted by the Club Records Committee, YNU Adjudication Panel or the BBRC, as appropriate.

## THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2009

### MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

A very similar year to 2008, birds being reported from 12 sites, with breeding taking place at three of them.

**Calder & Hebble Navigation at Healey** - two adults and an immature on 6<sup>th</sup> January and an adult and immature on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Bretton Park** - seven (5 adults and 2 immatures) on 13<sup>th</sup> January, five (2 adults and 3 immatures) on 21<sup>st</sup>, six (2 adults and 4 immatures) on 12<sup>th</sup> February, two adults on 5<sup>th</sup> March, and five (1 adult and 4 immatures) on 14<sup>th</sup> September. A pair bred, raising three young.

**Elland GP** - two on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, four immatures on two dates in May, a single on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and two on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Healey Mills** - a single on 16<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and two adults on 19<sup>th</sup> March, and again on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Ossett SF** - two adults on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**Heaton Lodge** - a pair bred.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** - because of the number of sites within this area, it is very difficult to get a clear picture of the situation. Birds were recorded in every month except December, with a maximum of six on 13<sup>th</sup> January. A pair bred, raising two young.

**Mirfield** - a pair raised four young on the canal.

**Dewsbury SF** - a single bird present throughout the year.

**Sands Lane GP** - recorded in every month except July and August. Two to five birds were normally present, but there were maxima of seven on 14<sup>th</sup> February and from 8<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March, and nine on 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**Colne Bridge** - a pair on the canal and another on the river on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Shelley Woodhouse** - a single adult present again on a private mill pond for most of the year.

**Broadstone Res.** - an immature on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Quite a good year for this species, with birds recorded in January, March, April and November. Among these a couple of good-sized herds passed over, including the fourth-largest for the Club area.

The first birds of the year were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> January at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** when an adult and an immature were present. Two adults flew E over **Bretton Lakes** on 14<sup>th</sup> and on 30<sup>th</sup>, 15 were over **Lepton** at 10.00 hrs, and were seen over **Outlane** five minutes later. The month ended with eight present at **Winscar Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup>. None were recorded in February, but March brought a good-sized herd of 58 flying W over **Horbury Strands/Wyke** at 10.05hrs. on 18<sup>th</sup>. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup>, 21 adults flew NNW at 08.50hrs., followed 20 minutes later by a further 15 adults which flew in the same direction. 1<sup>st</sup> April brought the splendid sight of c.70 flying WNW over **Lepton**. Six adults which arrived at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 07.55hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup> were the last ones seen in the first winter period. The only grounded bird was an adult with Canada Geese in a field near **Royd Moor Res.** on 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April (RJB).

The first bird of the autumn was an immature which flew SE over **Fixby** at 07.40hrs on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The following day saw a bit of activity, with five (4 adults and an immature) present

at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the afternoon, and two reports from separate observers at **Broadstone Res.** of eight (4 adults and 4 immatures), and five (4 adults and an immature) between 14.45hrs and 15.45hrs. It is possible that the same birds were involved in all three sightings. The last birds of the year were on 7<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where 12 (10 adults and 2 immatures) arrived from the E at 08.55hrs. and departed SE at 16.05hrs.

Two swans flying S over **Marsden** on 24<sup>th</sup> April, and a single reported by anglers at **Royd Moor Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup> November were probably this species.

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

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

A very good year for this species, with over 7,800 birds moving over the area; about 4,420 in the first winter period and 3,360 in the second. There were especially good movements on 21<sup>st</sup> January (900 birds), 14<sup>th</sup> February (1,375 birds) and 19<sup>th</sup> February (995 birds). The tendency for most movements to take place in mid-morning, highlighted in an earlier report, was again apparent, although less so in the later months.

**13<sup>th</sup> January** - c.200 W over **Colnebridge SP**, 36 SW over **Horbury Strands/Wyke** at 09.15hrs. and 200 NW over **Bradley Golf Course** at 10.30hrs.

**14<sup>th</sup> January** - 170 W over **Cawthorne** at 10.30hrs.

**15<sup>th</sup> January** - c.300 over **Digley** at 11.00hrs.

**21<sup>st</sup> January** - at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, c.160 W at 10.30hrs. plus c.240 W at 10.50hrs., while at nearby **Crosland Heath Airfield**, 350 W at 10.30hrs. and c.150 flew NW over **Oldfield** at 11.30hrs.

**4<sup>th</sup> February** - a skein heard over **Harden** after dark at 21.13hrs.

**14<sup>th</sup> February** - 200 NW over **Shelley** at 09.15hrs. At **Scout Dike Res.**, 100 W at 09.38hrs., 200 W at 09.44hrs., 230 W at 09.46hrs., 120 W at 10.11hrs., 85 W at 11.00hrs. and finally 90 W at 11.20hrs. 220 NW over **Horbury Strands/Wyke** at 10.20hrs. returning two minutes later. c.60 flew N over **Holmfirth** and 70 were over **Thick Hollins** (Meltham) at unspecified times.

**15<sup>th</sup> February** - 200 W over **Sands Lane GP**.

**17<sup>th</sup> February** - 450 W in skeins of from c. 50 to 150 birds, between 12.00hrs. and 12.30hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

**19<sup>th</sup> February** - 70 NW at **Bradley Park Golf Club**. 190 W at 08.55hrs. and 75 W over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 12.15hrs. 280 NW over **Lindley** at 12.15hrs. and skeins of 120 and c.150 NW over **Jackson Bridge**.

**20<sup>th</sup> February** - 8 N at 09.20hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and 130 NW over **Shelley** at 10.20hrs.

**5<sup>th</sup> March** - c.120 W at 09.35hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

**12<sup>th</sup> April** - 50 W during a 2.5 hour visible migration watch at **Harden Res.**

There were two grounded birds in fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> January and a single was present on **Scout Dike Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**24<sup>th</sup> September** - 32 circled **Meltham Cop** at 14.20 hrs.

**29<sup>th</sup> September** - a small skein heard passing NE over **Marsden** at 16.50hrs.

**12<sup>th</sup> October** - 50+ over **Thick Hollins** (Meltham).

**21st October** - at **Ingbirchworth Res.** skeins of c.250, c.100, c.20, c.55 and c.80 flew W between 10.05hrs. and 12.40hrs. a total of c.505.

**26<sup>th</sup> October** - at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** 10 flew SW at 14.25hrs.

**28<sup>th</sup> October** - c.300 E over **Thurgory Lane**.

**29<sup>th</sup> October** - skeins were heard going SW over **Marsden** at 09.56hrs. and 09.59hrs., and 300 were seen moving E over **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 10.00hrs. About 200 flew E over **Colnebridge SP**, 50 NW over **Shelley** and c.200 W over **Jackson Bridge**.

**7<sup>th</sup> November** - 800+ SE at 15.50hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and 160 E over **Gunthwaite**.

**9<sup>th</sup> November** - 100 NW at 12.00hrs. over **Deer Hill**.

**13<sup>th</sup> November** - a skein heard going SE at 08.50hrs. over **Blakeley Res.**

**15<sup>th</sup> November** - 81 E at 08.40hrs. and 10 E at 08.45hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, 150 E over **Scout Dike Res.** at 09.23hrs and 60 E over **Meltham Cop** at 11.00hrs.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** - a skein was heard going NE over **Sparth Res.** at 08.50hrs., 100 flew SSE over **Honley Moor** at 08.55hrs. and 100 which flew over **Boshaw Whams Res.** a few minutes later were probably the same birds while two went SW at 10.30hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

**5<sup>th</sup> December** - 80 W over **Scout Dike Res.** at 11.05hrs. and 115 E at 11.45hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

**9<sup>th</sup> December** - c.80 NE over **Lockwood** at 10.35hrs. and 60 over **Honley** at 11.00hrs.

**21<sup>st</sup> December** - a skein heard distantly over **Oldfield** during the late morning.

150 "Grey Geese" going W over **Golcar** on 9<sup>th</sup> December are almost certain to have been Pink-footed Geese.

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

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

The number of birds using the reservoirs in the Club area continues to rise steadily, with most being concentrated in the area centred on **Ingbirchworth Res.**

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, the increase in records continued: two were present on 14<sup>th</sup> January, a single on 25<sup>th</sup> March, two on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 21 flew S at 08.25hrs on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, a single (with Canada Geese) on 8<sup>th</sup> November and a single (again with Canada Geese) from 18<sup>th</sup> December to the year-end. In the **Horbury Strands/Wyke** area there were two from January to May, with four present on 19<sup>th</sup> February and three dates in November. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** birds were present from August to November, with monthly maxima of 23 in August, 35 in September, 54 in October and 20 in November.

Away from these sites sporadic records came from the following sites:

**Ringstone Edge Res.** - one on 25<sup>th</sup> January; **Marsden** - one SW on 26<sup>th</sup> January; **Royd Moor Res.** - two on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and four on 4<sup>th</sup> March; **Sands Lane GP** four on 4<sup>th</sup> April and two on 16<sup>th</sup> May; **Scout Dike Res.** two on 17<sup>th</sup> April and 27 on 18<sup>th</sup> August; **Dewsbury SF** - one W on 18<sup>th</sup> April and 21 E on 19<sup>th</sup> October; **Winscar Res.** - two adults with two young were present on 1<sup>st</sup> June, although MC considered the young to show slight characteristics of Swan Goose; feral birds of this species are present at this site; **Broadstone Res.** - a single in May and June; **Sparth Res.** - one on 25<sup>th</sup> November; **Scammonden Res.** - single on three dates in November and three in December, with two on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

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

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

From the available information, it is very hard to reach any firm conclusions about population trends of this species in the Huddersfield area, but it seems possible that numbers have levelled

off in recent years. This may, however, be wishful thinking.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bilberry Res.** (2 young), **Bradley Hall Farm** (5 fledged), **Black Moss** (3 young), **Bretton Lakes** (3 young), **Dewsbury SF** (11 young), **Dovestones Res.** (no details supplied), **Elland GP** (4 broods totalling 12 goslings), **Horbury Strands/Wyke** (2 pairs bred), **Langsett Res.** (2 pairs bred), **Sands Lane GP** (3 pairs bred), **Snailsden Res.** (2 broods), **Wessenden Valley** (at least 20 goslings resulted from 11 pairs) and **Winscar Res.** (10 goslings). Even though there were no records from several upland reservoirs where breeding is known to occur, it may be that the estimate of breeding pairs given at the start of this account is too large.

Monthly maxima at regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	86	67	8	6	6	13	22	57	37	103	122	76
Broadstone Res.	11	2	1	0	2	0	21	18	0	1	105	1
Elland GP	46	35	n/c	10	50	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	68
Horbury Strands/Wyke	175	200	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	5	172	174
Ingbirchworth Res.	220	160	150	n/c	6	n/c	n/c	350	360	197	275	300
Sands Lane GP	14	36	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	90	108	45	44

At **Blackmoorfoot** those present in October fed in the stubble fields to the east and used the reservoir for loafing, whereas those in November and December fed on Meltham Cop and in the fields to the west, again using the reservoir for loafing.

Away from the main sites, counts of 10 or more came from:

**Scammonden Res.** - 40 on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 80 on 27<sup>th</sup> November and 86 on 5<sup>th</sup> December; **Bretton Lakes** - 61 on 14<sup>th</sup> January and 150 on 24<sup>th</sup> February; **Healey** - 14 on the canal on 14<sup>th</sup> January; **Sparth Res.** - 57 on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 53 on 4<sup>th</sup> March and 15 on 25<sup>th</sup> November; **Ringstone Edge Res.** - 58 on 25<sup>th</sup> January; **Winscar Res.** - 72 on 1<sup>st</sup> February and 16 on 24<sup>th</sup> June; **Royd Moor Res.** - 220 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March; **Scout Dike Res.** - 166 on 5<sup>th</sup> March; **Dovestones Res.** - 28 on 20<sup>th</sup> March; **Digley Res.** - 33 on 16<sup>th</sup> April; **Langsett Res.** - 14 on 26<sup>th</sup> May and 30+ on 9<sup>th</sup> June; **Snailsden Res.** - 27 on 1<sup>st</sup> June; **March Haigh Res.** - 21 on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Smaller numbers were reported from just six other sites.

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

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

Single feral birds were recorded at **Bretton Park** all year, at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> November and at **Broadstone Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

### **BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*

A dark-bellied adult found with Canada Geese at **Royd Moor Res.** on 1st March (RJB, DHP) had moved to **Ingbirchworth Res.** the following day (AK, BA, DHP). This was the first occurrence since 1998, and represented the 8<sup>th</sup> record and the 17<sup>th</sup> bird in the Club area. There have now been records in January, February, March (2), April, November and December.



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

Uncommon passage visitor.

Slightly fewer records were submitted than in 2008 with no counts of any size. The records suggest that two birds, probably a pair, wandered the area from late February until early May at least.

In February, there were two at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, and two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup> with a single the following day, and two at **Dewsbury SF** the same day. March saw two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one arrived from the S at **Winscar Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup>, two at **Dewsbury SF** on 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, one at **Boshaw Whams Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> and two at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 25<sup>th</sup>. Two were present again at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 15<sup>th</sup> April and again on 29<sup>th</sup>, when there were four at **Ringstone Edge Res.** There were four records in May, two at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 1<sup>st</sup>, with a single on 17<sup>th</sup> and two again on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup>. There were then no records until July, when **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a single on 14<sup>th</sup>. August brought three to the same site on 30<sup>th</sup>, a single on 10<sup>th</sup> October, with two the following day. In November, there was one at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 24<sup>th</sup> and on 30<sup>th</sup> five flew W at **Ingbirchworth Res.** The final record was of four at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor.

Recorded from only seven sites this year, but with attempted breeding at one and successful breeding at another

**Brockholes** - one on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Fenay Beck** - a single male was seen associating with Mallard on 7<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**Healey Mills** - after a female on 16<sup>th</sup> March and a male on the following day, a pair were together on the River Calder on 12<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Subsequently, a female was found incubating a clutch of eggs which were later predated by a Fox (JRS).

**Dewsbury SF** - a brood of five were seen on the river on an unspecified date (JH) and four on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Colne Bridge** - a male on the River Calder on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Elland/Brookfoot** - two males and a female on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Holmfirth** - a male was on the river in the town centre on 10<sup>th</sup> October and an unsexed bird on 24<sup>th</sup> October. In December two males were present on 1<sup>st</sup>, three birds on 12<sup>th</sup> and two males again on 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

Reported from 17 sites, two more than in 2008. There was again a wintering flock in the area centred on **Broadstone Res.**, but sadly there was no repeat of that which developed in the **Horbury Strands/Wyke** area during the 2007/8 winter.

In January, there were eight (4 males) at **Broadstone Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup>, a male and female on 3<sup>rd</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, 37 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 10<sup>th</sup>, four (2 males) on 13<sup>th</sup> at **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, with a male there on 16<sup>th</sup>, the same site had two males and a female on 24<sup>th</sup>, when



there were also 18 at **Broadstone Res.** and 20 at **Meal Hill**; eight were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> and four (3 males) at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 30<sup>th</sup>. A monthly maximum of 48 was recorded at **Broadstone Res.** on an unspecified date.

A male was at **Burnlee Mill Pond** during snow on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, six at **Scout Dike Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup>, a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> and three (1 male) there on 20<sup>th</sup>; two (2 males) were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and calls from this species were heard at **Ingbirchworth Res.** the following day. March brought two males and a female to **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13<sup>th</sup>, a male and female at **Langsett Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> and eight at **Meal Hill** on 20<sup>th</sup>. The last record of the spring was a single at **Langsett Res.** 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Summering birds were found at **Langsett Res.**, where there was a male between 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, with two males the following day, two males and a female on 9<sup>th</sup> June and finally two birds on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

The first of the autumn were in September, when two remained at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, with four on 15<sup>th</sup>, a single on 16<sup>th</sup>, two on 17<sup>th</sup> and a single on 18<sup>th</sup>; one was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** with four there, and six at **Broadstone Res.**, both records being on unspecified dates. In October, there was a reasonable range of records, with 22 at **Meal Hill** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and birds noted at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 10 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, the maxima being 11 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 21 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 23 on 31<sup>st</sup>. **Ringstone Edge Res.** had three on 11<sup>th</sup> and two on 13<sup>th</sup>; three were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 35 at **Broadstone Res.** on 24<sup>th</sup> with a lone bird at **Colne Bridge SP** on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. One was present at **Redbrook Res.** on the latter date and six at **Sands Lane GP** on 31<sup>st</sup>. There were more records in November, beginning with the biggest flock of the year at **Broadstone Reservoir**, where there were 64 on 7<sup>th</sup>. A series of records from nearby **Ingbirchworth Res.** concerned birds on seven dates between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, varying from two up to 12 (on 9<sup>th</sup>). A male and female remained at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with 3 (1 male) on 24<sup>th</sup>. There were two at **Boshaw Whams Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup>, a flock of 42 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup>, a single at **Bretton Lakes** on 25<sup>th</sup>, 50+ at **Meal Hill** on 29<sup>th</sup> and 10 at **Ossett** the same day. Nine were at **Cupwith Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> December, while at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, four (2 males) were present on the same day, with 20 (10 males) on 2<sup>nd</sup> (when 26 Teal were present). Five (2 males) were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup>, and the flock at **Broadstone Res.** reached peaks of 24 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 34 on 26<sup>th</sup>. The final records came from **Healey Mills**, with a single on 29<sup>th</sup>, and **Sands Lane GP**, where there were two on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **GADWALL**, *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

With 13 records coming from eight sites, this was a roughly similar year to 2008, although the group of ten at **Scammonden Res.** equalled the previous largest gathering in the Club area.

During the early months, two males were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13<sup>th</sup> January (DT) and in February, three (2 males) were at **Scout Dike Res.** from 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> with a male remaining to 15<sup>th</sup> (RJB, MC, SG), and three males were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> (DT). In March a male and female were at **Elland GP** on 11<sup>th</sup> (DT) and a male was at **Horbury** on 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> (DT). On 5<sup>th</sup> April, a male and female were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (MLD, CH) and a male was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup> (RJB).

There were no further records until September, when two were at **Dewsbury SF** on 21<sup>st</sup> (JH). Five (2 males and 3 female-types) at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup> (MLD, MS) was the only

October record. The same site had two males and two females on 6<sup>th</sup> November (CH) and a male and female on 10<sup>th</sup> November (CH, DT). A male was on the River Calder at **Horbury SF** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December (JRS) and a group of ten (4 males) was at **Scammonden Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup> (DT).

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

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

A fairly normal year, but the hard weather at the end of the year forced some locally significant numbers onto the River Calder. The July record from Isle of Skye Quarry is the first confirmed breeding record since 2004.

On 1st January, there were three at **Broadstone Res.** and a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, followed by four at **Bretton Lakes** on 5<sup>th</sup> (and again on 16<sup>th</sup>), a single on 6<sup>th</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, two at **Elland GP** on 7<sup>th</sup>, eight at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10<sup>th</sup>, five at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13<sup>th</sup>, 24 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup> and six at **Horbury SF** on 21<sup>st</sup>. Finally, there were three at **Ringstone Edge Res.** and four at **Deanhead Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup>. Eight were at **Elland GP** on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 22 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** the same day (with 10 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), singles at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 at **Dewsbury SF** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and six at **Bretton Lakes** on 24<sup>th</sup>. March saw seven at **Bretton Lakes** on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12 at **Dewsbury SF** on 6<sup>th</sup>, two at **Horbury SF** on 7<sup>th</sup>, five at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 16<sup>th</sup> (with 22 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 27<sup>th</sup>), two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup>, eight on the River Calder near **Healey Mills** on 19<sup>th</sup>, five at **Royd Moor Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup>, eight at **Elland GP** on 21<sup>st</sup> (with two on 31<sup>st</sup>), 14 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 27<sup>th</sup> and five at **Ossett** on 28<sup>th</sup>. Two were at **Dewsbury SF** on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and five at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on the same date (and again on 20<sup>th</sup>); **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had six (3 males) on 11<sup>th</sup>, and there was one at **Langsett Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup>. At **Healey Mills**, the newly created ponds attracted between one and six birds from January to April.

The only records in June involved up to four (2 males + 2 females) on a number of occasions at the former breeding site at **Black Moss**. On 8<sup>th</sup> July at **Isle of Skye Quarry**, a female engaging in distraction display led to the discovery of a downy duckling. The female was seen again on several dates up to 13<sup>th</sup> August, behaving in a manner which indicated the survival of at least one duckling. The only other record in July came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where there was a single on 19<sup>th</sup>.

The autumn passage became evident in early August, when **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had four on 7<sup>th</sup> and a single on 21<sup>st</sup>, and at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** there were two on 22<sup>nd</sup> and a single on 23<sup>rd</sup>. September brought five to **Broadstone Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup>, up to seven on 10 dates between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and 13 at **Dewsbury SF** on 15<sup>th</sup>. A single female-type at **Tunnel End Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup> October was followed by 10 at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 7<sup>th</sup> (with 6 on 9<sup>th</sup>). **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had up to 18 (usually less than 5) on six dates during the month, between 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 13 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 15<sup>th</sup>, 34 at **Langsett Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 at **Cannon Hall** on 19<sup>th</sup>, six at **Bretton Lakes** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a single on **Redbrook Res** on 28<sup>th</sup>. Seven were at **Meal Hill** on 1<sup>st</sup> November and one on 6<sup>th</sup> at **Bretton Lakes** with six there on 25<sup>th</sup>. There was also a monthly maximum of six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on an unspecified date. At the close of the year, **Ringstone Edge Res.** had six on 1<sup>st</sup> December, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** recorded 26 on 2<sup>nd</sup> (when 20 Wigeon were also present) and three on 14<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 on **Cupwith Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup> (and a single on 13<sup>th</sup>), three on **Ingbirchworth** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a single at **Elland GP** the same day (plus 10 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 31<sup>st</sup>), four at **Bretton Lakes** on 17<sup>th</sup> (with 7 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>), 16 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 25<sup>th</sup>, 80 on the River Calder at **Dewsbury SF** on 27<sup>th</sup> and finally 20 at **Healey Mills** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Records came from 40 locations this year, with breeding proved at 19 of them.

Maximum numbers at the few regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	56	47	44	21	22	38	53	57	57	44	44	47
Broadstone Res.	62	n/c	4	8	3	7	9	17	42	32	63	12
Ingbirchworth Res.	97	c.70	c.80	44	c.30	43	61	53	130	170	182	77
Longwood Valley	n/c	2	4	5	7	5	10	8	n/c	5	9	4

Away from these sites, counts of more than 20 birds were as follows:

**Holmfirth** - 72 on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**Elland GP** - 27 on 7<sup>th</sup> January and 22 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Scout Dike Res.** - 65 on 10<sup>th</sup> January and 45 on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**Dovestones Res.** - 67 on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 52 on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 26 on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 47 on 5<sup>th</sup> July and 30 on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Bretton Lakes** - 84 on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** - 25 on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 20 on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 22 on 11<sup>th</sup> May and 72 on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Langsett Res.** - 35 on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 22 on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Colnebridge SP** - c.30 on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**Tunnel End Res.** - 49 on 24<sup>th</sup> October - an exceptional number for this site.

**Marsden** - 46 in the village centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Sands Lane GP** - 42 on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**Royd Moor Res.** - 45 on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bedding Edge Road** (1 brood, 2 ducklings), **Bilberry Res.** (1 brood, 3 ducklings), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (only 18 out of 119 ducklings reached the flying stage), **Bradley Hall Farm** (1 brood, 4 ducklings), **Bretton Park** (no details submitted), **Broadstone Res.** (4 ducklings), **Carlecotes Ponds** (2 ducklings), **Colne Bridge** (8-10 ducklings), **Cupwith Res.** (3 broods), **Dewsbury SF** (at least 11 broods, with a maximum of 12 in one of them), **Dovestones Res.** (no details supplied), **Elland GP** (broods of 4 and 8 ducklings), **Flint St., Huddersfield** (7 ducklings on canal), **Horbury Strands/Wyke** (at least 5 broods), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (at least 5 broods totalling 35 ducklings), **Langsett Res.** (broods of 4, 7 and 9 ducklings), **Marsden area** (of 10 broods totalling 34 ducklings, only 2 were known to have fledged), **Sands Lane GP** (2 broods totalling 12 ducklings), and **Scout Dike Res.** (7 broods totalling 35 ducklings).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

There were just five records which, typically, all came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** - a male and two females were present on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, a party of five on 8<sup>th</sup> September and, in October, a single female-type on 10<sup>th</sup>, a male on 30<sup>th</sup> and a female-type on 31<sup>st</sup>.

(NORTHERN) **SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*  
Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

A fairly typical year, with records from nine locations but, sadly, no repeat of the winter flock in the Horbury area.

In January, a single male was at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13<sup>th</sup>, and two females were at **Bretton Lakes** on 16<sup>th</sup>. There were then no more records until March, when a male was again at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13<sup>th</sup>, and two males at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup>. April saw a male at **Winscar Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup>, a male and female to **Bretton Lakes** on 11<sup>th</sup>, with a male and female at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on the same day, which remained until 13<sup>th</sup>, a male was at the same site on 25<sup>th</sup> when a male and female were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, which stayed until 30<sup>th</sup>. The only May record was a male at **Dewsbury SF** on 21<sup>st</sup>. An isolated summer occurrence was a female-type at the same site on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

The autumn began with three on 2<sup>nd</sup> September at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and then in October: a male was at the same site on 27<sup>th</sup> with six on 30<sup>th</sup>, also on 30<sup>th</sup> was a male at **Healey Mills** and the last record of the year was a male at **Sands Lane GP** on 31<sup>st</sup>.

(COMMON) **POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*  
Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

With records coming from only six sites (9 in 2008), this species continues to dwindle in our area. Once again, the largest gathering was at **Bretton Lakes**.

In the first half of the year, January saw a male and female at **Elland GP** from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, with an extra male on the latter date, two males on 15<sup>th</sup> and a female there on 18<sup>th</sup>, a male at **Bretton Lakes** on 14<sup>th</sup> and two males there on 16<sup>th</sup>, a lone bird at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> and a female at **Windy Bank Res.** on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There was also an undated January record of a single at **Broadstone Res.** **Bretton Lakes** had groups of 13 (9 males) on 24<sup>th</sup> February and ten (8 males) on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

There was then a gap until August, when **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held three on 4<sup>th</sup>. **Ingbirchworth Res.** had a male on 19<sup>th</sup> September, and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, up to five (usually only 1 or 2) were present on 11 dates between 27<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> December. A male was at **Bretton Lakes** on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, with two males there on 6<sup>th</sup> November and a male was at **Elland GP** on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The final records of the year were of two males at **Bretton Lakes** on 17<sup>th</sup> December and a male at **Elland GP** on 28<sup>th</sup> December which was joined by a second male between 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*

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

Reported at 21 widely scattered sites, better than in 2008 but on the down-side, there was no proof of breeding this year. Elland GP once again attracted the largest gathering in the winter months.

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	12	2	3	7	2	10	14	19	10	7	3	3
Bretton Lakes	9	16	14	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	20	20	n/c
Elland GP	52	23	4	4	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	23	38	54
Ingbirchworth Res.	4	12	4	15	1	9	14	6	9	8	4	n/c
Scout Dike Res.	n/c	n/c	20	8	n/c	n/c	12	22	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c

The table above illustrates the usual influx in the winter months. Away from the tabulated sites, the only counts of 10 or more were made at the following:

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** - up to 20 on the River Calder between 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Dewsbury SF** - 12 on the River Calder on 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December.

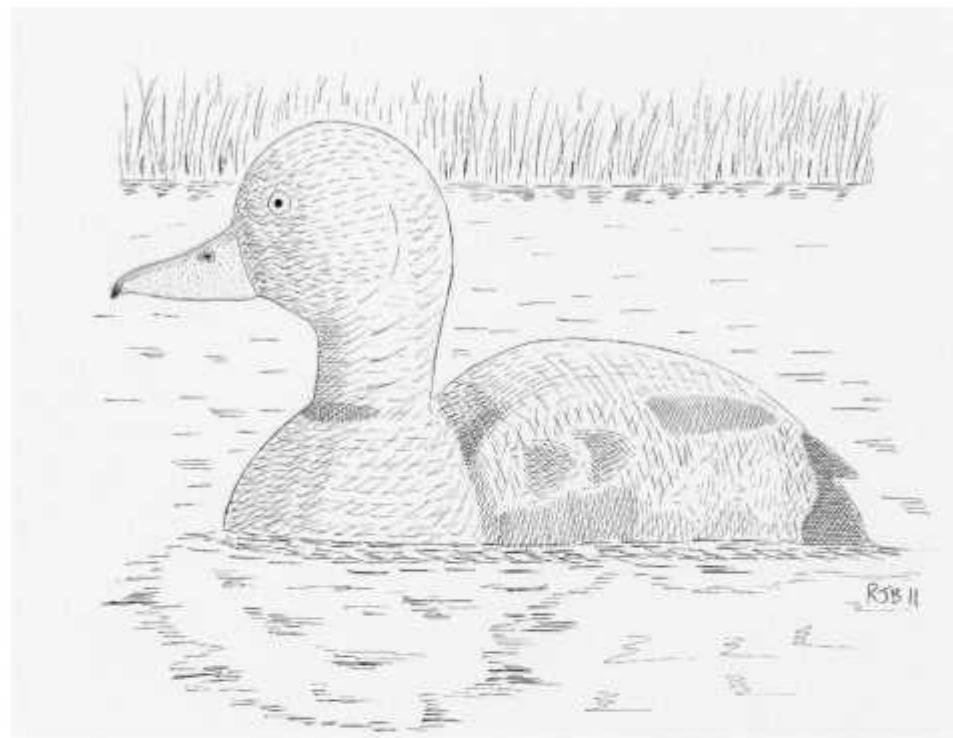
**Healey Mills** - 16 on the River Calder on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

Wintering birds, mainly in low single figures, were recorded at **Bilberry Res.**, **Blakeley Res.**, **Boshaw Whams Res.**, **Broadstone Res.**, **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, **Meal Hill**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Sands Lane GP** and **Windy Bank Res.** (Meltham).

In the breeding season, low single figures were noted at **Bedding Edge Road**, **Boshaw Whams Res.**, **Broadstone Res.**, **Carlecotes Pond**, **Holme Styes Res.**, **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, **Langsett Res.**, **Lower Windleden Res.**, and **Royd Moor Res.**

(GREATER) **SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.



A first-winter male was present at **Boshaw Whams Res.** from 9<sup>th</sup> November until at least 16<sup>th</sup> December, after which it was presumably driven off by the severe weather conditions. (DHP *et al*). There was also a first-winter male at **Elland GP** on 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December (DT) - perhaps the same bird?

Another prolonged stay by a single bird, following that at Sands Lane GP in 2008. On first impression, **Boshaw Whams Res.** does not have much to recommend it, yet this is the second long-staying Scaup recorded there - a first-winter female was present from 30<sup>th</sup> October 1988 - 24<sup>th</sup> March 1989.

**COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

A rather similar year to 2008 but, although most records came as usual from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, numbers there were low. The species also showed that it can turn up at any reasonably sized stretch of water.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** had three males on 12<sup>th</sup> March (MLD, CH, DHP, MS), an unusual date. A first-summer male at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup> April (DT, RJB) was the first record for that locality. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a single male on 16<sup>th</sup> June (MLD, CH, DMO) with another

male on 20<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH, DMO) and 12 birds were reported from **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27<sup>th</sup> (BirdGuides). A single male was at the latter site on 4<sup>th</sup> July (DB). A male was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup> August (CH, DMO), followed by another male on 10<sup>th</sup> September (MLD, CH). In the same month, what may have been the same male as that at Blackmoorfoot was at **Deer Hill Res.** on 10<sup>th</sup> (TD, DHP), and a female at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> (DB). October saw two males and a female at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH, DMO); there was a male at **Scammonden Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> November (DT) and finally, a female at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 14<sup>th</sup> December (MLD, CH).

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

Reported from only 18 sites this year (21 in 2008). The River Calder hosted the largest groups during cold spells, but the general trend continues to be downward. In terms of overall bird/days, adult males outnumbered female-types by approximately 2:1, although a preponderance of female-types at the less frequented sites is interesting.

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	1	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	2
Elland GP	9	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5
Horbury SF (R. Calder)	6	13	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Ingbirchworth Res.	2	6	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2

Away from the sites listed above, there was the usual scatter of records, although the numbers were too small for any real pattern to emerge (all were females/immatures unless otherwise stated).

In January, one was at **Healey Mills** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a male at **Winscar Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup>. February saw two at **Winscar Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> and a male at **Deer Hill Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup>. In March, two males were at **Boshaw Whams Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, two (1 male) were at **Bilberry Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> and two (1 male) at **Whitley Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup>. Three (2 males) were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

In October, four (1 male) were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup>, while in November, two or three birds were regularly seen between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at **Boshaw Whams Res.** and a male was at **Redbrook Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup>. In December, **Cupwith Res.** had two on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, three on 4<sup>th</sup>, and two on 11<sup>th</sup>, one was at **Deanhead Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, a male was at **Scammonden Res.** on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and two were at **Boshaw Whams Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SMEW** *Mergellus albellus*

A male was present on the River Calder at **Horbury SF** from 14<sup>th</sup> February to 16<sup>th</sup> March, associating with Goldeneyes (DT *et al*). What was presumably the same bird was present at the same location again on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December (JRS).

A welcome return by this attractive species, last recorded in 2003.



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

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

Just one record of this scarce visitor this year - a male at **Horbury SF** on 28<sup>th</sup> December was joined by a female on 29<sup>th</sup> (JRS).

## **GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor, and occasional breeder.

With records from 26 locations, the species is becoming even more widely recorded. Goosander are highly mobile, and even at the locations where large gatherings are seen, numbers can fluctuate wildly from day to day. **Bretton Lakes** attracted the largest flock, with a good total of 61 on 17<sup>th</sup> December. There was only one record of confirmed breeding this year, but there continued to be a small presence at various sites along the River Calder during the spring and early summer.

Maximum numbers from regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	10	18	8	1	0	0	0	0	2	7	9	8
Bretton Park	30	8	3	6	0	0	1	0	0	5	19	61
Elland GP	24	13	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	3	6	11
Healey Mills	6	4	6	5	5	1	1	0	1	2	5	4
Horbury SF (R. Calder)	3	3	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
Horbury Strands/Wyke	10	8	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Sands Lane GP	3	7	3	3	0	1	0	0	4	2	3	3

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the downward trend in numbers noted in 2008 continued, and the species was recorded on 98 days (20 less than in 2008), the number of bird/days being 302 (443 in 2008). Birds were seen on a daily basis between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> March, but this level of occupancy never materialised during the second winter period, birds only being present on 18 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Goosander were recorded sporadically from fourteen other widely scattered sites. They can be surprisingly tolerant of human presence, and will explore any water that is likely to contain small fish.

In January, there were four at **Bradley** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and birds were present on three dates at **Sparth Res.**, with a maximum of seven (5 males) on 13<sup>th</sup>, three on the river near the **Calder & Hebble Navigation** on 6<sup>th</sup>, eight on the River Calder at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 9<sup>th</sup> (and five on 17<sup>th</sup>), two on the River Calder at **Colne Bridge** on 10<sup>th</sup>, and three at **Whitley Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> with five there on 16<sup>th</sup>. Two flew E at **Scout Dike Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> February, one was at **Sparth Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup>, and two were at **Whitley Res.** with three there on 24<sup>th</sup>. March saw a male at **Sparth Res.** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, (with five (3 males) on 4<sup>th</sup> and three (2 males) on 13<sup>th</sup>) and at **Deanhead Res.** there were two on 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (with four on 30<sup>th</sup>), two were at **Dewsbury SF** on 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> (with three on 28<sup>th</sup>), three at **Whitley Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup>, and a male and female on **Ingbirchworth Res.** on the same day. In April two were on the River Calder at **Dewsbury SF** on 18<sup>th</sup>, and a male flew over **Colnebridge SP** on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Besides those at the regular sites, there were a small number of records in the late spring/early summer, with one seen in flight over the River Colne near **Leeds Road** on 12<sup>th</sup> May and in June, a



female with six ducklings was on the River Calder at **Lower Hopton** on 7<sup>th</sup>, at the same site as in 2008. In July, a single male was at **Colne Bridge** on 31<sup>st</sup> and there were two males and a female on the River Calder at **Mirfield** on an unspecified date.

One flew SE over **Whitley** on 19<sup>th</sup> September and in December, two males flew E at **Shelley** on 1<sup>st</sup>, two were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup> with four at **Bradley** and nine (5 males) at **Sparth Res.** on the same date, with up to four (2 males) present there on three dates up to 16<sup>th</sup>, three were on the river by the **Calder & Hebble Navigation** on 6<sup>th</sup>, eight on the River Calder at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 9<sup>th</sup> and two redheads on the River Calder at **Colne Bridge** on 10<sup>th</sup>, with three at **Whitley Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> and five there on 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

A similar picture to 2008 with 29 reports coming from 20 sites.

The highest count by some margin was of 200+ at **Harden** on 4<sup>th</sup> January, some 100+ of which had been driven down off the moor into fields as the overnight temperature fell to -4° C. Despite the weather conditions some males were seen displaying in the sunshine.

Although breeding almost certainly took place at many sites, it was only reported from four: near **Crossley's Plantation** where four juveniles were seen on 6<sup>th</sup> June, **Bare Bones Road** where a female and five young were seen on 26<sup>th</sup> June and, although noted at **Langsett** and **Winscar** no details were forthcoming.

All other counts were of 14 birds or less, the exception being a flock of 17 that flew over **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 20-30 at **Bare Bones Road** on 12<sup>th</sup> September and 30+ at **Cook's Study Hill** on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

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

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Reports came from eight sites this year.

With large numbers released for shooting, **High Hoyland** is probably the best place in our area to see this species, and 30+ were reported there in both winter periods with a maximum of 50 on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Confirmation of breeding came from **Langsett** where a pair with two young were noted in June and at **Ingbirchworth** where two juveniles were seen on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Reported elsewhere only in low single figures:

**Haigh Woods** - two on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Royd Moor Res** - two nearby on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Windmill Lane** - a single on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**Cop Hill** - two on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Reddishaw Knoll** - two on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

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

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

As with the previous species, shooting interests make the true status of this species in our area difficult to assess.

Reports came from 27 sites - slightly up on 2008.

In the early months birds were reported only in low single figures, the exception being 10 at **Shelley-Roydhouse** on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, six at **Horbury Strands** on 16<sup>th</sup> January and five at the same locality on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

Although birds were noted as probably breeding only at **Bullecliff** and **Shepley**, the larger coveys during the second part of the year indicate that it undoubtedly did so at others.

The highest counts during the second part of the year were as follows:

**Victoria Hepworth** - 15 in a hay field on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**Whitely Common** - 22 on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Dewsbury SF** - 20 feeding on a compost heap on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October, and an impressive 35 on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Healey Mills** - nine on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Deer Hill** - 11 on 25<sup>th</sup> October included one that showed pale whitish primaries symmetrically patterned on both wings.

**Thurgory Lane** - 10 on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**Swinny Knoll** - 10 on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**Shepley** - 10 on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Oldfield** - nine on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

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

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

There were three reports of this small secretive game bird.

**Windy Bank Res** - one reported in this area on 23<sup>rd</sup> May but no further details (MW).

**Ingbirchworth** - a bird was heard calling and possibly sighted at 04.30hrs. in the Annat Royd Farm/Spicer House Lane area on 29<sup>th</sup> June (MC), and again calling from a barley field on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July (D.Butt).

**Buckstones Moss** - a singing male was present for over a week from 18<sup>th</sup> July (R. Henry & R. Ransom, Marsden Moor NT Estate).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Reports came from 40 sites. As large numbers of this species are raised and released for shooting purposes interpretation of status is difficult. The highest count by far was at **Haigh Woods**, where 100+ were recorded on both 14<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> March. Elsewhere most reports were of eight birds or less with very few counts in low double figures.

Evidence of breeding came from the following: **Horbury Strands** (2 family parties), **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Bretton Park**, **Farnley Tyas**, **Healey Mills** (3 pairs), **Swindon Plantation** (4 pairs with 10 juveniles), **Woodsome Road** and **Blackmoorfoot** (a female with 2 half-grown young on Meltham Cop on 13<sup>th</sup> September).

Birds visited gardens in **Almondbury** and **New Mill**.

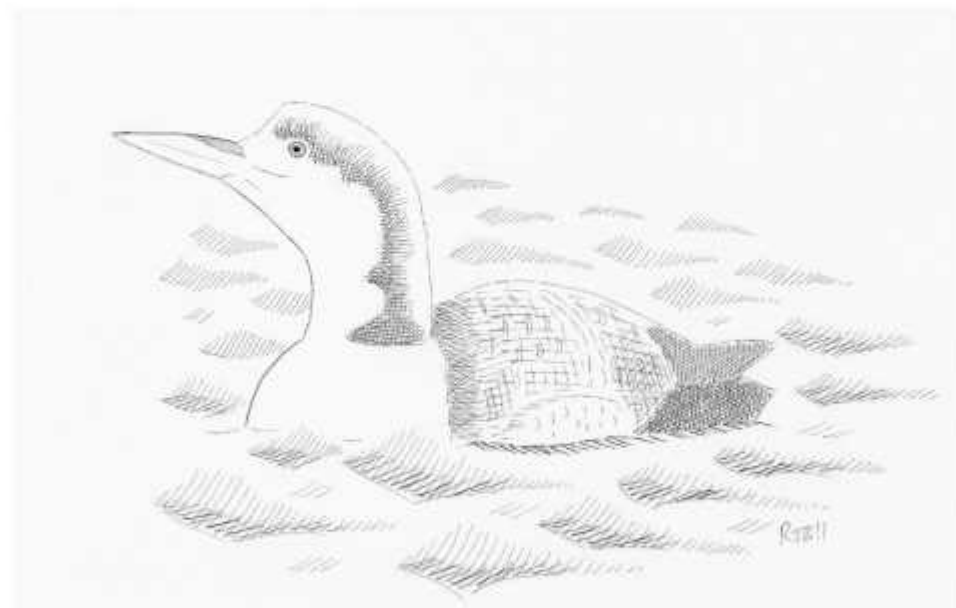
**BLACK-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia arctica*

Rare winter visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** an immature remained between 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January (GK, MLD, CH, MS *et al*). Although not seen after 08.20hrs. on 30<sup>th</sup> nor on 31<sup>st</sup>, the same bird returned by late morning of 1<sup>st</sup> February. The bird remained until frozen out on 5<sup>th</sup> February (DHP, MLD, CH *et al*). This is the third record for the reservoir and the first since December 1983.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer*

Scarce to rare winter visitor.



There was an influx of this impressive species onto many inland water bodies and our recording area certainly received its share.

An immature at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** from 23<sup>rd</sup> November was joined by a second immature on 1<sup>st</sup> December, both of which remained until 29<sup>th</sup> December (MLD, CH, DMO *et al*). This is the eighth record for the reservoir (first since April 2002) and the longest that any diver species has remained on a Huddersfield water.

At **Scammonden Res.** an immature first reported on 2<sup>nd</sup> December was also joined by a second young bird on the 29<sup>th</sup> December, both remaining until 31<sup>st</sup> December (DT *et al*). At **Deer Hill Res.** an immature was present on 16<sup>th</sup> December (SRG).

#### **DIVER SP.** *Gavia* sp.

A diver on **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the afternoon of 1<sup>st</sup> March showed a white flank patch and was considered to be a Black-throated (DM). When viewed at distance, in failing light, no flank patch was visible and other diver species could not be ruled out (MS, GK).

#### **LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Records came from only 18 sites and proof of breeding confirmed at only three of these. Birds were recorded in every month.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – the only records during the first winter period concerned singles on 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January. One or two were present on a daily basis between 17<sup>th</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> July but there was no evidence of breeding. From 11<sup>th</sup> July until 30<sup>th</sup> December one or two were seen on a daily basis with three or four daily between 6<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Bretton Park** - resident and probably breeding, but the highest count was of seven on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - present at this site throughout the year, but with no evidence of any breeding activity. Between one and three were normally present but there was a maximum of six on 20<sup>th</sup> April and four on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Elland GP** – one to four were present on a daily basis between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> May, with a maximum of six on 7<sup>th</sup> January and eight two days later. One to four were then present between 7<sup>th</sup> October and the year end.

**Horbury Strands** – regularly recorded in the first three and the last two month of the year, generally up to three were present but there was a maximum of five on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Scout Dike Res.** – the only records were of three on 12<sup>th</sup> March, four on 17<sup>th</sup> March and two on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**Boshaw Whams** – a pair may have bred.

**Gunthwaite Dam** - a pair raised two young.

**Carlecotes Pond** - a pair present in spring and early summer may have bred or attempted to do so.

**Marsden/Tunnel End** – up to three were recorded daily between 17<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> December with four on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Sands Lane GP** – the only record during the first winter period concerned a single on the river on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Up to three were then present from June to the year end and a pair had two young by 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Healey Mills** - a pair raised a single young.

**Meal Hill** - a single on 8<sup>th</sup> March and two on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Subsequently birds were heard regularly until 16<sup>th</sup> July when five were present. The only record thereafter concerned a single on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Elsewhere reports came from: **Scammonden Res.** which had a single on 8<sup>th</sup> January and two on 2<sup>nd</sup> December; **Bradley Hall Farm** where three were on the River Calder on 9<sup>th</sup> January; **Windy Bank Res.** had a single on 24<sup>th</sup> January; **Broadstone Res.** where one or two were recorded during

most months, **Dewsbury SF** had one or two on three dates in March and two remained between 17<sup>th</sup> October and the year end.

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Records came from 14 sites with proof of breeding at only two of these and probable breeding at a further two.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** had up to four on 21 days between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February. From 9<sup>th</sup> February until 19<sup>th</sup> October up to 10 were present on a daily basis (see table) but the usual autumn build-up failed to materialize. Three pairs built nests, but only one produced young: the three young hatched on 20<sup>th</sup> June and all departed during the night of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> October. Thereafter between one and three were seen on a total of 30 days.

The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	4	7	8	8	10	6	4	3	6	3	1

**Bretton Park** - birds were present throughout the year. In the first three months there was a maximum of four between 14<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> March. Breeding was confirmed but no further details were forthcoming. The last three months of the year saw a maximum of 20 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October then between eight and 11 to the year end.

**Ingbirchworth Res** - one to five birds were recorded throughout most of year. A pair were displaying on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and a maximum of six (3 pairs) were noted on 12<sup>th</sup> June; at least one pair probably bred.

**Scout Dike Res** - four were first noted on 28<sup>th</sup> February and were then present throughout the summer, but no breeding occurred due to a very low water level.

**Elland GP** - one to four were present on five dates between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January, then one to three were recorded on several dates between 29<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Royd Moor Res** - two were noted on 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May, and again on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Three were present on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Dewsbury SF** - one on the River Calder on 13<sup>th</sup> March, with two on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Healey Mills** - a single on 16<sup>th</sup> March and two on the River Calder on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**Scammonden Res** - a single between 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November and five between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Elsewhere: a single was reported from **Broadstone Res.** on four dates between April and October; **Longwood Valley** had one on an unspecified date in January; **Ringstone Edge Res.** had singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 18<sup>th</sup> November; **Sands Lane GP** had one on 26<sup>th</sup> April and at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** singles were on the River Calder on 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

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

Uncommon passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Recorded from 26 sites, exactly the same number as last year, and covering all months.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – the only records in January/February concerned an immature on 25<sup>th</sup> January and an adult on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Thereafter one to six birds were recorded on a further 39 date between 11<sup>th</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> October. Birds over flew the reservoir on several occasions and, although there was no seasonality to these movements, 70% of birds flew or departed between west and north.

**Boshaw Whams** - present at this site in just about every month with as many as nine together. The race *sinensis* as well as *carbo* was identified over the year, but no quantifying details are available (MC).

**Elland GP** - regular in the first half of the year with of five on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> January and a maximum of six on 11<sup>th</sup> March. The only records during the summer months involved singles on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> May. Between 18<sup>th</sup> October and the year-end up to 13 (generally less than 8) were present on a near daily basis.

**Broadstone Res** - a single on 25<sup>th</sup> July, five on an unspecified date in September, then just singles in November and December.

**Dewsbury SF** - seen daily on the River Calder with a maximum of 14 on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Heaton Lodge** - five on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** - recorded on five dates in January with a maximum of four on 13<sup>th</sup>. Six were on the River Calder on 4<sup>th</sup> February, then one to three on several dates between 13<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> June. Thereafter one to three were recorded on five dates between 26<sup>th</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**Royd Moor Res** – between one and four were seen regularly throughout the year. Numbers in excess, all in March, involved eight (7 adults and 1 immature) on 1<sup>st</sup>, six on 4<sup>th</sup> and five on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Scout Dike Res** - one to four were seen regularly throughout the year with a maximum of five on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**Colnebridge SP** - regularly seen passing over the site with a maximum of five on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Sands Lane GP** - records spread throughout the year, mainly of one to five birds with a maximum of six on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Away from the above sites one to three were noted at several other localities including: **Bretton Park, Brownhill Res., Calder/Hebble Navigation, Carlecotes Pond** (overflying), **Harden Res., Healey Mills, Holm Styes Res., Lower Hopton, Scammonden Res., Shelley** (over flying on three dates), **Whitley Res.** and **Windy Bank Res.**

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

Rare visitor

After the five records in 2008, only two this year of this delightful heron was a bit disappointing. Both reports were of birds in flight only.

**Scout Dike Res** - brief views were had of a bird as it flew over farmland to the S of the reservoir before disappearing behind conifers on 17<sup>th</sup> March (D.But).

**Huddersfield/Aspley** – a single of what was almost certainly this species flew across Wakefield Road and up the River Colne on 22<sup>nd</sup> March (JKP)

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

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

Seen just about everywhere in the Club recording area, including overflying the town centre. Reports came from a similar number of sites as last year, and again in every month.

Once again **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a very quiet year due to the very high water level. One or two (generally only one) were seen on 85 dates between 25<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> November. The only exceptions concerned three which flew NW at 09.25hrs. on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and four present on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**Bretton Lakes** - birds were present throughout but the only notable counts this year involved 28+ on 24<sup>th</sup> February when many were reported to be sat on nests.

**Dewsbury SF** - up to six were seen throughout the year.

**Elland GP** - one to three were recorded between 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> May, then again between 24<sup>th</sup> September and the year end.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** - between two and five were seen on several dates between 13<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> May. There was a maximum count of 10 on 14<sup>th</sup> June. Thereafter two to seven were recorded between 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**Scammonden Res** - three pairs were present in the breeding season with nest building noted on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Meltham** - at Wood Bottom Farm seven nests were occupied.

As last year a pair probably bred on private land in the vicinity of **Lepton Great Wood**. There were records from several other sites which involved between one and four birds which were spread throughout the year.

Of interest, there was the occasional sighting of a very confiding bird in the centre of **Holmfirth**, an individual apparently unconcerned by the very close proximity of passers-by. Notable was a bird hunting frogs in a **Shelley** garden on an unspecified date in March.

#### **WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare visitor of doubtful origin.

Two reports of three birds.

**Ossett** - a single bearing a green ring on its left leg was photographed on 28<sup>th</sup> March (DT, WF).

**Colnebridge SP** - two birds were seen circling at 16.40 hrs. on 1<sup>st</sup> April (DT).

#### **SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare visitor.

Only the fourth record of this exotic species since the formation of the Club and the first since 1999.

**Linthwaite** - an adult flew SW over the observers house at Causeway Side at 07.35hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> June (CH).

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

Rare visitor, increasing.

With the very successful re-introduction of this species into many areas of the UK, we can surely look forward to seeing more of this glorious raptor in the future. This was the Clubs best showing to date, with sightings spread fairly evenly through the year. None of the birds were reported to be wing-tagged.

**Skelmanthorpe** – a single N in the afternoon on 17<sup>th</sup> February (CH).

**Elland GP** - one over at midday on 21<sup>st</sup> February (D.Prest per HBC).

**Meltham** - one low over Legards Road flew towards Honley on 7<sup>th</sup> March (DMP, SP).

**Cheesegate Nab.** – a single flew E in the afternoon on 12<sup>th</sup> April (M&SC).

**Harden/Winscar** - a moulting adult was seen on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April. On the first date it was seen in a dogfight with two Ravens and was mobbed by Curlews (MC). A single was present on 7<sup>th</sup> November (MC).

**Snailsden Moor** - what was probably the same bird as that seen at Harden/Winscar was present on 25<sup>th</sup> April (DMP, SP).

**Scout Dike Res** - one flew S at 09.05hrs. on 14<sup>th</sup> June (RJB).

**Whitley Beaumont** - a bird first seen on 16<sup>th</sup> August remained in the area until 17<sup>th</sup> September, an amazing 33 days (DS). A bird circling with two Buzzards before drifting off towards **Flockton** on 24<sup>th</sup> September may have been a different individual (DS).

**Bretton Park** – a single was mobbed by Buzzards on 13<sup>th</sup> September (via SRG).

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

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
3	5	3	8	10

#### **MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

Two reports concerning three birds this year.

**Cook's Study Hill** - two juveniles on 17<sup>th</sup> August (DH).

**Linthwaite** - a cream-crown flew S at 14.05hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> September (CH).

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

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	5	3

#### **HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

A poor year for this fine raptor with just one definite record.

A 'ring-tail' was present at **Holme Moss** during the early afternoon on 23<sup>rd</sup> April (RSPB staff).

A male harrier seen flying away from the observer over **Harden Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> May was thought probably to refer to this species, but frustratingly the bird disappeared around Shepherd's Castle before a definite identification could be made (MC).

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

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
4	7	4	1	4	4	4	1	4	1



**MONTAGU'S HARRIER** *Circus pygargus*

Rare summer visitor.



An adult male was observed at **Deanhead Res.** on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> April (J.Welford).

This was the tenth record for the club area and the first for Calderdale.

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

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

A slightly better picture than last year for this powerful raptor.

**Harden** - one, probably a juvenile, was seen hunting grouse which were in large, snow driven flocks on 5<sup>th</sup> January (MC).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - an adult female flew north along the E bank at 09.30hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> March (MLD). This is the thirteenth record for the reservoir and the first since November 2004.

Reports came from a further two sites. A juvenile male on 16<sup>th</sup> March (SRG), the observer stating that for the second year running no display was noted here, and a male and female were observed at another site on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (DT).

**In view of the virtual disappearance of this species as a breeding bird in the Peak District, all records must now be supported by a full description if they are to be included in the annual report (Records Committee).**

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

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Although reported in every month of the year, this agile hunter was recorded from only about 40 sites, well down on previous years. It is to be hoped that this is due to simple under recording (but see comment from the well watched site of Blackmoorfoot) rather than signs of a serious decline.

Birds were reported from gardens at **Almondbury** on several dates in the first two months, **New Mill** where one was seen to make a kill, **Harden** on three occasions, **Shelley** where prey species included Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Goldfinch and at **Jackson Bridge** where one scattered feeding birds, landed on a ball feeder where it hung upside down for some 30 seconds before flying into a hedge, then returned to sit on top of the feeder waiting for prey for another minute.

Singles were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot** with the exceptions of January, February and July. The number of sightings from this locality continues to fall and the highest monthly bird/days was only six in each of the months August, September and October.

A male was seen to strike, kill and eat a Lapwing near **Scout Dike Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup> April, and one was seen in pursuit of Pied Wagtails at **Horbury SF** on three separate occasions.

Confirmation of breeding came from five sites only: **Langsett** where two pairs were seen taking food into plantation on several occasions, **Healey Mills** where at least one young was raised in a willow coppice, **Meltham** where a pair were seen taking food to at least two large young in nest at Royd Edge Cemetery in July. Breeding was also noted at **Horbury Strands** and **Stockmoor** but no further details are available. Displaying pairs and other signs of probable or possible breeding were noted at **Almondbury**, **Bretton Park**, **Fixby**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Lepton** and **Ramsden Res.**

All other records involved no more than two birds together, with the vast majority concerning singles only.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	8	16	13	10	5	4	5	5	5	7	5

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

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

Another bumper year for this impressive raptor. Reports came from over 40 sites, a similar picture to last year, and although breeding was suspected at some of these, no definite proof was forthcoming.

**Shepley** - one on 2<sup>nd</sup> January (SRG).

**Yateholme** - two on 3<sup>rd</sup> January and then seen on numerous occasions up to late May (DMP, SP, KW).

**High Hoyland** - two on 16<sup>th</sup> January and again on 18<sup>th</sup> September (SRG).

**Kirklees Park** - two on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Thereafter birds were seen frequently with a maximum of four soaring together on 16<sup>th</sup> November (DS).



**Blackmoorfoot** - birds were recorded on seven occasions: one flew W over Meltham Cop at 12.05hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup> February (MLD, CH), on 29<sup>th</sup> March one flew S at 14.20hrs. with a different plumaged bird flying N at 14.35hrs. (MLD, DMO), one departed S at 14.20hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup> April (MLD, DMO, MS), one departed S at 13.20hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> April (DMO, MS), a single over Meltham Cop on 1<sup>st</sup> June (CH) and in September one over Meltham Cop on 10<sup>th</sup> (TD, CH) and one S at 09.05hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH).

**Scout Dike Res** - one N on 28<sup>th</sup> February (RJB), one overflying on 17<sup>th</sup> March (D.Butt) and two present on 4<sup>th</sup> October (MC).

**Almondbury** - one at Castle Hill on 5<sup>th</sup> March (S&HC).

**Crossley's Plantation** - two birds displaying on 5<sup>th</sup> March (DHP).

**Winscar Res** - two seen on 5<sup>th</sup> March (DP).

**Heyden Brook** - two present from early March but no sign of any birds beyond late-May (MC).

**Horbury Strands** - single on 6<sup>th</sup> March (P&BB) and 5<sup>th</sup> July (DM).

**Kirkburton/Storches Hall Woodland** - regular sightings from early March (SRG).

**Grange Moor** - a single on 19<sup>th</sup> March (CH).

**Bolster Moor** - one over on 23<sup>rd</sup> March (DM).

**Cheesegate Nab** - one to two seen on an almost daily basis between 20<sup>th</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> December. After hearing gunshots on the last date, no birds were seen subsequently (HQ).

**Crosland Heath GC** - one over on 21<sup>st</sup> March (SP).

**Haigh Woods** - two on 24<sup>th</sup> March and a single on 1<sup>st</sup> June (DT).

**Meal Hill** - two birds together on 29<sup>th</sup> March (MC).

**Isle of Skye Quarry** - a single flew from the rock face on both 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March (DHP).

**Whitley** - one on 29<sup>th</sup> March (JL). Almost daily during August and September with four birds together on two occasions (DS).

**Harden** - recorded here on several dates from early Spring including a very pale bird WSW on 26<sup>th</sup> September (MC)

**Wilshaw** - a single on 12<sup>th</sup> April (MW), and two together on 7<sup>th</sup> October (DHP).

**Deer Hill** - one over on 21<sup>st</sup> April and one mobbed by a Peregrine on 24<sup>th</sup> May (DMP)  
**Holme Moss** – singles on 21<sup>st</sup> April (MW) and 10<sup>th</sup> September (MC).  
**Snailsden** - two first noted on 24th May were present throughout June, and were thought to perhaps refer to a displaced breeding pair (MC).  
**Wessenden Head** - one on 11<sup>th</sup> June (MW).  
**Langsett/Little Don Valley** - several reports including three together on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> September (SRG, DM Pearse).  
**Farnley Tyas** - one on 9<sup>th</sup> June (WDH), and one circling overhead on 30<sup>th</sup> November (DH).  
**Annat Royd/Spicer House** – a single on 11<sup>th</sup> June (DButt).  
**Ingbirchworth** - one attracting the attention of corvids on 4<sup>th</sup> July (D Butt).  
**Shelly/Far Bank** - one W on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and two S on 2<sup>nd</sup> September (SRG).  
**Bullcliff Wood** - two on 8<sup>th</sup> August (SRG).  
**Linthwaite** - one SE on 10<sup>th</sup> September (CH).  
**Wood Nook** - singles on many dates in the Wood Nook - Wilshaw - Swinny Knoll triangle.  
**Cooper Bridge** - one N on 14<sup>th</sup> September (per HBC).  
**Skelmanthorpe/Blacker Wood** - a bird drifting slowly E was mobbed by two Ravens on 12<sup>th</sup> October (DButt).  
**Holme Moss/Harden** - a single flew W on 17<sup>th</sup> October (MC).  
**Millbank, Thornhill** - one drifted W on 17<sup>th</sup> October (JRS).  
**Deffer Wood** – a single on 19<sup>th</sup> October (SRG).  
**Marsden/Pule Hill** - one over on 21<sup>st</sup> October (DM).  
**Crowden Valley** –a single on 15<sup>th</sup> November (CDA).  
**Bretton Park** - two on 17<sup>th</sup> December (DT).

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	2	20	9	7	6	3	4	10	6	1	4

#### **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing

Rather a disappointing year with just three records compared to the previous year's eight.

At **Crosland Moor** a single flew N at 07.35hrs. on 7<sup>th</sup> May (MLD), at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one flew N at 08.10hrs. on 20<sup>th</sup> May (MLD), and at **Scout Dike Res.** a single flew SE on 8<sup>th</sup> September (DS).

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

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
2	0	7	5	1	9	2	2	8	3

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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs

Records came from just over 50 sites this year, well down on 2008, no doubt due to under-recording. Although birds were reported in every month, confirmation of breeding, or attempted breeding came from only five sites.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – one or two were present throughout the year and a pair attempted to breed in the YW tower. On 7<sup>th</sup> July a nearly fledged bird with a damaged foot fell from the nest and had to be destroyed. No other young were seen and the adults stopped visiting the nest site thereafter; **Deer Hill** – a pair raised four young from five eggs (same site as 2007); **Healey Mills** – a pair fledged two young in August in the factory loading bay; **Winscar** – bred at a traditional site and at **New Mill** breeding took place but with no further details.

Elsewhere pairs probably bred at **Bretton Park, Emley Moor, Ingbirchworth, Woodsome GC** and doubtless at several other sites.

All other reports were of one or two birds, the exceptions being four at **Butterley Res.** (2 adults and 2 juveniles) on 31<sup>st</sup> July and five at **Cook's Study Hill** on 17<sup>th</sup> August.

### **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

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

Again a poor year for our smallest bird of prey with no reports of breeding. A pair was at an old traditional breeding site towards the end of April, but as has happened in the last few years both birds had departed by mid-May (DMP).

Records were distributed fairly evenly as follows:

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – a bird circled, calling, before flying off into Digley Valley on 19<sup>th</sup> March; a probable female on the N side of the quarry on 15<sup>th</sup> July, and what was probably the same bird flushed near the quarry entrance the following day.

**Broadstone Res** – a female chasing Meadow Pipits on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**Meltham/Millmoor** – singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Langsett/Little Don Valley** – a single on 11<sup>th</sup> May and a male and female at the northern end of Langsett Res. on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**Digley** – one on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – in August a female was over the fields to the west on 3<sup>rd</sup> and what may have been the same individual was present in the same area on 8<sup>th</sup>. An adult was hunting over the fields to the west on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**Cooks Study Hill** – a single on 17<sup>th</sup> August.

**Rishworth Moor** – a bird was seen in the vicinity of Derby Delph Quarry on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**Harden** – a single flew N on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Huddersfield/Shore Head** – one flew into small trees on the edge of Sainsbury's car park on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Healey Mills** – one was hunting Meadow Pipits in freezing conditions on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

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

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

A slight increase in records for this fine raptor.

**Denby Dale** – a bird seen through the "In Focus" window on the early date on 20<sup>th</sup> April (JMc).

**Skelmanthorpe** – one N on 11<sup>th</sup> May (CH).

**Helme** – a single flew W at 07.45hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> May (ID).

**Cheesegate Nab** – one amongst hirundines on 31<sup>st</sup> May (HQ).

**Hazelhead** – a single on 20<sup>th</sup> June (MC).

**Harden** - one flew WSW on 1<sup>st</sup> July (MC).

**Wessenden** - one hunting (probably moths) on 5<sup>th</sup> July flew towards Butterley (DMP). What was probably the same bird was seen hawking moths at the top of Wessenden Head Road before heading off down the valley on 8<sup>th</sup> July (DHP). Again what could have been the same individual was seen skirmishing with a Peregrine near the mobile cafe on Wessenden Head Road on 11<sup>th</sup> July (HQ).

**Ingbirchworth Res** - good views of a bird perched on overhead power lines by the pumping station at Milner Well on 20<sup>th</sup> July (DButt).

**Upper Cumberworth** – a single on 25<sup>th</sup> July (SRG).

**Birchcliffe** - a bird scattered the local Swallows before flying closer to the observer on 18<sup>th</sup> August (SP).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a bird of indeterminable age was over the E bank on 29<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, DMO) and an immature (same bird?) was over the NE corner two days later (MLD).

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

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
6	8	3	12	9	13	7	8	8	11

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

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

Records came from just under 20 sites and were received for all months. Breeding was confirmed at only two sites. A chick about three weeks old was seen at a small moorland cliff on 5<sup>th</sup> July. The late date suggested to the observer that this was probably a second breeding attempt from a pair that was almost certainly robbed from an earlier near-by site (DMP). An unspecified number of young were reported from a well watched site (GMBRG), and a pair at another site was thought to have failed for reasons unknown early in the breeding cycle (MC).

Elsewhere birds were recorded as follows:

**Winscar** - a male on 16<sup>th</sup> January and what was probably the same bird 31<sup>st</sup>. A single was seen hunting on 28<sup>th</sup> March, and an immature female chased an Oystercatcher into the water but failed to catch it, then patrolled cliffs on the northern side of reservoir flushing four Stock Doves before moving off to the SW on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

**Horbury SF** - a bird low over the sewage beds on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January, often calling whilst harrying Black-headed Gulls and any flying ducks.

**Healey Mills** – a single on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Upper Heaton** - one S over Bog Green Lane on 12<sup>th</sup> February

**Dewsbury SF** – a single flew W on 1<sup>st</sup> March and the same or another was seen hunting a few days later.

**Cheesegate Nab** - one seen briefly on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**Blackmoorfoot** - an adult male over Meltham Cop on 13<sup>th</sup> March, an adult female hit a Woodpigeon over the fields to the west on 24<sup>th</sup> May, in July a juvenile flew S at 07.55hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> and an adult over the fields to the west departed NE at 08.25hrs. on 31<sup>st</sup>, one flew SW at 08.00hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup> August and a single was over Meltham Cop on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Bradley Park Golf Course** – a single on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Harden** - singles on 12<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> September, and two were play-fighting on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**Langsett/Little Don Valley** - one on 11<sup>th</sup> May with the same or another reported on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Huddersfield/Flint Street** - one in the Hillhouse area soaring above the canal on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Dunford Bridge** - a single on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Wessenden** - one skirmishing with a Hobby near the mobile cafe on Wessenden Head Road on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**Crosland Moor** - an immature female flew W at 19.10hrs. on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

**Whitley Beaumont** - singles over Whitley Ridge on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October. On 27<sup>th</sup> November one stooped at a Woodpigeon and missed, it then patrolled the length of the ridge for 10 minutes afterwards.

**Broadstone Res** - a single flew S on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Crowden Valley** - two over Black Tor on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Meltham Moor/West Nab** - two hunted together very close to Wessenden Head Road before drifting off round West Nab on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**Scammonden Res** - a bird hunted along the E shore on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

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

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

Following confirmation in the two previous years, breeding was not proven to have occurred in 2009. Reports were received from four sites on seven dates, all but one of them referring to single individuals.

**Ingbirchworth Res** - singles heard calling on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> March. On the former date, a bird strongly suspected to be this species was briefly glimpsed in the west end willows (DButt).

**Scout Dike Res** - one on the south bank in very cold conditions on 14<sup>th</sup> February was the regular observer's first-ever record at this site (RJB).

**Tunnel End, Marsden** - one heard calling on 8<sup>th</sup> March (JMP).

**Healey Mills** - singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, and two on 29<sup>th</sup> December (JRS).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

Reports were received from just 25 sites, with confirmed or suspected breeding occurring at nine of these. Breeding locations were as follows:

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - three breeding pairs were resident between April and mid October, with a total of five young (2, 2 and 1) reaching the flying stage. Counts of three or four were regular during the rest of the year.

**Ingbirchworth Res** - present throughout the year but rarely reaching double figures. The number of breeding pairs is unknown, but reports of juveniles included five on 6<sup>th</sup> July and up to three on many dates thereafter.

**Lower Windleden Res** - two young in the quarry on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**Colnebridge SP** - a pair with six young on 13<sup>th</sup> July. It is thought that only two of these six reached the flying stage.

**Rowley Dam, Lepton** - an adult with five juveniles on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Tunnel End, Marsden** - a very elusive pair raised at least one young.

Probable breeding also took place at **Bretton Park, Langsett Res.**, and **Shelley**, but no details were received.



Away from these sites, **Horbury Wyke/Strands** (surely another breeding location?) again hosted by far the highest numbers. Counts there included 115 (a new area record, beating last year's 96 at the same site) on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 22 on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 30 on 7<sup>th</sup> April, and 20 on 16<sup>th</sup> December. These latter three counts were from the Wyke only. Elsewhere, no counts even reached double figures.

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

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

Maximum monthly counts at some regularly monitored sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	4	4	2	2	0
Elland GP	16	26	6	3	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	12	16	28
Ingbirchworth	12	9	20	12	10	14	6	4	4	2	3	3

Birds were recorded at 13 sites, with breeding attempted at five of these. At **Broadstone Res.** two pairs were present but just one young was reared. At **Colnebridge SP** two pairs nested; one of them failing twice before leaving the area and the other hatched six young, three of which were reared. At **Scout Dike Res.** a pair produced a single young. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** at least six pairs appeared to be on territory but there was no evidence of any breeding success. The only other reported breeding attempt involved a pair seen copulating at **Elland GP** on 16<sup>th</sup> April. It is to be hoped that under-reporting and a lack of observer coverage of some suitable sites is at least in part to blame for this rather meagre showing.

In contrast, reports from outside the breeding season were mostly rather more encouraging. Few details were received from **Horbury Wyke/Strands** but 53 were in a field near there on 18<sup>th</sup> January. At **Scout Dike Res.**, 33 on 14<sup>th</sup> February was the regular observer's highest ever winter count at that site, and around 20 remained there until at least mid-March. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see the above table) between one and four (generally 1 or 2) were present on a daily basis from 6<sup>th</sup> July through to 17<sup>th</sup> November. Interestingly, although there was a turnover of birds during this period, with the exception of a juvenile on 6<sup>th</sup> July, all were adults. Other sites included **Bretton Lakes** (maximum count of 9 on 14<sup>th</sup> January), **Boshaw Whams** (present all year, with a maximum 7 on 10<sup>th</sup> November), **Meal Hill** (present all year), and the **Longwood Valley** (up to 5 in the early months). Finally, two were noted on the River Calder adjacent to **Healey Mills/Dewsbury SF** on three dates in April, August, and December.

(EURASIAN) **OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*

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

Another increase in records for this species, with birds reported from 39 widespread sites between 22<sup>nd</sup> February (one at **Horbury Wyke**) and 30<sup>th</sup> August (one flying W over **Marsden**). As usual, the vast majority appeared in the period March to July, with only two records, both of one-day singles, after 1<sup>st</sup> August. The maximum count was seven.

Proven or suspected breeding (by single pairs unless otherwise stated) occurred at **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** (noted on territory from 7<sup>th</sup> March), **Carlecotes Ponds** (a pair present between at least 24<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> June, with vociferous alarming noted on 21<sup>st</sup> May), **Horbury Wyke** (a pair copulating on 1<sup>st</sup> April), **Winscar Res.** (probably two pairs, with a well-grown but unfledged chick seen on 24<sup>th</sup> June), **Dewsbury SF** (a half grown chick on 4<sup>th</sup> July), **Reddishaw**



**Knoll, Digley Res., Cartworth Moor, Flight Hill, Broadstone Res., Lower Windleden Res., Elysium, and Yateholme.** One of the breeding pair at Dewsbury SF had been colour-ringed at Southampton Water in August 2008.

In addition to the above, counts of four or more came from **Boshaw Whams** (5 on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 7 on 23<sup>rd</sup> March), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (5 on 30<sup>th</sup> March and probably again on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 4 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June), **Winscar Res** (6 on 1<sup>st</sup> April), **Ringstone Edge Res.** (4 on 30<sup>th</sup> April), **Langsett Res.** (4 flying W on 23<sup>rd</sup> May), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (4 on 1<sup>st</sup> June being the best of an again rather disappointing year here), **Law Common Road** (5 on 24<sup>th</sup> June), **Whitley Common** (5 on 30<sup>th</sup> June), and **Dunford Bridge** (6 in sheep pasture on 1<sup>st</sup> August).

Birds were also reported in smaller numbers at **Dovestones, Baitings, Booth Wood, Deanhead, Scammonden, Cupwith, Butterley, Deer Hill, Brownhill, and Holme Styes Reservoirs**, and also at **Healey Mills, Ox Lee, the Little Don and Longwood Valleys, Shelley/Far Bank, and Sands Lane GP.** Many of these reports refer to two birds together on more than one date, some of them quite possibly involving yet more breeding pairs.

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

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

An outstanding year, with breeding attempted at seven sites and probably involving ten pairs. The first report was on 25<sup>th</sup> March and the last on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Site A** – birds were recorded between 31<sup>st</sup> March (1) and 31<sup>st</sup> July (3+, including 2 juveniles). Two pairs were on territory from at least 19<sup>th</sup> April until well into July, with both thought to have bred, but further details were not forthcoming.

**Site B** – a pair were present between at least 10<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> May, on which date one of them was sitting on eggs.

**Site C** – reported from 10<sup>th</sup> May onwards, with probably two pairs breeding and a minimum of four young reared.

**Site D** – a pair held territory from 2<sup>nd</sup> May and a nest with two eggs was found on 25<sup>th</sup>. Both of the resulting chicks reached the flying stage.

**Site E** – in June, a nest with two eggs was found on 17<sup>th</sup> but was empty by 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Site F** – a pair were present in July, with a bird on eggs reported on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, but the outcome is unknown.

**Site G** – two pairs were present in spring, at least one of which bred. The last report from here was of an adult and two well-grown young on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Other records were received from:

**Dewsbury SF** – three on 25<sup>th</sup> March, followed by singles on 28<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April. Later, two on 6<sup>th</sup> June and then a good series of records in July, including five on 4<sup>th</sup>, seven adults on both 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, five adults on 19<sup>th</sup>, and two on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The area's last report concerned two here on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Healey Mills** – two on an island in the River Calder on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**St Andrew's Road, Huddersfield** – one on waste ground near the gas holder on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**Sands Lane GP** – two adults on 18<sup>th</sup> April and again on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – in April, two on 20<sup>th</sup>, three on 23<sup>rd</sup> and then two again from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> at least.

**Deer Hill Res** – singles on 24<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – four on 25<sup>th</sup> April, one on 5<sup>th</sup> May, two on 12<sup>th</sup> May, singles on 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June. Then reported in July on 8<sup>th</sup> (adult), 11<sup>th</sup> (adult and 2 juveniles), 13<sup>th</sup> (2 adults and 2 juveniles), and finally 16<sup>th</sup> (2 adults).

**Harden Res** – one on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – in June a single flew W at 08.00hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup> and a single was heard calling on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Moss** – a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Wessenden Res** – one heard calling on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

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

Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.



Recorded at seven sites between 28<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> October, with a maximum count of four. There were no reports of any breeding attempts this year.

**Dewsbury SF** – singles on 28<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> May, followed by two on both 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June and one on 11<sup>th</sup> September (DT, JH, JRS).

**Royd Moor Res** – singles on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> April (DT, RJB).

**Deer Hill Res** – single adults on 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May (DT, DHP) four adults on 7<sup>th</sup> May (MLD). Then, in September, single juveniles on 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> (DHP).

**Winscar Res** – an adult on 3<sup>rd</sup> June appeared small, dark, and attenuated, with subdued bare parts – characteristics associated with the far northern race *tundrae* – but distance precluded its certain identification as such (MC).

**Scout Dike Res** – one flew W, calling, on 16<sup>th</sup> August (RJB).

**Ringstone Edge Res** – two adults and a juvenile on 23<sup>rd</sup> August (DHP).

**Ingbirchworth Res** – in October, a juvenile on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> at least (NWM, AK, DHP).

(EURASIAN) **DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare passage visitor.



Following a blank in 2008, the species made a welcome reappearance this year at one of its previously favoured haunts.

At **Blackmoorfoot** five were in the large field to the west of the reservoir on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> May (CH, MLD, DHP *et al*). The fifth record for the reservoir and the first there since May 2004.

Four sites hosted birds in January. The only reports from **Blackmoorfoot** concerned three on 4<sup>th</sup> and singles on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Most unusual were 42 at **Honley Moor** on 5<sup>th</sup> – the observer's first ever at the site and presumably displaced from elsewhere by recent snow. An injured bird was at **Wholestone Moor** on 28<sup>th</sup>, this being the only midwinter record from that site. The fourth location was **Broadstone Res.**, where the monthly maximum was 14.

The only February records came from **Snape Res.**, where two appeared on 25<sup>th</sup>. Birds were then present here on many dates up to 19<sup>th</sup> April (3), but with a maximum of just 16 on 15<sup>th</sup> March. The recent erection of a fence across the middle of their favoured field might in part explain these lower than expected numbers.

As is often the case, numbers gradually increased from early March. At **Broadstone Res.** c.20 flew SW on 2<sup>nd</sup> (on which date 6 were at nearby Potter's Gate) and c.40 were present on 5<sup>th</sup>. At **Blackmoorfoot** up to 35 were recorded on nine days between 5<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, with a maximum of 50+ on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Maxima elsewhere during the second half of the month included 150 over **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup>, 150 at **Pole Moor** on 17<sup>th</sup> (105 at nearby **Wholestone Moor** on the same date possibly involved some of these birds), 46 at **Horbury** on 18<sup>th</sup>, c.200 at **Maythorn Slack** on 21<sup>st</sup>, and 180 at **Ringstone Edge** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

April continued in a similar vein. **Wholestone Moor** held 160 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 140 on 12<sup>th</sup> but numbers then dwindled there, the last report of the spring involving a solitary individual on 28<sup>th</sup>. Also during the month; c.30 flew W at **Harden** on 9<sup>th</sup>, 46 were by Issues Road, **Digley** on 21<sup>st</sup>, and 135 flew W at **Broadstone** on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Blackmoorfoot** attracted 67 to 78 on a daily basis between 4<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and then up to 25 on many dates in May. **Gilbert Hill** was similar, with 10 to 30 birds present throughout May, apart from one N at **Deer Hill** on 16<sup>th</sup>, the only other May records came on the last day of the month in the far west of the area – five at **Featherbed Moss (Saddleworth Moor)**, four at **Dovestones**, and three at **Holme Clough** – and presumably involved breeding birds. As usual, positive proof of breeding was generally hard to come by, but other probable locations included **Snailsden Moss** (a singing male on 1<sup>st</sup> June and two birds there on 14<sup>th</sup> July), **Stones Ruck Moss** (a pair on 24<sup>th</sup> June), **Thurlestone Moor** (a pair on 24<sup>th</sup> June), **Chew Head** (one on 19<sup>th</sup> July), and **Black Moss** (also one on 19<sup>th</sup> July).

Elsewhere, midsummer birds were typically few, although they continued to appear at **Blackmoorfoot** during July (maximum 44 on 25<sup>th</sup>, otherwise up to 14) and August (maximum 16 on 2<sup>nd</sup>). The only other August records involved 13 in flight at **Ingbirchworth** on 5<sup>th</sup> and one on the same day at **Ringstone Edge** (also present on 6<sup>th</sup>). Numbers remained fairly low in September, with a monthly maximum of one at **Broadstone Res.**, one calling at **Black Hill** on 12<sup>th</sup>, four at **Dewsbury SF** on 18<sup>th</sup>, 26 at **Ringstone Edge** on 26<sup>th</sup>, 30 flying S at **Broadstone** on 26<sup>th</sup>, and one W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 28<sup>th</sup> being the only reports.

**Blackmoorfoot** occasionally attracted up to 12 in the first half of October, but the most productive location during that month was **Ringstone Edge**, which hosted 110 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 32 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 400+ on 28<sup>th</sup>, and 'hundreds' on 30<sup>th</sup>. This continued into November, with 280 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 450 on 18<sup>th</sup>, reducing to 13 on 27<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in October, eight flew W at **Harden** on 17<sup>th</sup>, and c.80 was the maximum count at **Broadstone Res.** Birds then became irregular, with the only large flock (140) appearing at **Wholestone Moor** on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Except for a couple of single figure counts at this same site there were then no further reports until near the end of December, when

five were at **Healey Mills** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, nine off Dudfleet Lane, **Horbury** on 26<sup>th</sup>, and 32 in fields to the east of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

# **GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare visitor.

The sole record was of two at **Dewsbury SF** on 15<sup>th</sup> September (JH).

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

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

Red listed.

Maxima at the most regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	120	18	10	4	4	100	300	127	60	80	100	120
Horbury Strands/Wyke	200	nc	6	8	4	nc	nc	nc	390	5	nc	42
Broadstone	33	nc	5	1	1	3	150	c100	c90	c120	c350	c350
Ringstone Edge	4	110	22	nc	2	nc	nc	nc	nc	230+	500	c60
Sands Lane GP	350	200	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	150	107	134	nc

The figures in the table above for **Blackmoorfoot** give a rather inflated impression of the number of birds present. Although six of the months indicate birds in treble figures, these flocks were generally short lived (especially during the first winter period) and numbers of this magnitude were not seen regularly. The large field to the west of the reservoir seems to be no longer favoured, birds now frequenting fields east of the reservoir near the airfield. Conversely, some of the smaller figures given for the other sites might well be under-representative of the true maximum numbers there.

Away from these sites, counts of 30 or over in the early months included: c.30 at **Oldfield** on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 30 W at **Bretton Park** on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 50 W at **Upper Cumberworth** on 18<sup>th</sup> January, c.35 at **Boshaw Whams Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup> February, c.90 at **Windmill Lane** on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 40 W at **Scout Dike Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 30 at **Whitley Common** on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 50 at **Dewsbury SF** on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 30 overflying **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup> March, and 40+ at **Bretton Park** on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Breeding activity was relatively well reported this year, but the following still only represents a fraction of the true extent over the area as a whole.

**Dewsbury SF** – one of a pair appeared to be on eggs on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Flight Hill** – one on a nest on 18<sup>th</sup> April and eight young from three broods present on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Around 15 pairs were reported to be on territory between Flight Hill and Harden. A different observer reported 14 pairs between Flight Hill and Riddle Pit on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The extent of any overlap between these counts is unclear.

**Whitley Common** – one on a nest on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

**Deer Hill** – c.20 pairs on 21<sup>st</sup> April. However, very few young were reared due to predation by Carrion Crows and trampling by cattle.

**Skelmanthorpe** – two pairs on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**Horbury Strands** – three pairs bred, one of them being seen with two young on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Snailsden Moor** – a pair in display on 7<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Spicer House Lane** – three pairs on 7<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Low Moor, Hazelhead** – four pairs on 7<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Windleden** – a pair on 7<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Harden Quarries** – a pair on 1<sup>st</sup> June.  
**Shepley** – several pairs in a maize crop on 5<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Springs Road, Digley** – three pairs on 5<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Hassocks Lane** – a pair bred, small young being seen on 10<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Blackmoorfoot** – a pair bred in a field to the E of the reservoir.  
**Ingbirchworth** – an adult with two young were alongside the approach road to Summer Ford Hill on 16<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Isle of Skye Quarry** – three pairs attempted to breed but the outcomes are unknown.  
**Dick Edge Lane** – young seen on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Counts from later in the year were generally higher than those in the early months. In addition to those tabulated above, notable ones included: 200 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> July, c.160 at **Spicer House Lane** on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 180 at **Dewsbury SF** on 18<sup>th</sup> July, c.110 at **Deer Hill** on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 130 at **Ingbirchworth** on 12<sup>th</sup> October, c.240 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> October, and c.150 E at **Upper Cumberworth** on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

#### **DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

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

There were no reports of breeding, or indeed of any birds at all during June and most of July, but perhaps this can be attributed to a lack of observer coverage of previous and potential breeding sites this year.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – three briefly, arriving from the SE at 12.30hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup> April. None at this site then until a juvenile on 18<sup>th</sup> October, with what was presumably the same bird still present the following day.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – singles flew W on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> July, and 31<sup>st</sup> October – this latter being the area's final record of the year.

**Deer Hill Res** – at least three on 7<sup>th</sup> May, then singles on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**Wessenden Res** – two on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – two on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a single on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**Marsden** – one flew SW, calling, at 23.15hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**Blakeley Res** – two flew S on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **JACK SNIFE** *Limnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Records came from six locations and were fairly evenly split between upland and lowland sites and between the two winter periods, though the species was more widespread in the later months. One site held a very good count of five in both March and November.

**Horbury Strands** – singles on 16<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> March, five on 18<sup>th</sup> March, and a single on 27<sup>th</sup> March. The only record in the second winter period involved five on 13<sup>th</sup> November (DT, P&BB).

**Wholestone Moor** – one on 28<sup>th</sup> January, two on 18<sup>th</sup> February, and one on 11<sup>th</sup> March. In the second winter period singles were present on 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November (DT).

**Dewsbury SF** – singles on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> April. A notably early autumn record concerned a single on 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> September, followed by one on 5<sup>th</sup> October (JH).

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – one on 9<sup>th</sup> October (DHP).

**Scout Dike Res** – two on 15<sup>th</sup> November (RJB).

**Healey Mills** – one on 20<sup>th</sup> December (JRS).

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

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

Reports from the early months were relatively few in number but included a truly exceptional series of counts from one site. At **Wholestone Moor**, up to four were present during January and then up to three in March. Other sites hosting one to two around this time were **Healey Mills**, **Boshaw Whams**, **Broadstone Res.**, **Crosland Hill Quarry**, and **Dewsbury SF**. However, none of these compared with **Horbury Strands**, which in January held a minimum of 80 on 16<sup>th</sup> and a magnificent 155 on 30<sup>th</sup>. 140 were still present on 18<sup>th</sup> March (DT).

Breeding activity was recorded from mid-March, with chipping birds at **Langsett** on 16<sup>th</sup> and the **Isle of Skye** on 19<sup>th</sup>, but was, as usual, mostly evident from early April onwards. At **Flight Hill**, 10+ were chipping on 1<sup>st</sup>, and, later, a minimum of seven territories were established. Reports of one to three chipping and/or drumming birds were also received from **Springs Road (Digley)**, **Deanhead Res.**, **Deer Hill**, **Brow Grains**, and **Carlecotes Ponds** (where 2 pairs bred). Other sites with confirmed or strongly suspected breeding (minima in brackets) included **Lower Maythorn** (1 pair), **Maythorn Slack** (1 pair), **Hartcliff Hill** (1 pair), **Reddishaw Knoll** (1 pair), **Riddle Pit Farm/Fox House Moss** (4 pairs), **Snailsden Moor** (4 pairs), **Townhead** (2 pairs), and **Whitley 'airfield'** (3 pairs).

Away from these sites there were typically few midsummer reports. Three flew SW at **Scout Dike Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> July and then in August eight were at **Dewsbury SF** on 15<sup>th</sup> and one at **Horbury Wyke** on 22<sup>nd</sup>. The **Isle of Skye Quarry** held singles on four dates during the month. Numbers remained relatively low in September, with maxima of just six at **Horbury Wyke** and five at **Dewsbury SF**, but there was evidence of movement towards the end of the month when, on 26<sup>th</sup>, six flew S during a visible migration watch at **Broadstone Res.** Birds then became more widespread from early October. Notable counts included eight at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4<sup>th</sup>, nine at **Boshaw Whams** on 10<sup>th</sup>, 18 at **Dewsbury SF** on 27<sup>th</sup>, and six at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup>. November counts included 14 at **Wholestone Moor** on 4<sup>th</sup>, 14 at **Horbury Strands** on 13<sup>th</sup>, and eight at **Scout Dike Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup>. Numbers then appeared to dwindle slightly, the highest being seven at **Healey Mills** on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

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

During January three were flushed from heather at **Deer Hill** on 4<sup>th</sup>, followed by singles at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 7<sup>th</sup> and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup>. One flew high over **High Hoyland** on 7<sup>th</sup> February and on 16<sup>th</sup> of that month a single was flushed from frozen snow at **Scout Dike Res.** The last report from the early months was of one at **Holme Styes** on 16<sup>th</sup> March.



Breeding season reports came from two general localities but were again rather sketchy, often undated, and surely under-representative of the true extent of breeding in the area as a whole. Most reports of roding came from the **Langsett/Swinden Plantation/Little Don Valley** area but never exceeded four birds on any one date. One experienced observer adjudged there to be 'small numbers only', both here and in the other known favoured breeding locality around **Holme Styes/Elysium/Crossley's Plantation**.

After the breeding season there were then no reports until the last two months of the year, during which up to three appeared at eight widespread sites. In November three were at **Wholestone Moor** on 4<sup>th</sup>, one at **Lepton Great Wood** on 11<sup>th</sup>, and two at **Deer Hill** on 14<sup>th</sup>. December then produced one at **Healey Mills** on 16<sup>th</sup>, three at the same site on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and further singles at **Holme Styes** on 27<sup>th</sup>, **Scammonden Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup>, and **Bretton Park** on 31<sup>st</sup>, along with an undated report of one in the **Grimescar Valley**.

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

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Three records, all coming in the last week of April.

**Deer Hill Res** – on 24<sup>th</sup> April a summer plumaged bird was on the shore between 10.20hrs. and 13.00hrs, at least (TD, DT, DHP).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – 14 flying W on 25<sup>th</sup> April constituted the third-largest flock ever recorded in the Club area. They were followed by three flying W at the same site on 30<sup>th</sup> April (P&BB).

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

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
2	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	2	18

### **WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A poor to average year, with reports coming from only four sites and probably involving no more than eight individuals. All but one of the records came in spring.

**Deer Hill Res** – one early in the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> April (DT) could not be relocated after 10.30hrs. Nine days later, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, four flew into a nearby field having arrived from the direction of Blackmoorfoot Res. (DMP). The area's only autumn record this year concerned one in flight here on 6<sup>th</sup> September (WF).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – four flying W at 13.25hrs. on 3<sup>rd</sup> May were almost certainly the aforementioned birds which arrived at Deer Hill on the same day (MLD, DMO).

**Flight Hill** – one in a small field on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> May (MC, DHP, DM Pearce *et al*).

**Brown's Edge Road** – one on Whitley model airfield in the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> May was believed to be a different individual to that found at Flight Hill earlier the same day (MC). What was probably the same bird was again on the airfield on 12<sup>th</sup> May (DT).



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

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

The earliest reports were of one N and one SW at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on February 18<sup>th</sup>, possibly relating to the same bird. Another flew N there on 19<sup>th</sup> and was followed by one present on 21<sup>st</sup> and two on 28<sup>th</sup>. Other February records came from **Scout Dike Res.** (back on territory from 24<sup>th</sup>), **Isle of Skye** (2 on 24<sup>th</sup>), and **Dunford Bridge** (1 on 26<sup>th</sup>). Early March saw an influx at **Broadstone Res.**, where there were 28 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 52 on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Just eight were there on 5<sup>th</sup> but c.20 were at nearby **Maythorn Slack** on 14<sup>th</sup>. **Blackmoorfoot** also fared well during the month, with counts including 11 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 19 on 10<sup>th</sup>, and 14 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Other March birds included 12 at **Yeoman Hey Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup>, 18 at **Deer Hill** on 15<sup>th</sup>, and 20+ at **Langsett** on 16<sup>th</sup> (a similar number were at **Bradshaw** on 3<sup>rd</sup> April), but elsewhere counts remained in single figures. The only lowland records were of singles over **Haigh Woods** on 24<sup>th</sup>, over **Healey Mills** on 27<sup>th</sup>, and at **Horbury Wyke**, also on 27<sup>th</sup>.

During the breeding season there were many widespread reports from the favoured upland areas, often referring to small numbers bubbling, but details were again mostly sketchy. However, 13 pairs held territory at **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 11<sup>th</sup> May, with 11 pairs still on 8<sup>th</sup> June. **Digley**, **Windleden**, **Flight Hill to Cocker Edge**, and **Cabin Hill (Long Moor)** each held three pairs. Further breeding evidence came from **Wessenden Head Road** (adult and 2 half-grown young on 2<sup>nd</sup> June), **Deanhead Clough** (3 juveniles on 12<sup>th</sup> June), **Blakeley Res.** (agitated adult on 4<sup>th</sup> July), **Annat Royd Lane** (adult and juvenile on 4<sup>th</sup> July), and **Broadstone** (agitated adult on 13<sup>th</sup> July).

As usual, there were very few post-breeding records. One flew W at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 31<sup>st</sup> July but other than 'one', reported as the monthly maximum at **Broadstone Res.**, there were none at all in August. Five were then at **Blackmoorfoot** on 14<sup>th</sup> September and the final record of the year came on 13<sup>th</sup> October, when four flew SE over Far Bank, **Shelley**.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

Records were received from 21 sites – back to around the average after the 27 in 2008.

The earliest were two at **Riding Wood Res.** on 18<sup>th</sup> April and one at **Digley Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup> but, as is often the case, birds became more widespread during the last week of the month. One was at **Winscar Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup> (with two there by 28<sup>th</sup>), two at **Inghirchworth Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup>, and singles at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, **Ringstone Edge Res.** and **Dewsbury SF**, which also hosted singles on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May. Aside from this latter location the only other lowland reports of the year referred to singles in May at **Sands Lane GP** on 16<sup>th</sup> and in flight at **Horbury Strands** on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Definite evidence of breeding was hard to come by but a pair at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** showed agitation at the observer's presence on every visit from 10<sup>th</sup> June, and at least three birds, probably four, were at the site during the first four days of July, suggesting breeding success. The pair was still alarming on 7<sup>th</sup>, but had gone by 8<sup>th</sup>. Further agitation was noted at **Butterley** and **Wessenden Reservoirs**, and presumed pairs were present in suitable habitat at **Winscar**, **Dovestones**, **Yeoman Hey**, **Deer Hill**, **Digley**, and **Langsett Reservoirs**, and in the **Little Don Valley**.

Autumn passage was noted from 1<sup>st</sup> July, when a single was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** This was the first at the site since 9<sup>th</sup> May and was followed by one to three on a near daily basis until a single on 5<sup>th</sup> September, this being the last of the year in the Club area. At **Ringstone Edge Res.**, one to three were frequent between 5<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August. Other reports came from **Scout Dike Res.** (2 juveniles on 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July), **Dewsbury SF** (singles on 3 dates in July, with 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and then a single on 1<sup>st</sup> August), **Riding Wood Res.** (1 on 28<sup>th</sup> July), and **Red Lane, Meltham** (2 on 1<sup>st</sup> August). At **Ingbirchworth Res.** two were present on 13<sup>th</sup> July, followed by three (1 of which carried a colour-ring) on 16<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August. The last at this site was a single on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Birds occurred in all months except for January, May, and June, but at only four sites, all of them in the Calder Valley lowlands. Dewsbury SF (including the adjacent River Calder) again produced the bulk of the records.

**Dewsbury SF** – a single on 21<sup>st</sup> February was followed in March by one on 16<sup>th</sup>, two on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, and singles again on 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The only April records concerned singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and there were none then until July when up to four were noted regularly between 8<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Strangely there were no reports in August but four again appeared on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Two were present throughout October, with four yet again on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The last report was of three on the river bank on 26<sup>th</sup> December (DT, JH, JRS).

**Colnebridge SP** – singles on the river on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> February and 24<sup>th</sup> March (DS).

**Healey Mills** – one on 4<sup>th</sup> April followed by two on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September (JRS).

**Horbury Wyke** – a single on 22<sup>nd</sup> August (DHP) and three on 6<sup>th</sup> September (JRS).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

As in 2008 there was but a single record of this species – one heard calling at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, DMO). Consistently high water levels at some local reservoirs in late summer and autumn have no doubt contributed to the recent dearth, but contrast this with the period 1993 to 2004, considered unexceptional years at the time but producing an average of around 12 sightings per year.

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

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

With the exception of a breeding pair, birds were recorded on 22 dates at a total of 10 sites, with a maximum count of two. All but two of the records were from the first half of the year, the exceptions being singles in July and December.

**Sands Lane GP** – two on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January followed by one on 14<sup>th</sup> February and two again on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – singles on 4<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Horbury Wyke** – one in nearby fields on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Dewsbury SF** – the sole record from this site concerned a single on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – singles on 29<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April followed by two on 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> April and also on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May.

**Royd Moor Res** – singles in April on 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Deer Hill Res** – two on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – one on 21<sup>st</sup> April, one flying W on 18<sup>th</sup> June, and a further single on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Gilbert Hill** – one on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**Black Moss** – a pair with young were seen in June.

**Colnebridge SP** – one overflying on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

#### **ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Rare passage visitor.

A single which flew W over **Langsett Res.** at 07.30hrs. on 7<sup>th</sup> September (SBSG) was the first record of any skua species in the Club area since 1998.

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

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record concerned an adult at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> February (MLD, CH).

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

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

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6000	4400	nc	nc	nc	nc	107	216	550	nc	4800	7300

There were a good number of records from the **Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area, but these appertained to daytime feeding groups and not roosting individuals. These assemblages generally consisted of fewer than 80 birds (fewer than 40 during the summer months), but 200 were present at Ingbirchworth Res. on 5<sup>th</sup> March with c.180 there on 20<sup>th</sup> March and a monthly maxima of c.110 in December.

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

**Longwood Valley** – a maxima of 260 in January, 106 in October and 200 in December.

**Bretton Lakes** – 270 on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Sands Lane GP** – 100 on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 250 on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 150 on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 280 on 24<sup>th</sup> November and 250 on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Elland GP** – 400 flew through en route to roost at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 200 on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 100 on 25<sup>th</sup> October and, in December, 450 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 350 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Dewsbury SF** – 200 on 19<sup>th</sup> March and 130 on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ringstone Edge Res** – 150 on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Scammonden Res** – 130 on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 420 on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and 2200 roosting on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

An interesting feature concerned a handful of birds which fed in the town centre streets and squares during both winter periods. These birds have learned to utilize the spilled food left by the previous night's revellers!

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup> November was completely white save for black tips to the primaries. These tips created a black trailing edge on both upper-wing (as is normal) and under-wing when in flight (MLD).

**LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

There were two records: a second-summer at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> April (MC, NM) and a first-summer battling against the strong wind at **Harden Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup> June (MC).

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

Recorded from two localities, with the historically most prolific site, Blackmoorfoot Res., completely missing out. An adult was at **Oldfield** on 2<sup>nd</sup> January (DHP) and 4<sup>th</sup> January (SC) and a juvenile moulting into first-winter plumage was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> July (DB).

**COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1000	1200	nc	3	0	2	7	6	7	nc	700	900

During the first winter period records were received from a number of widely scattered locations, but these concentrations rarely exceeded 55, the exceptions being as follows:

**Whiteley Res** – 100 on 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Wilshaw** – 232 feeding in a single field on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Langsett Res** – c.380 roosting on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**Broadstone Res** – a maximum of c.70 in January and 143 on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Honley** – a maximum of 150 feeding in fields in January.

**Longwood Valley** – a maximum of 63 in February.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – 84 on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

The only records during the summer months, with the exception of those enumerated in the table above, concerned singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June and 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

From late September the species became more widespread and small groups of anything up to 50 individuals were regularly encountered, the exceptions being as follows:

**Holme** – 60 on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

**Scammonden Res** – 60 on 9<sup>th</sup> November and 300 roosting on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Broadstone Res** – a maximum of c.120 in November.

**Elland GP** – 70 on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Oldfield** – c.80 on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**Millbank, Thornhill** – 74 flew W on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

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

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	11	7	4	17	6	9	11	7	14	8	2

During the first winter period, as is usual, birds were only present at a handful of sites and in very low numbers: with the exception of **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, which had five on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 11 on 18<sup>th</sup> February and seven on 18<sup>th</sup> March, all other records never exceeded four individuals.

Although birds were more widely distributed between April and late October, numbers rarely reached double figures, the exceptions being as follows:

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – 17 on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 11 on 25<sup>th</sup> August and 14 on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Millbank, Thornhill** – 16 flew E on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**Broadstone Res** – a maxima of 21 in July and 43 in October.

**Dewsbury SF** – 61 flew W during the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> July and c.150 flew W the following day.

**Whiteley Common** – 36 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

**Spicer House Lane** – 30 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

**Langsett Res** – c.900 roosted on 19<sup>th</sup> September and 240 did likewise on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

**Scout Dike/Royd Moor** – the usual autumn build-up in this area was not documented; the only count concerned 108 at Royd Moor Res. on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

Thereafter birds became less frequent and reverted to low single figures, the only exception being eight which roosted at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

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

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
26	12	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	8

As in 2008, reports were received from a further 16 locations. All records fell between January – late March and late September to December with the exceptions of two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> April, two which flew E at **Elland GP** on 16<sup>th</sup> April, an adult at **Broadstone Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup> July an adult at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup> August and an immature there on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

With the exception of those roosting at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see table above) all records were of low single figures apart from the following:

**Ingbirchworth Res** – 23 on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 20 roosting on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Annat Royd Lane** – 12 flew W on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Scammonden Res** – 27 flew E on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

#### **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

With the exception of a second-winter which departed W from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 08.40hrs. on 7<sup>th</sup> March (MLD, CH) the other records were all in the second half of the year.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – a sub-adult on 10<sup>th</sup> July (DB).

**Ringstone Edge Res** – what was presumably the same adult was present on 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July (NC, DHP). On 19<sup>th</sup> it was joined by an immature (DHP).

**Langsett Res** – an adult on 3<sup>rd</sup> August (BBSG), an adult and immature in the roost on 10<sup>th</sup> September (RJB, MC) and a roosting adult on 19<sup>th</sup> September (RJB).

**Broadstone Res** – two adults and a third-winter feeding on sheep-grazed farmland with other gulls on 18<sup>th</sup> October (DB).

**Elland GP** – an adult departed W at 16.00hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup> October (DT).

#### **GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare to scarce winter visitor.

The only record concerned a second-winter which flew W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 08.10hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> February (CH).

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

Common winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
109	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3

This species is becoming increasingly rare in the Club area and, with the exception of roosting birds at Blackmoorfoot Res. (monthly maxima outlined in the table above), there were only 11 records from eight locations (15 and 11 respectively in 2008).

**Calder/Hebble Navigation** – three flew W on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Annat Royd Lane** – 15 first-winters flew W on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Shelley** – singles on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> May and three on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Dewsbury SF** – a single W on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Deanhead Res** – an adult and first-winter flew W on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**Bretton Lakes** – 16 immatures flew W on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Sands Lane GP** – two on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Cupwith Res** – an adult and first-winter flew SW on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce migrant.



The occurrence of this species is generally dependant on favourable weather conditions during periods of passage, some years producing good numbers, others none.

A single adult at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> April (AK, DMP, SP *et al*) was the only record.

**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Recorded from nine localities (11 during 2008). Despite a pair breeding just outside the Club area at Millfield Lagoons, records from the nearby area of Horbury Strands/Wyke (a favoured feeding area in the past) were few. Birds were noted between 20<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** – four on 20<sup>th</sup> April, two on 30<sup>th</sup> April, three on 24<sup>th</sup> May, two on 29<sup>th</sup> May and two on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Healey Mills** – two on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Horbury SF** – five on the River Calder on 29<sup>th</sup> April and a single on the river on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Horbury** – in May, two on 10<sup>th</sup>, singles on 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and two on 28<sup>th</sup> and a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

**Elland GP** – a single on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - as in 2007 and 2008 there was a good run of records: a single flew NW at 07.50hrs. on 20<sup>th</sup> May. In July two flew SW at 07.55hrs. on 1<sup>st</sup> and a single flew W at 07.40hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup>. In August an adult flew W at 08.05hrs. on 2<sup>nd</sup> and three adults (2 W at 14.05hrs. + one S at 14.20hrs.) on 5<sup>th</sup>. In September an adult was present on 8<sup>th</sup> and an immature flew S at 14.05hrs. on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Scout Dike Res** – a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Ingbirchworth Res** – a single on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**Shelley** – a single adult flew NW at 08.25hrs. on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

In addition, a bird heard calling at Blackmoorfoot Res. at 07.05hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> June was either this species or Arctic Tern (MLD).

#### **ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a single on 6<sup>th</sup> June (MLD, DMO) and a juvenile which departed NW at 14.40hrs. on 12<sup>th</sup> October (MLD, DMO, MS).

#### **FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

At **Blackmoorfoot** the stubble field to the NE of the reservoir which attracted birds at the end of 2008 continued to hold between 80 and 110 on a daily basis from 1<sup>st</sup> January until 3<sup>rd</sup> February, when deep snow covered the feeding area. When the snow cleared 40+ were present here from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February. Interestingly, if disturbed these birds always flew in the direction of Linthwaite/Slaithwaite.

35 birds recorded in **Huddersfield Town Centre** on 13<sup>th</sup> January and 15 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup> March were the only other sightings of significant numbers in the first winter period.

Breeding was confirmed at four sites: the **Turnbridge** area of Huddersfield where 10 pairs nested in the ventilation ducts of a mill chimney, **Thornton Lodge** where 12+ pairs bred under the railway bridge, **Huddersfield Railway Station** where at least six pairs nested in the framework above the platforms and **Sparth Res.**, **Marsden** where a pair bred in an old mill.

In the latter half of the year the maximum number (c.40) was recorded at **Scout Dike Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

This species appears to be increasing with reports being received from 37 sites (as opposed to 27 in 2008) spread over the whole of the Club area and throughout the year. However, flock sizes were down in the first part of the year with the maximum (9) being recorded at **Meltham** and **Digley** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January respectively. The eight seen at **Emley Moor** on 10<sup>th</sup> March were noted as unusual at that site.

No confirmed breeding records were received but a pair was seen regularly at **Colnebridge SP** with display recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Probable breeding took place at **Shelley** where a pair were seen using a tree hole.

18 were seen at **Dovestones Res.** on July 5<sup>th</sup> (via GMBRG); on 10<sup>th</sup> August 10 were seen in a large mixed flock at **Spicer House Lane** and 10 again in a mixed flock of 300+ corvids and



Woodpigeons at **Whitley Common** on 27<sup>th</sup> September. In December "high double figures" were seen in an abandoned Barley field at **Wood Nook** on many dates early in the month but this was likely to be an underestimate as an attempted count on 18<sup>th</sup> revealed well over 100 (DT), 23 were at **Millbank, Thornhill** on 25<sup>th</sup> and 20 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 27<sup>th</sup>.

(COMMON) **WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4), 2,000-2,500 pairs, Numerous but irregular winter visitor.

In the first winter period counts in excess of 100 were recorded at **Haigh Woods** (500+) on 14<sup>th</sup> January, c.170 at **Dean Brook Road, Brockholes** on 20<sup>th</sup> February and c.100 at **Ingbirchworth** on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Several hundred were also seen going to roost in **Storthes Hall Woods** on numerous occasions during this, and the later, winter period.

Mating was observed in a **New Mill** garden in April and a young bird was present there in late July and early August. A pair raised two broods (at least) in a **Shelley** garden. Breeding was also confirmed at **Healey Mills** (3 pairs), **Shelley Whins** (1 or 2 pairs), **Blackmoorfoot** (at least 6 pairs) and **Cliff Wood, Langsett** (2 pairs).

Flocks started to build up in August when at **Blackmoorfoot** around 60 fed in fields of Barley to the NE of the reservoir until late October, peaking at 350 on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Other sites which had flocks in excess of 100 were: **Millbank, Thornhill** with 100 on 12<sup>th</sup> September, **Scammonden** with 150 on 8<sup>th</sup> November and an abandoned Barley field at **Wood Nook** which held up to 1500 during most of November with over 1000 there in December.

Visible migration watches produced the following: 507 SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 28<sup>th</sup> October and 359 SW then S on 8<sup>th</sup> November and at **Holme Moss** 209 W and 46 N on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

(EURASIAN) **COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

The majority of records came from gardens across the area with some interesting local variations in the **Holmfirth** area. At **Jackson Bridge** singles on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> June were unusual, the species still being of a rare occurrence, in **Netherthong** numbers seem to have reduced, there being only occasional sightings, while at **New Mill** (less than 2.5km from either site) birds were regularly observed throughout the year, with young being seen in July, August and October (mating was also observed there in December). At **Shelley** there appeared to have been a good breeding season with up to 10 birds around a garden, the species being preyed upon by the local female Sparrowhawk. It was suspected that breeding took place all year round with birds singing and displaying throughout the year. Breeding was only confirmed at one other garden site, at **Skelmanthorpe**.

Away from gardens breeding was confirmed at **Langsett** (2 pairs), **Colnebridge SP** (1 pair), **Flint Street, Huddersfield** (1 pair), **Healey Mills** (1 pair), and **Millbank, Thornhill** (5 pairs).

The largest flocks concerned up to eight which fed throughout the year in a **Lockwood** garden, 17 which came to seed in a **Dalton** garden on 5<sup>th</sup> September and eight at **Cinderhills** on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur*

Rare passage visitor. Former migrant breeder.



In the first records since 2001 this species was reported from three locations. A singing and displaying male sat on the top of a conifer tree at **Snailsden** on 1<sup>st</sup> June (DMP). During the evening on the same day a male was singing from a conifer at **Reynards Clough/Cophurst Wood** (DT). A pair was regularly attracted to feeders in a **Harden** garden between 19<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> September and they were observed copulating (MC, DHP).

(COMMON) **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Red listed.



First heard at **Deer Hill** on 24<sup>th</sup> April this species was recorded singing at 27 different sites the final being a single in the **Scout Dike** area on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

The table below shows numbers of sites where singing has been recorded over the last five years. Although demonstrating considerable variation, there is evidence that this species is recovering from the 2007 crash.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
20	28	6	18	27

All records refer to singles except for two at the following sites; **Deer Hill** on 26<sup>th</sup> April, **Brow Grains, Meltham** the following day, in the **Little Don Valley, Langsett** on 11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May, **Crossley's Plantation** and **Riding Wood Res.** both on 30<sup>th</sup> May and at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

There were no reports of females or of breeding.

### **BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor. Former resident breeder.

With no records of live birds from Club members this was a disappointing year.

The recent breeding site was visited on four occasions between March and August but there were no signs of any birds (DS), although it was reported to him that one had been seen in May. A freshly dead bird was found at **Dewsbury SF** on 5<sup>th</sup> October but there was no evidence of gunshot or other wounds (JH). A bird ringed as a nestling near Winnersh, Berkshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> July was found dead at Huddersfield (exact location unknown) on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, having travelled 252 km NNW. Two nest boxes were erected in the **Horbury** area as a local farmer had reported seeing this species in the area.

### **LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

Recorded at 33 sites, breeding was confirmed at **Wood Nook** where courtship feeding was seen on 31<sup>st</sup> March and at least one young was present in early summer. At least a further 12 pairs were thought to have bred and birds were present throughout the year at another five sites.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were regularly seen on the walls to the west of the reservoir but, rather surprisingly, none were present between 9<sup>th</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Recorded at fewer sites this year (27 as opposed to 36 in 2008) with records spread throughout the year with the exception of July. Breeding was confirmed at three sites: **Dyson Wood, Whitley** and **Cliff Wood, Langsett** (2 pairs). Eight further sites held probable breeding pairs.

Three birds were heard at **Shelley** during both winter periods. Calling was heard regularly at **Fixby** with three vocalising on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Two birds were calling from a **New Mill** garden at 23.00hrs. on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Several close views of birds at dawn and dusk included three that remained in trees as the observer passed underneath at **Jackson Bridge** on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.



There were no proven breeding records but this species was present throughout the year at two sites in the south of the Club area. Two further records were received from different sites; a bird calling at 08.30hrs. on 30<sup>th</sup> May and one hunting in the late evening on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

This is a marked decline from the four confirmed breeding sites in 2008. Unfortunately some persecution has been suspected and a photographer was noted causing disturbance at another probable breeding location. With this species just clinging on in our area it is essential they are given every chance to succeed by not harassing these birds.

**SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

Partial migrant breeder (1), 0-13 pairs. Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Birds were reported from 14 different sites between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> December, but breeding was not confirmed. At two locations less than 6km apart in the south of the Club area there were nine displaying males with two attendant females during Easter week (10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April), by mid May there were none (MC). At a further site there were four displaying males on 14<sup>th</sup> April. One site held a pair which was seen frequently and breeding was suspected and at another, displaying was observed on 25<sup>th</sup> April and, although there were several other spring sightings, again there was no evidence of breeding (DMP).

At this latter site a very pale bird was seen on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> May (DT). On 8<sup>th</sup> November at a site some 10km away MC reported "a bird so pale it looked like a Barn Owl at first glance; the dark on the upper parts was cold, darkish, earth brown or grey brown admixed with paler dull brown with a lot of white which varied from dirty to pure white. The under parts were very white, the only hints at gold spangling and only 'warmth' was in a buffy upper-wing patch, and even that was washed out; probably the palest Short-eared Owl I have ever seen".

(EUROPEAN) **NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare visitor. Migrant breeder. Red listed.

One to three birds were present in the **Langsett** area from late May and two young were reared. A single on 18<sup>th</sup> August was the last (MW). This is the first recorded instance of breeding in the Club area since a pair bred near Cawthorne in the 1960s.

(COMMON) **SWIFT** *Apus apus*

Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

The first sighting of the year involved a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> April (RJB, DHP). From 27<sup>th</sup> April small numbers (3 or fewer) were then seen there almost daily until 28<sup>th</sup> July, the few double figure records involved c.30 on both 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May. A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> April was the first at that locality. Thereafter birds were seen daily until the last (4) on 26<sup>th</sup> August. As has become the norm at this site, numbers present were generally low, usually fewer than 30, the only exceptions being 50+ on 4<sup>th</sup> June and 40+ on 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August.

The only records of any magnitude involved 150 at **Elland GP** on 19<sup>th</sup> May with c.200 at **Heaton Lodge** the same day and 130 which flew E. at **Sands Lane GP** on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

The first birds (5+) returned to a traditional breeding site at **Dalton Green Lane** on 12<sup>th</sup> May and a pair was seen copulating in mid air at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 14<sup>th</sup> May. The following day birds had returned to three old mills at **Marsden** where six to nine pairs nested. All appeared to have departed overnight on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

A few juveniles were noted in a flock of 30 to 40 birds together with a few hirundines at **Cheesgate Nab** on 30<sup>th</sup> July and no birds were seen there after 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

The final sightings of the year, all in August, concerned a single at **Shelley** and 10 at **Lepton** on 10<sup>th</sup>, a single at **Crosland Moor** on 19<sup>th</sup> and four at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup>.

(COMMON) **KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

Resident breeder (2), near 30 pairs.

Recorded at 24 sites throughout the year (as opposed to the 27 sites in 2008) with breeding confirmed at seven of these; **Elland GP, Healey Mills, Horbury SF, Horbury Strands** (2 pairs), **Millbank, Thornhill, Sands Lane GP** and **Dewsbury SF** where a pair failed when the bank in which the nesting tunnel was excavated was washed away. A pair probably bred at **Fenay Beck**.

Up to four were present at **Bretton Park** during both winter periods. In June, with the exception of the breeding birds outlined above, there were records from **Magdale, Lower Hopton** (up to two), on the canal at **Hillhouse** and on the River Colne at **Galpharm Stadium**.

The downward trend in records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** continued and no long-stay individuals were recorded; seven days being the maximum. Between 3<sup>rd</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> March singles were present on 16 days. Later in the year singles were seen on 49 days between 20<sup>th</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> December.

(EUROPEAN) **GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

Although reported throughout the year from a good number of widely scattered locations the only confirmed breeding was from **Hollins Wood, Langsett** and **Healey House**.

Probable breeding was reported from **Bretton Park** and at **Stretch Gate, Shepley**. Birds were recorded in suitable habitat in the breeding season at **Digley** and five sites in the **Marsden** area. Although two birds were present throughout the year at **Millbank, Thornhill**, there was no evidence of breeding as in the past.

Singles were recorded in gardens at **Cowcliffe** on 4<sup>th</sup> January and **New Mill** on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

At **Butterley Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> August a single was observed "anting" in deep heather. The bird was sometimes completely hidden from view, while at other times it was leaping about in a very agitated state (DMP).

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Another widely reported species, with records throughout the year from around 50 sites.

**Bretton Park** held up to nine in January and February and five were seen at **Langsett** on 5<sup>th</sup> August, in a location where a female had been seen gathering moss on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Breeding was confirmed at six sites: **Bretton Park, Healey Mills, Ingbirchworth Res., Pighill Wood, Dyson Wood** and **Sands Lane GP**. Probable breeding was reported from six other sites and drumming was heard at nine further locations. Juveniles were seen at **Dewsbury SF** and visiting garden feeders at **Jackson Bridge, Meltham** and **New Mill**.

A single at **Winscar** on 12<sup>th</sup> June was reported as "quite rare here" and the same observer saw one on a visible migration watch at **Broadstone Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1), 1-10 pairs. Red listed.

Breeding was confirmed at **Healey House** (DMP, SP, M&SW) where the nest hole was being excavated on 21<sup>st</sup> March and young had fledged by 6<sup>th</sup> June. In the **Stockmoor** area nest building was observed on 28<sup>th</sup> April (TM) and, although a male and female were seen separately on different dates in early April, no evidence of success was forthcoming. These are the first recorded instance of breeding in the Club area since a pair bred in **Honley Wood** in 2006.

Drumming was heard at **Bretton Park** on single dates in both March and April and singles were present on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 25<sup>th</sup> November. A male was seen near **High Hoyland** church on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

In the **Little Don Valley**, **Langsett** singles were seen on three dates in March and four dates in both April and May and a pair held a breeding territory at **Sheephouse Wood**, **Langsett** the majority of which lies to the south of our recording area (MW).

**WOODLARK** *Lullula arborea*

Rare Visitor.

A single was present at **Langsett Banks** on 27<sup>th</sup> July (MW). This is the fourth record for the Club area, the others being in 1947, 2006, and 2008.

(COMMON) **SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (4), 500-2,500 pairs. Red listed.

This species was widely reported and, in some areas, was present throughout the year.

Singing was heard as early as 24<sup>th</sup> January at **Crosland Heath Airfield** (DB). The largest flocks in the first winter period involved 11 on a soil heap at **Healey Mills** on 8<sup>th</sup> February and 20+ at **Shepley** on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

Breeding was confirmed at **Deer Hill** where a bird was flushed from a nest containing three eggs on 25<sup>th</sup> May, **Norland Moor** and **Wood Nook** where a bird was seen carrying food. Several pairs were reported to have bred at **Emley Moor** and probable breeding was reported from four sites with singing being heard at a further 13.

In February up to seven males sang at **Blackmoorfoot** from 17<sup>th</sup>. Westerly migration was noted on a number of days at this site between 30<sup>th</sup> September and 29<sup>th</sup> October and involved a maximum of 27 (5 + 22) on 30<sup>th</sup> September and, in October, 47 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 20+ on 10<sup>th</sup>, 27 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 21 on 29<sup>th</sup>. The only records thereafter involved one W on 9<sup>th</sup> December and, rather surprisingly considering the adverse weather conditions, three in the fields to the NE on 29<sup>th</sup> December. The largest number from other sites in the second winter period were in early December when a large flock on an abandoned Barley field at **Wood Nook** reached up to 45 on many dates to 18<sup>th</sup>. By 21<sup>st</sup> December none were present as the field was covered in snow.

A visible migration watch at **Broadstone Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> September produced 39 birds flying south.





**Scaup – Boshaw Whams 9th November 2009**



**Black-throated Diver – Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009**



**Great Northern Diver - Scammonden Reservoir 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009**



**White Stork - Ossett 28th March 2009**



**Ringed Plover – Deer Hill Reservoir 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009**



**Whimbrel – Flight Hill 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009**



**Mediterranean Gull – Oldfield 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009**



**Black Tern – Ingbirchworth Reservoir 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009**



**Common Tern – Horbury 14th June 2009**



**Stock Dove – Wood Nook Lane 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009**



**Turtle Dove – Harden 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009**



**Swallow - Crosland Moor 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009**



**Tree Pipit – Carlecotes Pond 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009**



**Stonechat – Deer Hill 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009**



**eastern Song Thrush – Broadstones Road 20th January 2009**



**Willow Warbler – Dunford Bridge 26<sup>th</sup> April 2009**





**Goldcrest – Fixby 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009**



**Long-tailed Tit – Horbury 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009**



**Siskin – Fixby 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009**



**Lesser Redpoll – Fixby 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder, increased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor.

The first record was of a single at **Healey Mills** on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Other March records involved three at **Elland GP** on 17<sup>th</sup> (with 1 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 11 on 31<sup>st</sup>), nine at **Horbury Strands** on 27<sup>th</sup> and six at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Following the six at **Blackmoorfoot** on 31<sup>st</sup> March, up to 13 were recorded on six dates in April and between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> July one or two were present on 11 dates. A strong passage took place on 10<sup>th</sup> July with 49 SW between 08.30hrs. and 09.00hrs. From then until the end of August up to seven (usually fewer than 4) were recorded on a further 17 dates and 22 flew SW on 25<sup>th</sup> July. In September a single was present on 2<sup>nd</sup>, four on 5<sup>th</sup> with the last of the year (5+) on 6<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding was confirmed from six locations on the River Calder. At **Healey Mills** 15 were entering holes in the river bank on 17<sup>th</sup> April and two days later c.60 birds were present. 25 pairs were feeding young by 26<sup>th</sup> June and 182 birds were seen on wires there on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Breeding was confirmed at **Horbury Bridge** where many of the nest holes were being visited by some of the c.50 adults present. At **Horbury Strands** 40 adults were entering nest holes and on 14<sup>th</sup> June 20 juveniles were also present. At **Horbury Wyke** a minimum of four pairs bred. About 20 pairs bred at **Thornhill Power Station** while several pairs were reported breeding at **Calder Road, Mirfield**.

Records were received from a further nine locations during the summer months, the largest assemblage being c.20 over settling tank at **Heaton Lodge** on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

The only September record, with the exception of those at Blackmoorfoot outlined above, concerned two at **Elland GP** on 24<sup>th</sup>.

(BARN) **SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4), 500-600 pairs. Numerous passage visitor.

The first records, both of two individuals on 30<sup>th</sup> March, were from **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Elland GP**. Records of small numbers (fewer than 12) followed from a further 16 sites until 17<sup>th</sup> April when 70 were seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and the species became more widespread. There were c.500 in association with a similar number of House Martins at **Scout Dike Res.** on 4<sup>th</sup> May, a dull, overcast drizzly day. Other significant numbers in spring were 40 at **Dewsbury SF** on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 42 at **Langsett** on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Breeding was confirmed at **Colnebridge** (2 pairs, 1 double brooded), **Emley Moor**, **Horbury Strands**, **Langsett**, **New Mill**, **Sands Lane GP**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Shelley** and **Stockmoor Common**. Young were being fed at **Lindley** on 21<sup>st</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Numbers at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** were unusually low, rarely exceeding 30 (usually fewer than 20), until 90 flew S on 30<sup>th</sup> August. In September numbers were again on the low side, but 100+ were present on 5<sup>th</sup> and 40+ flew S on 21<sup>st</sup>. The only October occurrences involved a single on 2<sup>nd</sup>, three on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and a single on 8<sup>th</sup>.

In autumn numbers built up at **Ingbirchworth Res.** to a maximum of 40 on 24<sup>th</sup> August although on 9<sup>th</sup> September there was a noticeable SW movement of birds in addition to the 30+ feeding

over the water. Other significant movements noted in September were 230 flying E at **Sands Lane GP** on 11<sup>th</sup>, 200 E at **Healey Mills** on 12<sup>th</sup>, and 115 S at **Harden** on the same date.

The only October records concerned 16 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> (with 2 on 5<sup>th</sup>), six S over **Fixby** on 4<sup>th</sup>, one at **Crosland Moor** on 5<sup>th</sup>, six at **Honley** on 7<sup>th</sup> and a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup>.

(COMMON) **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*  
Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs. Common passage visitor.

The first records were from **Ingbirchworth Res.** which had two on 30<sup>th</sup> March and a single on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Records during April were few and far between, only stemming from nine widely scattered localities. The only significant numbers in April concerned 12 at **Horbury Strands** on 12<sup>th</sup>, 14 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27<sup>th</sup> and 20 at **Horbury SF** on 30<sup>th</sup>. On 4<sup>th</sup> May c.500 were in association with a similar number of Swallows at **Scout Dike Res.** (see Swallow above for further details).

Breeding was confirmed at the **Black Horse Pub, Dalton** which had c.20 nests, at **Lindley** where birds returned on 21<sup>st</sup> April (about a week earlier than normal) and occupied three nests, at least six pair bred on houses on **Blackmoorfoot Road, Crosland Moor** (where birds were present between 24<sup>th</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> September), a single pair bred on a house in **Foster Avenue, Crosland Moor**, a pair bred at **Tunnel End, Marsden**, several pairs bred on the **Shelley Park Estate** and six pairs bred in the housing estate at **Thornhill**.

Numbers throughout the summer months were unusually low at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, up to six being seen on an almost daily basis, the only exceptions were 27 on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 14 on 7<sup>th</sup> June and, in July, 17 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 14 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Number rallied somewhat in August but rarely exceeded 14, the exceptions being 60+ on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and 25+ on 8<sup>th</sup>. In September between one and nine were seen on seven dates, the last being a single on 21<sup>st</sup>.

As with Blackmoorfoot, numbers at other sites were unusually low, rarely exceeding 30, the exceptions being as follows: 80 at **Elland GP** on 17<sup>th</sup> May (with 50 on 27<sup>th</sup> September), c.150 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> July (with c.80 on 5<sup>th</sup> August and c.50 on 29<sup>th</sup> August), 50 at **Healey Mills** on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and a peak of 52 in the **Longwood Valley** during August.

The only signs of visible migration involved c.40 which flew S at **Colnebridge SP** on 25<sup>th</sup> September and, the final record of the year, two which flew S at **Fixby** on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis*  
Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

The first sighting came almost a fortnight later than last year, with two singing males in **Swinden Plantation** on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (DT), and no further birds were observed until 10<sup>th</sup> May, when three males appeared at **Carlecotes Ponds**, as well as one at **Langsett**. All the subsequent records for May and June came from these three sites, with the sole exception of a displaying male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The only report of confirmed breeding concerned the Langsett birds, with four adults present, including a pair feeding young.

A single near the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 20<sup>th</sup> August was the only record for this site (MLD, MS), and the only autumn record for the Club area. Sadly, it would appear that the status of this species is now precarious, with a continuing marked decline from the 2000 estimate above.

#### **MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (5), 2,500-4,000 pairs. The commonest bird of open country.

Present throughout the year, with single or several birds reported from various sites across the area in January and February, with one large flock of over 40 at **Horbury SF** on 8<sup>th</sup> February, and 30 at **Scout Dike Res.** on the last day of the month. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one or two were present on an almost daily basis in January with 20 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Birds then moved out due to the freeze-up in early February, but 30+ returned by 28<sup>th</sup> and in March there was a maximum of 30 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 50 on 27<sup>th</sup>.

The first displaying birds were observed in mid-March, at **Broadstone Res.** and **Ingbirchworth Res.**, with spring passage bringing c.60 birds to fields near **Scout Dike**, and 200 to **Wholestone Moor** at the month's end. Sizeable spring flocks were recorded in various, mostly upland, areas, and although one seasoned observer in the **Wessenden Valley** was surprised to hear none singing on a calm sunny morning in late April, another found ten singing males there at the end of May. Four pairs were counted at **Carlecotes** on 7<sup>th</sup> May, and the same observer recorded 36 pairs in the BTO Atlas square SE10V at **Langsett** four days later, with two pairs at **Cook's Study** on 1<sup>st</sup> June. He then proceeded to count at least 20 singing males in SE10Q at **Long Moor** on 8<sup>th</sup> June, as well as 23 at **Langsett**. Displaying males were regularly noted at **Ingbirchworth** and several other regular sites nearby in June and early July, while 20 at **Deer Hill** was the only other sizeable count. One observer confirmed breeding at **Broadstone Res.**, **Dovestones Res.**, **Emley Moor**, and **Langsett**, while others found young with adults at **Harden**, **Chew Head**, **Holme Clough** and **Yeoman Hey Res.**

Autumn saw 65 heading south along the **Wessenden Valley** on 6<sup>th</sup> September, c.50 around the edges of the **Isle of Skye** quarry on 11<sup>th</sup>, over 40 passing over **Harden** on 12<sup>th</sup>, 88 heading south-east over fields at **Ingbirchworth** on 19<sup>th</sup>, 30 at **Shelley-Roydhouse** on 20<sup>th</sup>, when "hundreds" were reported from **Rishworth Moor**. A visible migration watch at **Broadstone Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> September yielded 618 heading south, while another migration watch at **Holme Moss** on 4<sup>th</sup> October recorded 88 heading south. Other, smaller counts continued into October, culminating in 22 flying over **Pule Hill**, **Marsden** on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a maximum of 80+ on 11<sup>th</sup> September and 100+ the following day. Numbers here thereafter quickly reduced, with the only record after late October being of a single on 29<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere, birds remained at sites across the area, mostly in small numbers, although the sewage filter beds at **Dewsbury** and **Horbury** attracted good numbers of Christmas foragers, peaking at 120 at the former on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor.

Just two records were submitted, the first being one observed on migration at **Holme Moss** on 19<sup>th</sup> September (MC), and the second reported from **Dewsbury SF** on 12<sup>th</sup> October (JH).

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Former migrant breeder.

It would be premature to base faint optimism about a possible upturn in this bird's fortunes on the slight increase in the number and range of sightings in 2009, but it would be wonderful if the recent downward trend could be reversed!

There were two records from **Blackmoorfoot**, both from the large field to the west of the reservoir: two males and two females on 24<sup>th</sup> April (DHP, CH, DT) and a female on 1<sup>st</sup> May (DT). A single flew south-west over **Royd Moor Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> April (RJB). Four reports came from the new settling tanks at **Dewsbury SF**, with singles on 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May, then two males on 29<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> June (JH). One other spring sighting was of a single by the footpath near **Wessenden Head Res.** in mid-May (HQ).

Two autumn sightings on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September both involved two birds, near **Scout Dike Res.** (RJB), and on a wall at **Deer Hill Res.** with Meadow Pipits and Twite (DHP).

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

Fewer sites produced sightings than last year, with records featuring 42 locations, down from around 50. Breeding was confirmed at ten sites, and judged probable in two others (**Langsett** and **Scout Dike Res.**), while elsewhere other observers recorded nest-building, food-carrying, or recently fledged young.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one or two were present throughout the year, although there were only two records of singles in February and three singles in December. A pair raised two broods in the N waterworks yard. Other venues where there was evidence of a year-long presence included **Horbury SF**, where one pair bred, **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, and **Ingbirchworth Res.** (one pair bred), while one or two birds were seen at **Sands Lane GP** on five occasions between late March and the end of November. Three pairs bred in the **Little Don Valley**, with another nearby at **Langsett**. Pairs also bred in **Cliff Wood** and at **Sparth Res.**, and a pair raised three young by the locks at **Millbank, Thornhill**. It was estimated that three pairs had bred along **Fenay Beck** between **Thunderbridge** and **Kirkburton**, and two pairs bred at **Dewsbury SF**.

Young birds were seen in ten different sites, including an impressive count of six near **Holmfirth** cricket club. Other sites where one or more birds were seen over several months included **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Magdale**, **Longwood Valley**, **Dovestone Res.**, **Chew Brook**, and **Yeoman Hey Res.**

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Reports came from 43 sites, mostly of singles or pairs, and although breeding was confirmed at just eight, there is little doubt that this species remains under-recorded. One pair successfully bred on a redundant tractor at **Dewsbury SF**, and another raised five young in a workmen's hut. At least eight pairs were thought to have bred in the **Marsden** area, and other breeding records came from **Emley Moor** transmitter, the **Little Don Valley**, **Langsett**, **Blackmoorfoot** and **Scout Dike Res.**

Substantial early-winter counts included 82 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 21<sup>st</sup> January, over 120 three days later at **Horbury SF**, rising to over 200 on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, declining to c.50 in early March, and to single figures by the month's end, 30 were at **Whitley Common** on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, and there were then no other sizeable gatherings until late August, when c.50 were in a mixed flock at **Annat Royd Farm**. In Huddersfield c.300 were counted in the roost at the **Great Northern Street** retail park on 25<sup>th</sup> September. During the late autumn/second winter period 20 were on **Marsden** cricket pitch, up to 14 in the **Longwood Valley**, and counts at **Horbury SF** rose from 20+ in late October to 50 at month later. One observer commented that the usual August/September gathering at this venue did not materialise, but counted 120 on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, another observer having counted 106 three days earlier feeding on the filter beds in freezing weather.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The first of several spring records was a single bird at **Dewsbury SF** on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (DT), with further sightings here, perhaps of the same bird, on 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> (JH). A male was seen in company with Wheatears at **Winscar** on 9<sup>th</sup> (MC), another at **Millhouse Green** on 18<sup>th</sup> (MWe), while one was photographed at **Deer Hill** on 20<sup>th</sup> (DHP). At **Blackmoorfoot** a single was in the large field to the west of the reservoir on 1<sup>st</sup> May (DT, photograph seen by MLD).

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

All this year's sightings occurred in the first winter period, with a flurry of late visitors in April. Three flocks exceeded 100, two on consecutive days in February; 100+ in **Meltham** on 20<sup>th</sup>, 140 in a quarry in the **Longwood Valley** on 21<sup>st</sup>, and over 150, again in **Meltham**, on 27<sup>th</sup>. Interestingly, there was no further report of the 30 birds seen in **Elland** on the last day of 2008, and six at **Oldfield** on 5<sup>th</sup> January were the first of 2009, followed by c.25 in trees at dusk at **Greenhead College** two days later. Flocks of varying size were reported from a number of sites across the area until the end of February, and then none were seen until two feeding on raisins in a **Longwood** garden on 21<sup>st</sup> March, joined by three others during the afternoon. Thirty called at Morrison's supermarket in **Waterloo** on 1<sup>st</sup> April, with a scattering of sightings elsewhere in the next few days. Four on wires in **Skelmanthorpe** on 17<sup>th</sup> April were the last of the season, and indeed the last of 2009.





(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*  
Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.



Records covered 22 sites, with sightings in all seasons. Confirmed breeding, apparently under-recorded, was reported at just four venues, the **Dovestones** area, the **Longwood Valley**, the **Little Don Valley** and **Hey Green, Marsden**, while birds probably bred at **Thunderbridge**, and possibly along the **Fenay Beck** in **Kirkburton**. Two young were also reported from a site near **Bradley Hall Farm**.

Two birds or singles were seen, in some cases frequently, in a number of other sites, including **Elland GP**, **Slaithwaite**, **Hagg Wood**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Butterley Res.**, **Deer Hill**, **Golcar**, **Milnsbridge**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Chew Brook**, and **Windy Bank Wood**, where birds were seen regularly in winter. Isolated sightings at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved a single on the south bank which departed high to the south-west at 08.20hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> September and a single that flew north from the inflow on 12<sup>th</sup> December. One observer commented on regular sightings in **Marsden** in the **Tunnel End/Hey Green** area.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Twenty-eight sites were a source of records, compared with nearly forty last year, and, unusually, no observers produced evidence of confirmed breeding, although one bird was feeding fledglings in June in **Lower Hopton**, and the two or three resident pairs at **Shelley Whins** probably bred. Several sites, including gardens, had one or more birds present all year. The highest and only double-figure counts featured 18 singing males in the **Little Don Valley** on 11<sup>th</sup> May, rising to 19 on 8<sup>th</sup> June. Eight roosted in an artificial House Martin nest box at **Fixby** from early January to mid-February. Nine were counted at **Dovestones** on 5<sup>th</sup> July, and the **Grimescar Valley** returned a peak count of seven also in July, while the well-watched birds at **Ingbirchworth** peaked at six, and five was the maximum in the **Longwood Valley**. One observer was surprised to find only one bird at **Bretton Park** in January.

**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

As with Wrens, fewer sites produced records this year, (26 compared with 40), and no one confirmed breeding. **Shelley Whins** again featured as a site where breeding was judged as probable, with two or three resident pairs, and the **Emley Moor** transmitter was the only other. One observer diligently counted birds in his **Almondbury** garden throughout the year, finding two or three present in all seasons, with just one higher count of five in late July. Several reports referred to juveniles elsewhere, and the highest counts featured eight birds in a **Shelley** garden and in the **Longwood Valley**.

(EUROPEAN) **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

A total of 34 sites is fewer than the 2008 tally, with seven reports of confirmed breeding, including one predated clutch of five eggs in a **Dalton** garden. The highest counts ranged from 12 in the **Dovestones** area on 5<sup>th</sup> July, and eleven in **Bretton Park** in January, to ten in the **Grimescar Valley** in October, up to twelve at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, also in October, and eighteen in May in the **Little Don Valley**.

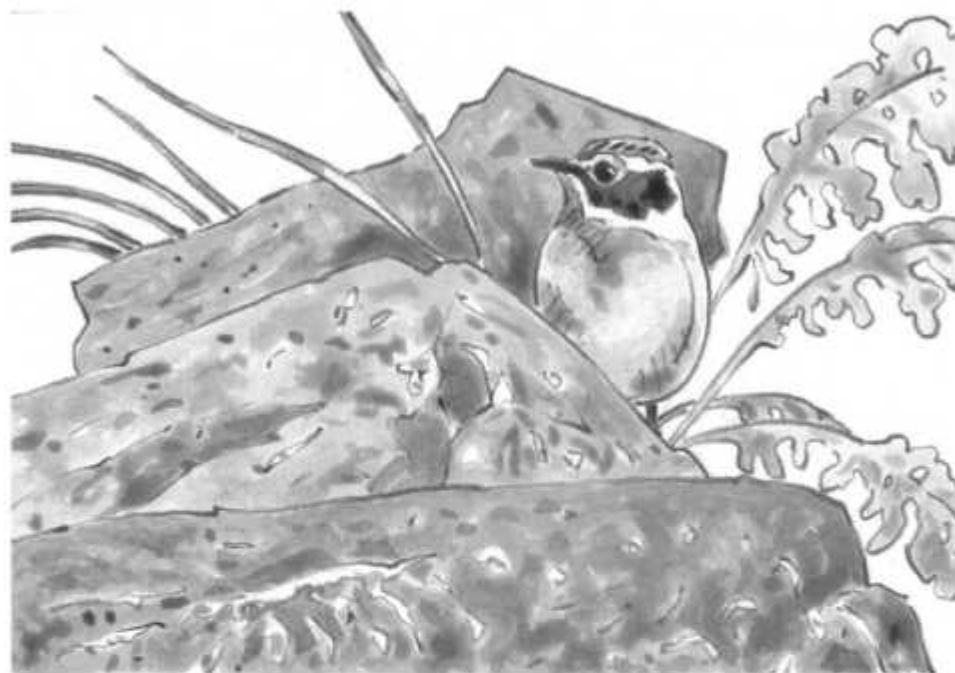
(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

Last year's numbers appear to have been maintained, although there was no evidence of breeding. A singing male at **Holme Styes**, one of the regular sites, on 14<sup>th</sup> April, was the first arrival (DT), followed by a male in **Cliff Wood** on 20<sup>th</sup>, two singing males at nearby **Elysium Fields** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and one at Thick Hollins in **Meltham** on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Two were then found at **Langsett** in the **Little Don Valley** on 11<sup>th</sup> May, followed by other sightings there up till 23<sup>rd</sup> June, when a male and female were present. Singing males were also seen at **Riding Wood Res.** and in **Crossley's Plantation** on 20<sup>th</sup> May, with another sighting at the former site ten days later, when another was heard at **Butterley Res.** The only June records came from **Langsett**, and then another male was found by the cycle track near **Carlecotes** on the first day of July. A bird was still present at **Riding Wood** on 27<sup>th</sup> July. A single was at **Helme** on 27<sup>th</sup> August. The only record from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned two near the inflow on 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> August, and the last sightings of

the year both came from **Ingbirchworth Res.**, featuring a single juvenile on 7<sup>th</sup> September, and either a female or juvenile in scrub willows on the edge of Fox Hill on 19<sup>th</sup> September (DB).

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*  
Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs.



In common with arrivals in recent years the first appeared on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at **Brow Grains, Meltham**, to be joined by a second male three days later (DMP). A female was at **Wholestone Moor** on 29<sup>th</sup> April, while at least one singing male at the regular site at **Deer Hill** on the same date had been joined by a female on 8<sup>th</sup> May and a second male a day later. A second female was present on 28<sup>th</sup> May and young were being fed by 28<sup>th</sup> June. Indeed, one observer reported three breeding pairs in this area, in one case close to breeding Stonechats, with both pairs having fledglings at about the same time, and giving simultaneous alarm calls (DMP). Pairs also bred at **Butterley Res.** and **Wessenden Res.** (JMP). Spring reports of males also came from **Scout Dike Res.** and **Deanhead Clough**. One August record mentioned a single at **Thurgory Lane** on 12<sup>th</sup>, and another single appeared at **Dewsbury SF** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September. A single was observed at rest on a dry stone wall on Fox Hill, near **Ingbirchworth Res.** the next day. There were four records from **Blackmoorfoot**: a male in the fields to the west on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, a male on **Edge Moor** on 21<sup>st</sup> May and, in September, singles in the fields to the west on 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (MLD), which proved to be the year's last record.

(COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus* Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Birds were recorded at 31 sites, a slight decrease relative to the past two years, with just four instances of confirmed breeding, at **Dovestones**, **Wholestone Moor**, and in the **Deer Hill** area where at least four pairs enjoyed a protracted breeding season, and at **Winscar**, where four juveniles were seen on 10<sup>th</sup> June, a male and female having been present a month earlier. Four birds at nearby **Harden Res.** were assumed to be a different group from those at Winscar. Birds may also have bred at **Blakeley Res.** and **Wessenden Res.**

Several early and late winter sightings featured one or two birds in the **Broadstone Res./Maythorn** area. Four were in **Deanhead Clough** on 25<sup>th</sup> May, and two adults were with two first-winter birds at **Deanhead Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

The only records during the first half of the year in the **Blackmoorfoot/Meltham Cop** area involved, in January, a male and female on six dates, in March, a female on 5<sup>th</sup> and a male on 24<sup>th</sup> and, in April, a male on 5<sup>th</sup> and a female on 19<sup>th</sup>. There were then no records until a male and female were seen on 29<sup>th</sup> August. Thereafter a maximum of three (at least 4 different birds in September: male, female and 2 juveniles) were present on 17 dates between 4<sup>th</sup> September and 12<sup>th</sup> December.

The male seen at **Blackmoorfoot** on 24<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April had a white rump and upper-tail coverts and was originally thought to belong to one of the Siberian races *S. t. maura/stejnegeri*. Investigations, however, proved otherwise and the bird almost certainly belonged to the European race *S. t. rubicola*, a number of which were present in the British Isles at the time. The same bird was later located at **Deer Hill**, where it raised two broods with a 'normal' female. It would have been most interesting to have seen the plumage of these juveniles once they had completed their post juvenile moult, but they all vacated at an early stage.

(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.

Two at **Ingbirchworth** on 17<sup>th</sup> March (DS) were followed in quick succession by single males at **Harden Res.** and at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, where sightings of single males continued through April. Other March arrivals featured two males in fields at **Deer Hill** on 21<sup>st</sup>, single males in fields on **Cheesegate Nab** on 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, at **Wholestone Moor** and **Deanhead Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, when the first females were seen in the presence of males at **Blackmoorfoot**, where two males had been seen in nearby fields ten days earlier, and then at **Digley Res.** on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

April saw numerous arrivals at sites across the area. At **Blackmoorfoot** up to eight (usually fewer than three) were seen on a near daily basis from 8<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued throughout May, up to 14 (on 10<sup>th</sup>) but usually fewer than eight being present almost daily until the last, a single, on 24<sup>th</sup>. Other noteworthy records included six at **Broadstone Res.** and **Digley** on 9<sup>th</sup>, 18 at **Whitley** airfield on 10<sup>th</sup> May (with 9 on 27<sup>th</sup>) and 12 at **Deer Hill** on 24<sup>th</sup>. The observer at **Harden** saw a male flushed with other species from a neighbouring bird table and wondered if it had been feeding on mealworms.

May also produced a flurry of almost daily records until 24<sup>th</sup>, and then no further reports came in until 7<sup>th</sup> July, when an early juvenile was seen at **Blackmoorfoot**, followed a week later by another at **Snailsden**. August produced just four records from the Club area, but sightings

increased in frequency in the first half of September, all of one to three birds at a wide range of sites, except for one count of seven at **Blackmoorfoot**, where the only records thereafter concerned one or two on five days in October until the last for the Club area, a single, on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenland Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

Scarce spring passage visitor.

The only definite sightings were of two females in the fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot** on 30<sup>th</sup> April, and a single female the next day (P&BB). A female at **Deer Hill** on 21<sup>st</sup> May showed some "Greenlander" characteristics (a large bird with seven visible primary tips) (DHP), and several passage birds at **Langsett** on 5<sup>th</sup> May tempted another observer (MC).

**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A very disappointing year for this increasingly scarce species, with records from only ten locations.

A male in the **Little Don Valley** on 30<sup>th</sup> March was the first arrival (MWe), to be joined by a second male in April. A male and female at **Bradshaw** on 3<sup>rd</sup> April were the next record (DM), followed by a male in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** the following day (DMP, SP, KW), a male at **Digley** on 5<sup>th</sup>, and another, with three Mistle Thrushes, at **Millbank, Thornhill** two days later. The largest gathering involved four on **Cheesegate Nab** on 14<sup>th</sup> April, a regular passage stop where birds stayed from 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April, being seen by several observers (M&SC, BA, HQ). Further sightings at **Digley** featured singles on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May, and the other spring records were a single male near **Bare Bones Road** on 14<sup>th</sup> April, and a female at **Scout Dike Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> April, the local observer's long-awaited first for the site! Just one bird appeared in autumn, at **Blakeley Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> October (JMP).

(COMMON) **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Many records were forthcoming from a plethora of sites across the area, some clearly the fruit of diligent watching of garden bird behaviour in the course of the year.

Two observers counted at least 55 in **Bretton Park** in mid-January, including 28 at the edge of one rhododendron patch, followed by another recording 26 in the **Grimescar Valley** the following day. 17 on a lawn in **Fixby** on New Year's Day were surpassed by 18 in an **Almondbury** garden the same day. Breeding was confirmed in just five instances, in **Lockwood, New Mill, Shelley, Blackmoorfoot**, and a female was watched feeding young at **Lindley** in late August. Breeding was described as probable at **Broadstone Res.**

Late autumn counts found at least 20 birds in the **Digley** area on 24<sup>th</sup> October, and over 35 two days later at **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, and an October peak of 15 in the **Longwood Valley**. The **Fixby** garden year ended with 14 on the lawn, with a number of other observers scattered across the Club area also counting double figures during the freezing weather conditions.

### **FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

A count of 455 at **Broadstone Res.** on New Year's Day heralded a busy first winter sequence of records, with another 100 in a large mixed flock by **Spicer House Lane**. On 7<sup>th</sup> February 850 were heading west over **Hartcliff Hill**, with 300 taking the same course at **Harden**. Other three-figure totals included 200 by the canal near **Healey** on 6<sup>th</sup> January, and 250 two days later at **Oldfield**, 700 perhaps moving with the thaw at **Whitley Common** on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 150 at the same site on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 120 at **Deer Hill** on 14<sup>th</sup>, and 100 in **Bretton Park** on 21<sup>st</sup>. Among the many counts submitted for this period the largest was an estimate of about a thousand at **Ingbirchworth** on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Large flocks remained until mid-April, beginning with 100 at **Royd Moor** on 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by c.600, also at **Royd Moor**, on 10<sup>th</sup>, c.50 at **Scout Dike** a week later, when at least 80 were at **Bedding Edge Road**. Various other records featured from one to ninety birds. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** more birds than usual were present during the first winter period: in January up to 100+ (generally fewer than 60) were seen on eight dates, February had up to 23 on four dates and March hosted the species on 10 dates, the maxima being 54 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 50 on 20<sup>th</sup>. In April 67 were seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a flock of 60 remained between 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Six in **Butternab Wood** on 19<sup>th</sup> April appeared to be the last, but one straggler was at **Hey Green, Marsden** on 17<sup>th</sup> May (JMP).

Twenty at **Deer Hill** on 11<sup>th</sup> October (WDH) were the vanguard of the autumn influx, quickly followed by relatively small flocks elsewhere on 13<sup>th</sup>, including 90 heading west over **Thornhill**. The first returning birds at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned seven on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 20+ on 17<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter the species was only recorded on a further 16 dates to the year-end. Generally fewer than 20 were present, the exceptions being 230+ on 28<sup>th</sup> October with 43 two days later and, in November, 35 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 40+ on 27<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in the Club area the first three-figure count of autumn was the product of a visible migration watch at **Holme Moss** and **Harden** on 17<sup>th</sup> October, with 267 passing over in overcast conditions. 120 were counted in the **Wessenden Valley** on 18<sup>th</sup>, the same day as the remarkable tally of 1062 heading west over **Pule Hill, Marsden**. 200 were in **Honley** on 28<sup>th</sup>. Significant gatherings in November included 120 in the tree tops at **Riding Wood Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup>, 70 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13<sup>th</sup>, c.250 on **Royd Edge, Meltham** on 15<sup>th</sup>, as well as c.50 at **Royd Moor Res.**, 45 flying north over **Fixby** on 28<sup>th</sup>, and over 100 in **Lockwood** on the last day of the month. No large flocks were recorded in December. A flock of c.60 in a **Lockwood** garden on 1<sup>st</sup> dwindled to just one or two by the end of the year, and counts elsewhere ranged from one to eighty.

### **SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.

Records were received from about forty sites, which is on a par with recent years, with breeding confirmed at four and probable at another three. At **Blackmoorfoot** two males were singing on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Four pairs took up territory and bred around the reservoir (including one in Orange Wood). Six to ten pairs held territory and bred in **Bretton Park**, two pairs bred at **Shelley Whins**, and a pair raised three young at **Healey Mills**, where two pairs remained all year. Observers judged breeding probable at **Dogley NR, Scout Dike Res.**, and in **Lower Stones Wood, Stockmoor**, and two recently fledged juveniles were seen at **Slaithwaite Hall** in mid-June, four males having been in song there.

Males sang at 28 sites in the **Marsden** area, representing at least 16 territories; the birds seemed particularly vocal this year. Meanwhile, an **Almondbury** observer kept a careful watch on his



garden thrushes all year, finding as many as three in February, while another enjoyed four in full song at **Elland GP** in early April. Relations were less harmonious at **Colnebridge SP** in May, where three fighting males outnumbered the one songster! In the **Little Don Valley** at **Langsett** there were up to 12 singing males on in May/June. Other records reflected year-long presence of one or two birds, or males in song, or simply garden foragers, while one observer noted several migrants passing overhead in late October and early November.

An unusual individual near **Broadstone Lane** on 20<sup>th</sup> January had noticeably cold-toned upperparts, with a greyish rump, while the base colour of the flanks and breast sides showed a smokey wash, with very little trace of the normal yellowish-buff. The bird was photographed, and its origins were deemed to have been as far east as Russia (DHP, MG).

### **REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Numerous records were received for the first winter period, featuring a very wide range of sites, but flock sizes of fewer than 50, with two notable exceptions, firstly 250 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January in **Shepley**, and secondly 450 near the Calder/Hebble canal at **Healey** on 6<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen were at the **Galpharm Stadium** on 5<sup>th</sup>, six being still present five days later: it is not known if they were Town or Giants fans! One strayed into the town centre on 13<sup>th</sup>. Small numbers visited gardens across the area, while slightly larger gatherings of up to 30 frequented **Oldfield** for most of January. Other similar January records came from **Fixby**, **Bretton Park**, **Heaton Lodge**, **Netherthong**, **Emley Moor**, **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, and **Brockholes**. Small numbers (never more than 40+ and usually fewer than 20) were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on only seven days during the first winter period. The last, a flock of 40+, were seen on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Elsewhere in February a single came to a **Fixby** feeding station in snowy weather on 3<sup>rd</sup>. 30 were found in **Butternab Wood** on 21<sup>st</sup>, and another 30 in **Storthes Hall** woodland on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Similar numbers remained at several venues in March, and finally one straggler appeared at **Elland GP** on 12<sup>th</sup> April (DT).

The first returning birds were a trio at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> October, followed by a big influx of 170+ on 10<sup>th</sup>, 40+ on 11<sup>th</sup> and 190+ on 14<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter flocks of up to 60+ (usually fewer than 26) were seen on a further 23 dates to the year-end, but a flock of 130 occurred on 27<sup>th</sup> October and 80+ flew S the following day. 130 flew south-west over **Marsden GC** on 10<sup>th</sup>, c.40 flew over **Colnebridge SP** on 11<sup>th</sup>, and then a remarkable 1200 were counted over **Denby Dale** in the space of half an hour on 13<sup>th</sup>, a day of much movement, with sizeable flocks reported from **Ingbirchworth**, **Wholestone Moor**, and **Fixby**, where another 250 passed over four days later, when 100 were in **Windy Bank Wood**. A visible migration watch at **Holme Moss** and **Harden** on 17<sup>th</sup> also produced an impressive total of 730, all heading south or west. Other October records ranged from singles to 454 counted over **Pule Hill** on 28<sup>th</sup>, heading south-west in common with almost all the other passage sightings. One flock of 180 over **Fixby** on 2<sup>nd</sup> November was being pursued by a Sparrowhawk. One sad victim of the cold was a frozen corpse in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Small numbers of birds visited gardens during the month, and the largest flock was c.60 in **Oldfield** on Boxing Day.

**MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

Records came in from 41 venues, matching the reporting rate for Song Thrush, with the majority of sightings occurring in autumn and winter.

On 8<sup>th</sup> February there were nine at **Healey Mills**, including one pair that remained throughout the year, and, except for a few counts of four or five, all the other numerous reports for the first winter period mentioned one or two birds only. In April five were in a field off Dick Edge Lane on **Cheesegate Nab**, three were at **Millbank**, **Thornhill**, and four at **Holme Styes**. A count in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** area on 11<sup>th</sup> May yielded five pairs. There were only four reports in the next two months.

Breeding was only confirmed at six sites: **Lockwood**, **Riding Wood Res.**, **Colnbridge SP**, **Langsett**, **Shelley Whins** and **Blackmoorfoot**, while breeding was probable in three other locations: **Bullcliffe Wood**, **Dovestones Res.** and **Emley Tx**. The regular **Marsden** observer reported males in song at 16 sites, representing at least 12 territories.

The few mentions of double-figure gatherings all referred to the late August-early November period. The only large number counts at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** were in August: 27 on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>, 23 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30+ on 30<sup>th</sup> being the maximum. 18 were in **Linthwaite** on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 20 at **Shelley-Roydhouse** on 16<sup>th</sup> September, and 22 on **Wholestone Moor** on 13<sup>th</sup> October remained independent of the sixty Redwings also present. There was an estimate of at least 100 in a huge mixed thrush flock at **Yateholme** on 7<sup>th</sup> November. Of seven birds at **Ingbirchworth** on 17<sup>th</sup> November five were competing for ownership of a berry-laden rowan.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.

At least nine reeling birds were recorded from eight different sites representing an encouraging increase in numbers on recent years.

The first of the year was at **Deanhead Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> April and the last at **Fenay Bridge** heard by a couple of fortunate observers who managed to avoid the early morning traffic noise on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July. As well as the Deanhead bird, April turned up birds reeling at **Scout Dike** on 17<sup>th</sup>, **New Hey Farm** on 21<sup>st</sup> and **Scammonden Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup>. A bird was heard at **Deer Hill** on 1<sup>st</sup> May and three more dates in that month. June threw up just a single observation on 28<sup>th</sup> at **Meltham/Royd Edge** whilst single birds were heard at three different locations in the **Wessenden Valley** on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Recorded from seven sites, involving at least nine birds, which was about the same as last year. Whilst no positive evidence of breeding was recorded it was suspected that breeding occurred at more than one of these locations.

An April bird was seen at **Horbury Strands** on 29<sup>th</sup>. In May a singing male was at **Colnebridge SP** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a single was at **Dewsbury SF** from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, one was at **Horbury Wyke** on 10<sup>th</sup>, at



**Blackmoorfoot Res.** a male sang along the west bank on 10<sup>th</sup>, **Healey Mills** had two (including a singing male) from 17<sup>th</sup> until 26<sup>th</sup> June at least and a male sang intermittently at **Horbury Strands** between 14<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> July.

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

Records were received from only two sites this year. Although this was a disappointment, breeding by two pairs at one of these sites offered some compensation.

At **Colnebridge SP** the first bird was seen on 25<sup>th</sup> April with sightings almost daily thereafter, then a second bird was seen singing by 14<sup>th</sup> June and a third bird was nearby. Two pairs established territories at opposite ends of the ponds by 15<sup>th</sup> June and food-carrying followed by the sighting of two juveniles on 5<sup>th</sup> August conformed successful breeding (DS). A singing male was sighted at **Elland GP** on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

A substantial number of records from more than 30 sites confirmed this tuneful warbler as one of the most common in the Club area. Overwintering birds were recorded during both winter periods with most of these coming from a **Fixby** garden.

In January a male was in a **Fixby** garden on 15<sup>th</sup> and at the same site a female was observed between 6<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April. A male was seen in an **Almondbury** garden on 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February. Males were then seen in March at **Healey Mills** on 15<sup>th</sup>, **Shelley Whins** on 31<sup>st</sup> with one singing at **Elland GP** on the same date. From April onwards a host of sightings were recorded with many relating to individual singing males with the exceptions being:

**Bretton Park/Bretton Lakes** held 11 singing males on 11<sup>th</sup> April and 10 on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Elland GP** had nine singing males on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Horbury Strands/Wyke** hosted six singing males on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

The **Trans-Pennine Trail** between **Wortley** and **Dunford Bridge** had 10 singing males on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

The only evidence of confirmed breeding came from **Shelley Far Bank** and the **Whins/Bridle**.

Late winter records came from the town centre on 28<sup>th</sup> November and from a **Fixby** garden between 17<sup>th</sup> December and the year end when up to three were present.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Records were received from 29 sites, which was an increase on last year, and these were predominantly of singing males. Breeding evidence of this very secretive species was only positive from one site, and birds performed their usual "disappearing act" around July.

The first record was of a singing male at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 29<sup>th</sup> April (DT) followed by a single at **Clough Lea** on 30<sup>th</sup>. Sightings then came in steadily throughout May: **Royd Moor**

**Res., Elland GP, Healey Mills**, where a pair bred (JRS), **Marsden/Sparth Res., Shelley Whins, Horbury, Bretton Park**, with at least four singing males on 11<sup>th</sup>, **Ingbirchworth Res., Little Don Valley, Netherwood, Colnebridge SP, Sands Lane GP, Broadstone Res., Langsett** (2 singing males on 23<sup>rd</sup>), **New Dam, Thornhill Millbank**, and **Marsden**. Further sightings were recorded at most of these sites through June with the addition of **Haigh Woods, Trans-Pennine Trail, Meal Hill, Windmill Lane** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where a male singing along the west bank on 16<sup>th</sup> June was the first record for the reservoir since May 2004 (MLD).

Records reduced to a trickle in July, most occurred around **Ingbirchworth Res.**, with singles at **Cotton's Dam** in **Golcar** and **Dearne Dike Lane**. One late sighting was recorded on 12<sup>th</sup> September at **Horbury SF** (JRS).

#### **LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Records were received from 12 sites, which was encouraging particularly as a new site for the area was featured. No positive evidence of breeding was noted, however.

The first sightings were of two singing males within 50m of each other on the **Calder-Hebble** navigation near **Healey** on 21<sup>st</sup> April with the same observer seeing another singing male on the same day at **Bradley Hall Farm** (DT). These were followed by further sightings in April at **Royd Moor Res.** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Shelley** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> when there were also four at **Scout Dike Res.** and **Flockton** on 26<sup>th</sup>. May revealed birds at **Horbury Wyke** on 10<sup>th</sup>, **Marsden Tunnel End** (a new species for the Marsden area) on 13<sup>th</sup> (JMP), **Colnebridge SP** on 14<sup>th</sup> and **Horbury Strands** on 29<sup>th</sup>. In June birds were at **Longwood Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup> and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, with July birds being seen there on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and a final sighting on 8<sup>th</sup> at **Scout Dike Res.**

#### (COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

Records from 42 sites demonstrated an increase in the numbers of this species, an increase in observer activity or a combination of both. Whatever the factor, the number of birds seen and heard does appear to show an encouraging increase in recent years. Breeding was reported from six sites with a considerable number of others being probable.

The first record was from **Horbury SF** on 10<sup>th</sup> April which was followed by numerous reports during the rest of the month at **Horbury Strands, Calder-Hebble Navigation, Healey Mills, Langsett, Deer Hill, Sands Lane, Blackmoorfoot Res., Shepley** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** Birds were then frequently recorded during May at a multiplicity of sites with most birds being generally well spread with few concentrations, exceptions being nine singing males at **Horbury Strands** on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Breeding records came from **Shelley Whins, Healey Mills, Bradley Hall Farm, Shepley, Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** At the latter site a singing male was present on Edge Moor between 28<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Two males then took up territories on **Edge Moor** and attracted females; both pairs raised young, the family parties remaining until at least 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Most sightings during July and onwards were concentrated in the south-east of the Club area, notably around the **Ingbirchworth** complex with sightings into September being restricted to this area, the last being on 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Red listed.

This was the most disappointing year on record for this species mirroring the situation in the rest of the country. Only one record was received of a singing male at **Sparth Res.** in **Marsden** on 10<sup>th</sup> May (DT).

#### **CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

Records from 46 sites indicate a healthy presence in the Club area although, as usual, breeding was only confirmed at three of these. Sites were widespread as always reinforcing the position of one of our most common warblers whose song often heralds the start of spring.

A couple of overwintering birds were present at **Horbury SF** during the first winter period but the first singing males, presumably migrants, were recorded at this site from 15<sup>th</sup> March onwards. Thereafter records were received throughout the month from sites all around the Club area embracing such as **Colnebridge SP** and Morrison's car park at **Waterloo**. During this month numbers were generally limited to 1-3 birds but **Bretton Park** held nine singing males on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

During April birds became widespread, even commonplace, and few areas of suitable habitat were without a singing bird. Eight birds, including seven singing males were at **Elland GP** on 3<sup>rd</sup> with seven (the same?) singing there on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 16 singing males were recorded at **Bretton Park** on 11<sup>th</sup> and five at **Golcar** on 15<sup>th</sup>. The species was rather scarce in spring at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, the only records concerned singing males from 29<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2<sup>nd</sup> May and from 17<sup>th</sup> until 26<sup>th</sup> May.

In May a remarkable 17 singing males were present at **Bretton Park** on 11<sup>th</sup> with positive breeding evidence also being recorded there. Birds also bred at **Healey Mills** and along The Bridle at **Shelley Whins**. Birds continued to hold territory throughout the area in this month and through June and July but with smaller numbers being recorded at any one time, with a maximum of five in the **Little Don Valley** on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Records during August were limited to **Bird's Edge** on 27<sup>th</sup> and **Jackson Bridge** on 28<sup>th</sup>, after which sightings increased considerably in September with nine birds being observed at **Bretton Park** on 18<sup>th</sup>. Through October many sightings were reported, presumably of passage birds with most records being from slightly higher ground, with many continuing to sing as is their wont. The last singing bird was recorded on 28<sup>th</sup> October at **Dewsbury SF**. (JH).

#### **WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

This long-distant migrant continues to be the commonest warbler in the Club area being both widespread and numerous throughout suitable habitat with records coming from 56 sites. Indications of breeding were seen at many sites and numerous juveniles were seen in the later

months yet only two occurrences of confirmed breeding status were recorded. Early birds came in slowly but the numbers quickly built to an impressive size.

The first record was of two singing males at **Horbury Strands** on 7<sup>th</sup> April then at **Meal Hill, Scout Dike** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> quickly followed by many more over the following weeks. On 11<sup>th</sup> April **Bretton Park** held at least 11 singing males with the same number at **Elland GP** the following day. Sightings throughout the month were ubiquitous with numbers generally being in the low single figures, but the 31 recorded in the **Wessenden Valley** was most notable (JMP), as were 19 at **Digley** on 21<sup>st</sup> and 26 at **Scout Dike** on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Numbers built even more during May notably at least 20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 5<sup>th</sup>, 32 in the **Little Don Valley** on 11<sup>th</sup>, 36 at **Hey Green** in **Marsden** throughout the month and up to 27 remained within the **Wessenden Valley**. Birds carrying nesting material were observed at **Blackmoorfoot**. Sightings in June held up well with 31 singing males along the **Trans-Pennine Trail** on 1<sup>st</sup>, 27 singing in the **Little Don Valley** on 8<sup>th</sup> and double-figure numbers reported singing at a number of other sites. Six males held breeding territories at **Cliff Wood**. Breeding was also confirmed at **Winscar**. Records in July were restricted to the south-west of the area, mostly in the **Ingbirchworth** complex, but whether this is an accurate reflection of distribution or a shift in observer effort during the period is open to speculation. In August the number of birds fell as is usual with only twos and threes, the exception being five at **Horbury SF** on 23<sup>rd</sup> where breeding was also confirmed.

Birds were clearly moving away by September when only small numbers were recorded at a few sites with the latest record of the year, a single, at **Tunnel End** on 12<sup>th</sup> (JMP).

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

The downward trend in numbers and localities experienced in previous years continued. Sightings were only received from 25 localities, this being fewer than last year's low number. The outcome for 2010 is viewed with some trepidation following the severe winter of 2009/2010 throughout northern Europe.

Birds were seen in only small numbers in the first winter period. In January two visited a garden feeding station in **Fixby** on 1<sup>st</sup>, two were at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 9<sup>th</sup>, two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> were the only early records from this site, one at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, one at **Haigh Woods**, two at **Bretton Park**, and a single at **Lepton Great Wood** all on 14<sup>th</sup>, one at **Colnebridge** on 15<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, a single in a garden at **Jackson Bridge**, and a flourish with four birds at **Horbury SF** on 21<sup>st</sup>. In February there were even fewer sightings with singles reported from **Colnebridge** on 10<sup>th</sup> and **Baumont Park** on 22<sup>nd</sup> whilst **Elland GP** held three on 10<sup>th</sup> and two were at **Slaithwaite Hall** on 18<sup>th</sup>.

In March a single was seen in the **Grimescar Valley** on an unknown date, two were at **Castle Hill** in **Almondbury** on 5<sup>th</sup> and a singing male was at **Horbury Strands** on 18<sup>th</sup>. Oddly no records were received for April but in May an encouraging nine birds were reported singing at **Langsett** in the **Little Don Valley** area on 11<sup>th</sup> with a single noted at **Scout Dike** on 18<sup>th</sup>. June had five birds reported from woodland around **Holme Styes** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a single singing male in **Fixby** on 21<sup>st</sup>.

There were then no further records until October with 10 around **Digley** on 24<sup>th</sup>, two at **Langsett** and two at **Dewsbury SF** both on 28<sup>th</sup>. Three further birds were reported from the **Grimescar Valley** on unknown dates in the month. Late sightings were very scarce with a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 24<sup>th</sup> November and one at **Scammonden Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

Whilst breeding was probable at a few sites there were no tangible records.

#### **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Records were received from fourteen sites, down on the previous year, with positive breeding evidence from seven. This species' presence as a breeding bird in the area continues to be tenuous.

The first birds of the year were at two separate sites on 11<sup>th</sup> May and found by the same observer with **Bretton Park** holding a single and **Woodsome Road** hosting two in suitable breeding habitat (SG). Also in May **Langsett** held four birds, which may have been pairs on 23<sup>rd</sup>, one pair was known to have bred at **Langsett Banks** with another at a separate site. At least two pairs bred in the upper **Little Don Valley**, producing seven young and breeding also occurred in **Cliff Wood** and **Sheephouse Wood**. One was calling at **Bretton Park** and one was at **New Dam** both on 25<sup>th</sup>. In June two were seen along the **Trans-Pennine Trail** on 1<sup>st</sup> where one at a nest site confirmed a breeding attempt there, whilst a bird was seen feeding from a field on Fox Hill at **Ingbirchworth** on a number of days during mid-month. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a pair which nested in Orange Wood had their eggs predated on 10<sup>th</sup> June, a second attempt followed shortly afterwards but this was presumably predated as the adults were not seen after 4<sup>th</sup> July.

July produced sightings of three juveniles in **Bretton Park** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a single was in conifers at **Yateholme** on 28<sup>th</sup>. In August the only records concerned a single in a **Meltham** garden on 27<sup>th</sup> and two near the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### (EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

Recorded from only one site.

A male was seen on 20<sup>th</sup> April at **Cliff Wood** where a pair subsequently bred producing six young. These were ringed on 20<sup>th</sup> June. This is a late date for this species to have young; the young generally being old enough to ring during the first week of June.

#### **LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Reports were received from only 33 sites this year, but the generally widespread nature of this species appears to be still strong. Breeding was positively confirmed at only two sites, but many others were regarded as holding breeding birds and the presence of many family parties in the summer gave no reason for concern. Garden sightings continued to feature strongly in the many records received.

There were sightings in every month of the year distributed across the whole of the club area with the greatest flock numbers concentrated around the post-breeding and winter periods. Of the many reports the following were notable:

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a pair bred along the west bank (13 young fledged on 24<sup>th</sup> May). From August through to the year-end generally fewer than six were present, the maxima being nine on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 17 on 11<sup>th</sup> October and 10 on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** had flocks of 19 on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 20 on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

A **Dalton** garden had a flock of more than 18 birds, mainly juveniles, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Dewsbury SF** had 24 on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

20 were at **Netherthong** on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

The **Longwood Valley** held a flock of 19 on an unknown date in December.

A pair bred at **Colnebridge SP** with adults feeding young in the nest by 25<sup>th</sup> April.

### **BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

With records from only 29 sites this is fewer than last year but clearly represents under-recording of this ubiquitous species. Most sightings were of relatively small numbers yet flocks are known to range widely so this is no real guide of its population. Numerous records of breeding, most commonly in garden nest boxes, have been passed by word of mouth yet only ten records of breeding success have been received.

Birds were present throughout the year and the most notable observations consisted of the following:

**Bretton Park** held at least 23 on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

Up to 17 were present in the **Grimescar Valley** throughout the year.

14 were in the vicinity of **Castle Hill** on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a maximum of 35+ on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### **GREAT TIT** *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

Another species that is seen and heard almost everywhere but for which observations aren't so numerous with records received from only 28 sites. Most records were of flocks in relatively small numbers including a lot of garden sightings with six sites from where breeding was confirmed although many young birds could be seen in family groups during the summer months.

The largest concentrations were as follows:

**Grimescar Valley** held 22 in January, 15 in February and March, and 10 in October.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** held 15 on 26<sup>th</sup> September and 12 on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

These were the only records received of flocks into double figures and are much lower than in previous years. No adverse trends for the populations of this species have been reported elsewhere, so this must be a reflection of under-reporting.

### **COAL TIT** *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

Reports from 26 sites is a decrease upon last year, but very similar to earlier years. This species is seen throughout the year and always in relatively small numbers. Its preference for coniferous habitat probably accounts for the limited number of breeding records generally received. These birds seem to be frequenting gardens with even greater regularity nowadays.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, one or two were recorded on three dates in January and two dates in March. A pair then took up residence in the S bank wood and fledged young in mid May. There were then no records until a single in early July, after which the number of occurrences reverted to one or two individuals on up to three days per month, the only exception being a party of five on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

An **Almondbury** garden held four on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Eight were in **Haigh Woods** on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Eleven singing males were at **Swinden Walls** on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

In the **Little Don Valley** 12 singing males were present on 15<sup>th</sup> April and 23 birds, including five juveniles, were seen on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

A bird was seen carrying food to a nest site in coniferous woodland in **Copthurst** in early June and a pair bred at **Shelley Far Bank**.

### **WILLOW TIT** *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs but decreasing. Red listed.

This species, which has undergone one of the greatest national declines within the country over the past 25 years, continues to maintain a presence in our area largely in a few well known spots. There were records from 13 sites with breeding regarded as probable at three of these.

**Broadstone Res.** hosted a single on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Numerous records were received from **Ingbirchworth Res.** stretching from 12<sup>th</sup> January through to 16<sup>th</sup> December and the presence of a juvenile with two adults on 11<sup>th</sup> June was indicative of breeding success at the site or nearby.

**Haigh Woods** held two on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

At **Bretton Park** a single was recorded on 12<sup>th</sup> February as well as numerous unspecified dates through the year with the last record being of two on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

The **Horbury Strands** area had a single on 14<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Horbury SF** had a number of records with three on 15<sup>th</sup> February then further sightings of one or two on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> December.

The Maze Brook area near **Scout Dike** held two on 15<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> April with breeding being suspected again in this area.

A family party was reported from near **Gunthwaite Dam** on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

A single was in a garden at **Harden** on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single calling along the west bank on 21<sup>st</sup> June (MLD) was the first record since July 1998.

One was seen on the feeders of Armitage's Garden centre in **Shelley** on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Two were on feeders in **Lower Hopton** on 13<sup>th</sup> October and on 24<sup>th</sup> they were seen extracting seeds from small sunflowers.



(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

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

Records from 32 sites show a further reduction on last year but, although running counter to the national picture, this may well be a reflection of reduced observer activity rather than a true decline. Breeding was confirmed at only three sites with two others being recorded as probables.

An **Almondbury** garden had of one or two birds throughout the year, as did a garden at **Jackson Bridge** and a farm in **Whitley**. January records came from **Brockholes** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Shelley** on 7<sup>th</sup>, **High Hoyland** on 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, **Bretton Park** (four birds) and **Haigh Woods** on 14<sup>th</sup> and **Netherthong** on 15<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter records of one or two birds continued sporadically through the year: **Hepworth** on 12<sup>th</sup> February, **Castle Hill** on 5<sup>th</sup> March, **Lepton Great Wood** in March, **Blacker Wood** with a probable pair on 13<sup>th</sup> March, **Wood Nook** in August and **Elland GP** in December.

Other records, all of one or two birds on unspecified dates, came from **Bretton Park** on a number of occasions, **Deanhouse**, **Clayton West**, **Butternab Wood**, **Longwood Valley**, **New Mill**, **Grimescar Valley**, **High Hoyland** and **Langsett** on most visits, a **Netherthong** garden where singles were recorded on a few occasions and regularly in **Shelley**.

Pairs bred successfully in **Beaumont Park**, **Dyson Wood**, **Cliff Wood** and **Blackmoorfoot** (see below).

A single was present in Orange Wood, **Blackmoorfoot** on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January and from 4<sup>th</sup> March to mid April. This lone bird then attracted a mate and both were inspecting potential nesting holes; eventually fledging young in last year's nesting hole. The family party then frequented Orange Wood until 10<sup>th</sup> July. Thereafter the only records concerned singles in Orange Wood or the south bank wood on a single day in August, four in September, six in October, one in November and three in December.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

Records from only 23 sites this year was a notable drop on previous years, once again probably reflecting under-recording rather than a serious decline in numbers of birds. The only positive breeding report was from **Healey House**, but several records were received relating to probable breeding.

A single was on the banks of the Calder/Hebble navigation at **Healey** on 6<sup>th</sup> January, other records in that month concerned two at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 9<sup>th</sup>, one at **Meal Hill** on 24<sup>th</sup> and a single at **Netherthong** on 25<sup>th</sup>. One or two were present in the **Grimescar Valley** throughout the year and a feeding station at Howroyd Farm in **Whitley** attracted one or two birds on several occasions throughout the year. Undated records came from **Butternab Wood**, **Dogley NR**, **Lepton Great Wood** and a garden in **Meltham**.

**Bretton Park** held four on 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March, then three singing males on 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Hagg Wood** in **Brockholes** held two on 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March. The only record from **Blackmoorfoot** concerned two in Orange Wood on 4<sup>th</sup> June. **Skelmanthorpe** turned up a single sighting on 13<sup>th</sup> March, whilst **Ingbirchworth** provided sightings of single birds on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 13<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> October. The **Little Don Valley** hosted two singing males on 8<sup>th</sup> June with the



woodland at **Langsett** producing three birds on 28<sup>th</sup> October. A **Thongsbridge** garden hosted two on 29<sup>th</sup> November and a garden in **Jackson Bridge** provided sightings of three on 5<sup>th</sup> December on which date two were also present at **Fulstone**. A single was present at **Horbury SF** on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

Only recorded from 34 sites, which is a far lower number than last year, but once again probably reflecting observer effort. Breeding was confirmed from four sites, which is an increase on last year.

Sightings occurred throughout the year with a small bias towards the final quarter; most sightings consisted of between one and three individuals. Up to four were seen on a near daily basis at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with a bird carrying nesting material along the west bank on 16<sup>th</sup> April, although no further breeding evidence of this secretive species was forthcoming. There was a slight increase in numbers at this site in September when six were present on 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 26<sup>th</sup> and eight on 30<sup>th</sup>. Four were present in **Hagg Wood** on 16<sup>th</sup> April, five at **Elland GP** on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and six also there on 7<sup>th</sup> October. A flock of nine birds was observed over **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> September, these being the first sightings of this species here by this regular observer (DButt). Five were seen on a migration watch over **Holme Moss** on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Park**, **Dogley NR**, Far Bank in **Shelley** and **Stockmoor Common**.

(COMMON) **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

Records of this most common and widespread of birds were received from only 24 sites demonstrating how the species is under-recorded. There were few records of breeding: **Shelley Whins**, **Beaumont Park**, **Blackmoorfoot** and North Street, **Lockwood**.

The numbers of birds reported were mostly unremarkable, but with some notable exceptions:

At **Upper Millshaw Hill Farm** 16 were observed on 4<sup>th</sup> January, this being a site that is reported as a favoured spot in midwinter. 31 were recorded in **Grimescar Valley** in January, with 13 there in February, 17 in March and 23 in December. A flock of 15 were seen at **Colnebridge SP** on 4<sup>th</sup> October. **Horbury Strands/Wyke** held 12 on 26<sup>th</sup> October. In November 11 were in **Longwood Valley** and up to 24 were present in North Street, **Lockwood**.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

This very widespread bird was recorded at 32 sites. Many records were of notable flocks or interesting activity and breeding was noted at five of these sites.

In January c.80 in **Holmfirth** on 4<sup>th</sup>, 60 in **Bretton Park** on 14<sup>th</sup> and c.60 in **Netherthong** were overshadowed by the flock of 300 which flew N at 07.40hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27<sup>th</sup>. The only flock of note from this site, these birds had presumably originated from a local roost. February provided sightings of c.90 at **Broadstone Res.** on 28<sup>th</sup> and 100 in the **Longwood Valley** on an unspecified date. During the breeding season there were no notable sightings of birds in large

groups until the autumn when 79 were present in the **Longwood Valley** in August. After that the only sizeable flock was one of c.200 in **Netherthong** on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Breeding was noted at **Outlane, Marsden and New Mill**.

### **ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs. The commonest species of large passerine.

Once more a species that is relatively common in suitable habitat yet fairly unrecorded. The outcomes from the rookery survey undertaken a few years ago were excellent, yet few of these were noted in the year in question.

Where rookeries occurred then breeding was quite reasonably assumed to have been successful. These were at **Crosland Moor** with nine nests, **Marsden** with only three occupied nests, at **Bath Wood, Bretton Park** with only four active nests and at **Stretch Gate, Shepley** which held at least 60 active nests. Various other scattered counts were of unremarkable numbers of birds throughout the whole year.

### **CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

In keeping with the rest of the corvids this species was undoubtedly observed by many but recorded by very few. Where records were received the counts were either unremarkable or absent, largely due to the bird's widespread nature. Unusually, no positive breeding records were received.

Notable numbers included:

39 were in the **Longwood Valley** in January, 47 there in April, 45 in May, 34 in August and 52 in November.

50+ in **Haigh Woods** on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

100+ SE over **Meltham Mills** on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

Recorded from 21 sites, represents a real increase on last year. No notifications of breeding attempts were received, however.

The **Langsett** area, including the **Little Don Valley**, with its wide vistas produced many sightings through the year with two on 30<sup>th</sup> March, two on 24<sup>th</sup> May, one on 26<sup>th</sup> September and two in December being noted. From the **Isle of Skye Quarry** two were seen flying N on 31<sup>st</sup> March, two around the quarry entrance on 19<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September and one seen flying W on 9<sup>th</sup> September. From **Scammonden Res.** two were seen flying SW on 25<sup>th</sup> January whilst at **Ramsden** two were indulging in a spring-like half-hearted display on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Two flew SW over **Deanhead Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Watchers at **Hartcliff Hill** observed two on 4<sup>th</sup> April and in the same month two were seen at **Snailsden** on 24<sup>th</sup>. From **Blakeley Res.** one was seen on 11<sup>th</sup> May and the presence of a bird was noted at **Digley Res.** on 31<sup>st</sup>. **Upper Windleden Res.** had four on 18<sup>th</sup> June. A single overflowed **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 4<sup>th</sup> July and one did the same at **Cheesegate Nab** on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. From **Far Bank** in **Shelley** two were observed on 2<sup>nd</sup>

September drifting over in the presence of a Buzzard. Two were near to the mast at **Holme Moss** on 12<sup>th</sup> September and two were present at **Cook's Study** on 30<sup>th</sup>. A single was seen at **Wessenden Lodge** on 9<sup>th</sup> October whilst two were seen drifting slowly E and mobbing a Buzzard from **Skelmanthorpe** on 12<sup>th</sup>. At **Winscar** a single was seen on 14<sup>th</sup> October and at **Holme Styes** one was observed on 7<sup>th</sup> November. At **Blackmoorfoot** a single flew NNE at 11.20hrs. on 10<sup>th</sup> November and in the same month one was over **Meltham Cop** on 15<sup>th</sup>.

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.

Many records of this species, albeit from only 21 sites, reflect the growing concern over its decline nationally. It still remains one of our commonest species, however. Although specific records of successful breeding were limited to just two sites, the presence of many juveniles in summer/autumn indicates that success was achieved at various locations.

Sightings were recorded throughout the year including numerous garden records. Many were of unremarkable numbers which, although valuable data in their own right, are not reported here. Highlights included:

**Spicer House Lane** hosted 100+ with Fieldfares on 1<sup>st</sup> January and c.250 on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Around 500 were at **Broadstone Res.** on 15<sup>th</sup> January and 75 were in a **Meltham** garden on 16<sup>th</sup> January. 350+ were on **Whitley Common** on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. In excess of a thousand birds were at **Deer Hill** on 14<sup>th</sup> March. **Wholestone Moor** had 300 flying E on 17<sup>th</sup> March. **Cheesegate Nab** held 200 on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The only records of note from **Blackmoorfoot** concerned c.250 on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and up to 2000 which were seen daily for the first nine days in November. Birds were carrying food to two nests at **Turnbridge** in **Huddersfield** in May and three pairs nested in a house at **Crosland Moor**. Around 450 were at **Maythorn** on 10<sup>th</sup> October and 630 were counted on **Whitley Common** on the same date. At **Ingbirchworth** c.600 were seen on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Feeding flocks in excess of 400 roamed around **Broadstone Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Visible migration watches produced 367 N and 92 W over **Holme Moss** and **Harden** on 17<sup>th</sup> October and 327 passed SW over **Pule Hill** on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species. Red listed.

As in 2008, it was reported from 25 sites with the majority of records coming from gardens.

Up to 25 birds were reportedly present throughout the year at the stables at **Horbury SF**, at a garden at **Lockwood**, and at **New Mill**, but no specific dates and/or counts were submitted. Birds were also reported to be present throughout the year and 'quite numerous' in the **Skelmanthorpe** area, and the stables in the **Millmoor/Meltham** area held a thriving colony but, again, no counts were submitted. Elsewhere, in the early months the highest counts received came from a garden at **Marsh** with up to 16 present. Up to six visited gardens at **Almondbury** and **Fixby**. Birds were reported from only four other sites: **Castle Hill**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Ossett SF**, and **Wooldale** - and numbered no more than six.

During spring up to 12 were at **Marsh**, up to five at **Almondbury**, with six at **Royd Moor Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup> April. There were only two significant counts during June and July: 30+ were counted in the **Shelley/Far Bank** area and there was a garden record of 41 at **Marsh**.

Confirmed breeding was reported from only three sites. Two broods (3 + 3) were successfully fledged at **Fixby**, parents fed three young in a garden at **Lindley** and several pairs bred at **Crosland Moor**. Breeding was also reported from **Emley Moor** and **New Mill**, but it undoubtedly occurred elsewhere. Nest-building was reported from **Golcar** on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

In autumn, **Lepton** once again hosted the year's largest flock - c.200 at Botany Lane on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Apart from 10 at **Almondbury** on both 30<sup>th</sup> August and 13<sup>th</sup> December and up to 25 which frequented the **Marsh** area in December, the remainder of records concerned only single figure counts.

There were two unusual records from the open moorland areas - singles at **Swinden Walls** on 8<sup>th</sup> June and **Wessenden Lodge** on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Recorded from 17 sites, which is consistent with recent years. There is clearly an easterly bias in the area - the majority of records coming from SE 21 - and it is rare W of the Ingbirchworth area. Breeding was confirmed at just one site, but the presence of juveniles at another indicates some success in the Haigh/High Hoyland areas. More detailed records of birds in the Emley/Highburton/Kirkburton and Stockmoor areas would be most welcome.

**High Hoyland area** - appears to be resident here with 6-8 birds usually present at the kennels. An excellent count of 40 was made near Bretton Park on 23<sup>rd</sup> October (SRG).

**Calder/Hebble Navigation** - eight on 6<sup>th</sup> January and six on both 16<sup>th</sup> February and 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Dalton** - a single in the observer's garden at White Rose Avenue on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Haigh** - two on 24<sup>th</sup> February and six on 5<sup>th</sup> March in the Jebb Lane area.

**Lepton/Highburton** - birds were reported using garden feeders but no details were forthcoming.

**Kirkburton** - reportedly regular in the Thorncliffe Spring area but no details are available.

**Shelley/Far Bank** - a single was present between 31<sup>st</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> April; on 2<sup>nd</sup> April it was in song, attempting to attract a female House Sparrow!

**Haigh Woods** - a party of 12 (including juveniles) on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Ingbirchworth Res** - a single in the SE corner on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

**Stockmoor Common** - two separate colonies were located here but, once again, no more details were available.

**Emley** - a small colony reportedly thrives near the old pit but no details were submitted.

**Lepton/Botany Lane** - two pairs, one of them carrying food, were observed visiting nest holes on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**Lepton/Lucy Lane** - c.30 counted with House Sparrows on 7<sup>th</sup> August (DS).

**Dewsbury SF** - 13 on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**New Mill** - one with House Sparrows on feeders in an observer's garden on 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October was their first record here since 1992 (CDA).

**Horbury SF** - two nearby on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Healey Mills** - excellent numbers were attracted to a feeding station here in December, starting with 12 on 16<sup>th</sup> before rising to 32 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 34 on 26<sup>th</sup> (JRS).

### **CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Reported by few observers, but numbers were generally higher than in 2008.

During the early months by far the highest numbers were feeding in a game crop at **High Hoyland**: maximum counts involved c.150 on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 120 on 9<sup>th</sup> February and 150 on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Elsewhere double figure counts were restricted to 40 at **Lower Cumberworth** on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 30 at Knotty Lane, **Lepton** on 4<sup>th</sup> January and c.20 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** from 16<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March.

During spring there were only six records of singing males received. These were nine at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, six at **Scout Dike Res.**, seven at Cliff Wood, **Langsett**, eight at **Blackmoorfoot**, two at **Broadstone Res.**, and 38 in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** area (DM Pearce). There was also a notable record of 18 at **Haigh Woods** on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

In autumn, following a movement of 16 S over the **Wessenden Valley** on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 40 were at **Marsden GC** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October, 34 and 26 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October respectively, 37 flew W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 28<sup>th</sup> October and 266 flew SW at **Pule Hill** also on this date (JMP). The only other significant count was of 35 at **Dovestones** on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

There were only three double-figure counts received from the late winter period: 15 at **Colnebridge SP** on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 12 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> December and 10 in the observer's garden at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** - their highest of the year.

### **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

One of the poorest years on record with reports from just 10 sites.

In the first winter period the flock feeding in a game crop at **High Hoyland** numbered c.50 on 5<sup>th</sup> January before falling to c.40 by 9<sup>th</sup> February, but had increased to 150 on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Elsewhere, single birds were noted in observer's gardens at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** on New Year's Day and at **Harden** on 5<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February; others were with Chaffinches at Knotty Lane, **Lepton** on 30<sup>th</sup> January, and another was at **Windy Bank Wood** on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

The first of the autumn was a single at **Marsden GC** on 7<sup>th</sup> October (JMP) and was followed by singles at **Shepley** on 21<sup>st</sup>, **High Hoyland** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and **Digley** on 24<sup>th</sup>. A total of 17 flew SW at **Pule Hill** on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

In November there were just two records of singles: **Pule Hill** on 17<sup>th</sup> and **Holmfirth** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

A common and widespread species which is very under-recorded.

In the early months up to 150 fed on the game crop at **High Hoyland** from 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January. Up to 25 visited a garden at Meltham Road, **Lockwood** in January, and 12 were at Knotty Lane, **Lepton** on 30<sup>th</sup> January - the only other double-figure count.

During the breeding season singing and/or displaying males were noted at **Fixby**, **Flouch Inn**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Crosland Moor**, **Harden**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Langsett**, **New Mill** and **Shelley Whins**.

In autumn 13 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup> September, while the regular observer at **Marsden GC** recorded a total of 68 (20 grounded and 48 SW) on 7<sup>th</sup> October (JMP). A flock of 36 were in Sycamores on the W bank at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

A common garden species, it was regularly recorded from the observer's garden at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** where there was a year's maximum of 17 on 4<sup>th</sup> October, up to 12 visited a **New Mill** garden in the autumn, with up to seven at North Street, **Lockwood**.

It is pleasing to report no instances of the disease Trichomonosis this year.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

This species appears to be increasing. It was recorded from nearly 50 sites and, together with numerous autumn flocks there were some very large winter counts - an increasing and welcome occurrence.

In the first winter period the game crop at **High Hoyland** attracted high numbers amongst other finch species. There were January counts of c.125 on 5<sup>th</sup>, c.250 on 10<sup>th</sup>, c.150 on 14<sup>th</sup> and c.100 on 16<sup>th</sup>. Away from here the only other double-figure counts were 20 at **Fixby** on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 21 at Miry Lane, **Netherthong** on 21<sup>st</sup> February and up to 23 in the **Grimescar Valley** in March. Birds were typically scarce at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** up to mid March, there never being more than eight, and usually fewer than four.

During the breeding season **Blackmoorfoot** hosted up to 30+ birds in June and July, with a pair fledging young in the SE corner. Recently fledged young were also noted at Flint Street, **Huddersfield** on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Other significant counts at this time were 10 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Horbury SF** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June respectively, 24 at **Deer Hill** on 28<sup>th</sup> June and 12 at **Broadstone Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Following 34 in the **Grimescar Valley** during August, predictably the numbers of flocks increased from September. Twenty were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>, 40+ at **Deer Hill** on 14<sup>th</sup>, 20 at **Oldfield** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, c.40 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 25<sup>th</sup> and 19 at **Ingbirchworth** on 30<sup>th</sup>. In October there were counts of 30+ at **Birkby** on 6<sup>th</sup>, 30+ at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 12<sup>th</sup>, 20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 13<sup>th</sup>, 20 at **Elland GP** on 20<sup>th</sup>, 40 at **Fixby** on 21<sup>st</sup> and 50+ at **Horbury Wyke** on 26<sup>th</sup>. Numbers began to fall by November, but up to nine remained at **Blackmoorfoot**, 18 were still at **Ingbirchworth** on 9<sup>th</sup>, 30 at **Elland GP** on 11<sup>th</sup> and 16 at **Scammonden Res.** on 27<sup>th</sup>.



Birds were generally scarce during December but 14 lingered in the **Grimescar Valley**, an unusually large pre-roost gathering of c.100 birds was at **Emley** on Christmas Day (SRG) and 40 were at **Cheesegate Nab** on New Year's Eve.

Birds were recorded from several observers' gardens throughout the year. Up to 10 frequented one at Far Bank, **Shelley** in the first half of the year, with up to 35 in autumn. Also in autumn, up to 12 visited Holly Bank Road, **Lindley**, with up to 14 at Charter Close, **Honley**. Up to six visited gardens at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury**, **New Mill** and North Street, **Lockwood** on various dates.



(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

2009 was a fairly unexceptional year for this species. Recorded from 34 sites, flocks were well down in both size and number compared to last year.

In the early months, **Elland GP** had 10 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January which increased to 20 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 40 by the month end. **Bretton Park** held 30 on 16<sup>th</sup> January and 40 on 12<sup>th</sup> February, and up to 35 were at **Fixby** between 28<sup>th</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> April. Also notable were 12 in the observer's garden at **Shelley** on 6<sup>th</sup> January, seven which flew W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> January, up to four in a garden on Meltham Road, **Lockwood** in March/April, and up to 10 that visited a **New Mill** garden in April.

There were few reports during the breeding season. A party of up to 11 in the **Little Don Valley** in May/June included a singing male, a bird carrying food and a juvenile. Ten were at **Riding Wood Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup> May, six at **Tunnel End** on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, a male was in full song in a **Shelley** garden on 5<sup>th</sup> July and 10 were at **Langsett Banks** on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

Passage was noted from early September when four passed over **Shelley** on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Further passage was noted in October with singles S over **Fixby** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, seven S following the **Wessenden Valley** on 9<sup>th</sup>, two S over **Dewsbury SF** on 12<sup>th</sup>, and a single S over **Elland GP** on 23<sup>rd</sup> with two on 24<sup>th</sup>. A party of 18 were also at **Marsden GC** on 7<sup>th</sup> October. As the year drew to a close c.30 were at **Meal Hill** on 8<sup>th</sup> November and c.125 were at **Bretton Park** on 7<sup>th</sup> December, reducing considerably to the year end.

Further garden records were up to six visiting **Fenay Crescent**, **Almondbury** in the first winter period, a single was noted in a **Thongsbridge** garden on 28<sup>th</sup> December and it is now classed as a 'regular visitor' at **Harden**.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs. Red listed.

Regularly recorded from the farmlands that it favours, mainly during spring and autumn. A slight improvement on last year with regards to more autumn flocks recorded and some large winter gatherings, but it was recorded from only 27 sites - well down on last year.

During the early months, high numbers were to be found feeding in the game crop at **High Hoyland**: c.125 on 5<sup>th</sup> January had increased to 250+ on 14<sup>th</sup> before falling to c.125 on 7<sup>th</sup> February, c.110 were present on 1<sup>st</sup> March and 70 were still here on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Elsewhere, the only other significant counts were 50+ in the **Ingbirchworth/Annat Royd Lane** area from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> April, 12 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, with 22 in the **Longwood Valley** also in this month.

Small parties began to appear at several sites in April and May, including **Bretton Park**, **Digley**, **Netherwood**, **Wholestone Moor**, the **Horbury** area and at **Blackmoorfoot** which had up to eight present after the first spring party of six on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

During the breeding season three or four pairs bred at **Shelley Whins**, where juveniles were observed, four pairs were located in the **Little Don Valley**, it was reported from 10 sites in the **Marsden** area, and birds were present at **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Broadstone Res.**, **Harden**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Longwood** and **Wholestone Moor**.



Post-breeding flocks began to form in July, with 33 in the **Little Don Valley** on 14<sup>th</sup> and 27 at **Broadstone Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup>. In August **Blackmoorfoot** held 20+ on 24<sup>th</sup>, 22 were at **Upper Oldfield** on 30<sup>th</sup> and up to 19 were in the **Longwood Valley**. The number of flocks increased in September with c.30 at **Dick Edge Lane** on 5<sup>th</sup>, 20 at **Horbury Wyke** on 6<sup>th</sup>, 75 at **Upper Oldfield** on 9<sup>th</sup>, c.40 at **Thurgory Lane** on 28<sup>th</sup> and up to 50 were at **Blackmoorfoot** and 120 in the **Longwood Valley**. The former stronghold of **Dewsbury SF** had a monthly maximum of just 13 on 21<sup>st</sup>. The only counts received for October were 28 at **Dewsbury SF** and 10 at **Ingbirchworth**, both on 27<sup>th</sup>. There were then no reports until December, when 200+ were counted in a sacrificial crop at **Lower Cumberworth** on 4<sup>th</sup>, with 100+ still here on New Year's Eve, and 120 at **Thurgory Lane** on 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **TWITE** *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Red listed.

This red-listed and UKBAP (United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan) species continues to be well-monitored in the Club area, which holds a significant proportion of the English breeding population. Feeding and ringing programmes were carried out at two key sites. Disconcertingly, birds were reported from fewer sites than in recent years and none appeared near **Blackmoorfoot Res.** for the first time in several years.

The first birds back at the main site of **Deer Hill** were 14 on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Thereafter, the maximum spring count was 30+ on 13<sup>th</sup> April, most of which were carrying pink colour rings (the site code colour, and therefore birds ringed in previous years). Up to 10 were present to the end of April but the only May records involved two on 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> with four on 15<sup>th</sup>. During the spring ringing programme a total of 85 birds were caught: 32 new and 53 re-traps (S. Gray).

The only other spring occurrence concerned a single at **Wessenden Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

During the breeding season two ringed birds were observed displaying at a site in early June but this was not followed up and a family party of four were noted at another site in mid-June. Up to 60 were reportedly present at **Rishworth** (HBC) but no specific details are available. Elsewhere, a single flew E at **Snailsden Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> June, two in the **Meltham** area on 4<sup>th</sup> July included one with a red and yellow colour ring which was probably ringed at Burnley, and at **Blakeley Res.** three were seen on 25<sup>th</sup> and six on 31<sup>st</sup> July with 10 on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

In autumn at **Deer Hill** after 70+ on 23<sup>rd</sup> August up to 40+ were present to 10<sup>th</sup> September with eight still here on 26<sup>th</sup> September. At **Rishworth** up to 40 were present in mid-September and 17 (10 of them new) were trapped on 20<sup>th</sup>. Numbers increased to 80 by 13<sup>th</sup> October and 30 were still present a fortnight later. Back at **Deer Hill** a party of 15+ were feeding on grass heads in the snow on Christmas Day.

The only record away from these two areas was of three grounded birds at **Holme Moss** on 4<sup>th</sup> October (MC).

### **COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor.

A good year for this species, with records from four sites including a double-figure count at one of them.

In a **Linthwaite** garden, c.15 birds of a mixed mealy/lesser flock were thought to be this species. Birds were coming to Niger seeds during February and March (DMP, SP, BA, DHP *et al.*). In a **Fixby** garden five were seen on 28<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March, and three were present from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March (DT). Three visited a **Meltham/Millmoor** garden on 5<sup>th</sup> April (DMP) and up to three visited the observer's garden with Lesser Redpolls at Far Bank, **Shelley** on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April (SG).

By sharp contrast, the only record during the second winter period concerned a single which visited the **Linthwaite** garden with Lesser Redpolls on 19<sup>th</sup> December (SP).

### **LESSER REDPOLL** *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

A markedly better first winter period than in 2008 for this species, although autumn onwards was again fairly unexceptional.

In the early months, apart from the one to 10 birds which were noted at several sites (including gardens at **Linthwaite**, **Meltham Millmoor**, Chaucer Close, **Honley** and **Shelley**), there were some higher than average double-figure counts. In January 40 were at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 9<sup>th</sup>, 20 at **Bretton Park** on 14<sup>th</sup>, and c.80 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 16<sup>th</sup> (DT). Later, 60 were at **Horbury SF** on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 15 at **Fixby** on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 15 at **Butternab Wood** on 4<sup>th</sup> March and up to 20 were present at **Elland GP** during March. In April 20 remained in a **Fixby** garden until 18<sup>th</sup>, 20 were at **Shepley** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 30 remained at **Elland GP** to 16<sup>th</sup> and 15 were still at **Horbury SF** on 20<sup>th</sup>.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were recorded as follows: April (singles on 5<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), May (single on 10<sup>th</sup>), July (singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>), October (single on 20<sup>th</sup> and 6 S on 30<sup>th</sup>) and November (1 S on 12<sup>th</sup>).

During the breeding season one to four birds were noted at **Tunnel End**, **Holme Styes**, **Crossley's Plantation**, **Riding Wood Res.**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Snailsden Res.**, **Winscar Res.**, **Digley**, **Dovestones Res.**, **Deffer Wood**, **Langsett Banks** and in the **Little Don Valley**.

Small numbers were recorded moving through the area in the autumn. In September six flew SW at **Clough Lee** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, nine were at **Horbury Wyke** on 6<sup>th</sup> and 11 flew S over the **Wessenden Valley** on 30<sup>th</sup>. October saw 13 at **Marsden GC** on 7<sup>th</sup>, an excellent 50+ at **Meltham Mills Res.** on 11<sup>th</sup> (per Birdguides, DMP), 12 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 19<sup>th</sup> and eight flew S over **Fixby** on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Birds became scarce from November with reports from just five sites to the year end; the 20 at **Healey Mills** on 22<sup>nd</sup> November being the highest count by far.

**COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

Another good year for this species with reports from 13 sites. There were three marked influxes: March/April; July (some of these were probably Scandinavian birds filtering inland following arrivals into the Northern Isles at the time) and October.

**Deffer Wood** - 23 on 15<sup>th</sup> March and 10 on 19<sup>th</sup> October (SRG).

**Riding Wood Res** - c.20 on 21<sup>st</sup> March (DMP, SP, KW).

**Scout Dike Res** - a single on 5<sup>th</sup> April (RJB), 10 on 17<sup>th</sup> April (DT), five on 8<sup>th</sup> July (DButt) and two on 18<sup>th</sup> October (RJB) - all were observed in conifers by the dam wall.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - seven flew S at 13.25hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup> June (MLD).

**Cophurst** - 16 on 4<sup>th</sup> July (MC).

**Ingbirchworth Res** - nine over on 4<sup>th</sup> July (MC).

**Winscar Res.** - five on 4<sup>th</sup> and three on 31<sup>st</sup> July (MC).

**Crimble Clough** - one over calling on 5<sup>th</sup> July (JMP).

**Langsett/Little Don Valley** - c.33 (including a flock of 30+) on 14<sup>th</sup> July (DMPearce).

**Yateholme** - a 'sizeable' flock on 26<sup>th</sup> July (WF).

**Denby Dale** - four flew SE on 25<sup>th</sup> September (per Birdguides).

**Dovestones** - a single on 1<sup>st</sup> October (GMBRG) and 20+ on 15<sup>th</sup> October (per Birdguides).

**Langsett** - 25 on 14<sup>th</sup> October (NWM) and c.40 on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> October (RJB, MC).

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

Well reported, with records from over 60 sites, including, once again, several from gardens.

As expected the vast majority of records involved between one and six individuals (usually two to four). Exceptions were eight in the **Grimescar Valley** from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> February (including a male in song on 18<sup>th</sup> January), 10+ at **Bretton Park** on 21<sup>st</sup> January, nine at **Wilshaw** on 17<sup>th</sup> November, nine at **Royd Moor Res.** on 16<sup>th</sup> December and 14 at **Bretton Park** on New Year's Eve.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the only records in the first winter period concerned one or two on three dates in both January and April. From 10<sup>th</sup> May until 12<sup>th</sup> October a pair were present along the east bank and fledged young in late June, the juveniles remaining until mid July. Thereafter, with the exception of five on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> November and four on 2<sup>nd</sup> December two or three were seen on a daily basis until 20<sup>th</sup> December.

In addition to Blackmoorfoot, confirmed breeding records came from **Shelley Whins/The Bridle** where one or two pairs were present and juveniles were observed on 28<sup>th</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> August (indicating two broods), and **Dalton** where a male was watched feeding young on dandelion seeds in the observer's garden on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. A pair reportedly bred in Cliffe Wood, **Langsett** but no details are available. Recently fledged juveniles were also noted at **Fixby** on 6<sup>th</sup> June and in the observer's garden at **New Mill**, where sadly two birds were killed flying into a window.

Birds were noted during the breeding season at **Ingbirchworth**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Winscar Res.**, **Langsett**, **Bretton Park**, **Bullcliffe Wood**, **Longwood Valley**, **West Slaithwaite**, **Clough Lee**, **Lockwood Cemetery**, **Kirkburton**, **Kilner Bank**, **Stockmoor Common**, **Marsden** and **Netherwood**.

It was a frequent garden visitor to Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury**, and an occasional one to **Thick Hollins**, **Linthwaite**, **Jackson Bridge** and **Netherthong** where another bird died after hitting a neighbour's window on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
Rare Winter Visitor

The three records this year are the first since 2003.

A fine male was watched for c.15 minutes on the reservoir wall at **Deer Hill** on 26<sup>th</sup> October (DMP) - it departed towards Wessenden calling. One flew SW at Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 28<sup>th</sup> October during a heavy thrush and finch passage (JMP) and one flew S over **Harden** on 15<sup>th</sup> November (JL).

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*  
Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs. Red listed.

A very similar picture to last year, although the number of sites from which it was recorded was slightly down, to 33.

In the early months several sites held between one and six birds, but double-figure counts were restricted to 15 at **Thurgory Lane** from 1<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January, 20 at **Shepley** on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and c.40 at **High Hoyland** on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

During the spring and summer singing males were reported from **Cheesegate Nab**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Broadstone Res.**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Bretton Park**, **Bulcliffe Wood**, **Haigh Woods**, **Calder/Hebble Navigation**, **Horbury Strands**, **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Emley Moor**, **Farnley Tyas**, **Penny Spring Wood** and the **Shelley** area which held c.10 pairs.

The only record of confirmed breeding came from **Scout Dike Res.** where an adult was observed feeding a juvenile on 14<sup>th</sup> June. It undoubtedly occurred at other sites.

In the autumn/late winter period up to six birds were noted at several sites again, but the only double-figure counts involved 15 at **Scout Dike** on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 10 at **Shepley** on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> December, and an exceptional count of c.60 at **High Hoyland** during very cold conditions on an unspecified date in late December.

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Recorded from 42 sites but breeding was confirmed at just three – one more than last year. However, birds were present during the breeding season at a good selection of sites, with breeding presumably taking place at some of these.

In the early months one to four birds were noted at several sites, mainly along the **Calder** corridor and at the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs. Counts involving more birds were limited to 10 at **Thurgory Lane** from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January, nine in beet fields at **Lower Cumberworth** on 4<sup>th</sup>

January, five at the **Calder/Hebble Navigation** on 6<sup>th</sup> January and six at **Meltham/Millmoor** on 6<sup>th</sup> February. One in a **Fixby** garden feeding on sunflower hearts in snowy conditions on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February was the observer's first there in 18 years (DT). Two birds were noted in the observer's garden at **Harden** on 20<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April.

From early March onwards one to four singing males were noted at **Broadstone Res.**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Boshaw Whams**, **Dean Head Res.**, **Meltham Moor**, **Ringstone Edge Res.**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Horbury SF**, **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Bretton Park**, **Little Don Valley**, **Harden Clough**, **Norland Moor**, **Wholestone Moor** and **Sparth Res.** A total of 16 singing males were recorded at some, but not all, sites in the Marsden area, and 12 birds were counted at **Butterley Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** all records concerned birds in the SW corner overflow field. The first returning birds, two males and a female, were seen on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Thereafter, although a male and female were seen on a regular basis until 25<sup>th</sup> July, there was no evidence of breeding. The only autumn record involved a single on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Proof of breeding was obtained from four sites: four recently-fledged juveniles were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 29<sup>th</sup> May; a female was seen carrying food at **Colnebridge SP** on 8<sup>th</sup> July; and a male was carrying food at **Broadstone Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Breeding was also reported at **Dewsbury SF**, but no details were available.

During the latter months of the year one to five birds were noted at several fairly well-spread locations, the only larger counts concerned 12 in the **Wessenden Valley** on 30<sup>th</sup> September, seven at **Tunnel End** on 21<sup>st</sup> October and the year's maximum of 25 at **Dewsbury SF** on 26<sup>th</sup> October (JH), 12 and 15 at **Healey Mills** on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 26<sup>th</sup> December respectively and 20 at **High Hoyland** during freezing conditions on New Year's Eve.

## ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

### **BAR-HEADED GOOSE** *Anser indicus*

An un-ringed bird associated with Canada Geese at **Sands Lane GP** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September (DT) and also on 7<sup>th</sup> October (JRS).

### **CANADA GOOSE** *sp Branta canadensis*

One of the smaller races was present at **Scout Dike Res.** for several weeks from late April. It was rather tame and did not openly associate with the other geese (RJB).

### **CHESTNUT TEAL** *Anas castanea*

Endemic to Australia

A male and female were at **Dewsbury SF** on 21<sup>st</sup> March (DT) and identified from photographs by MLD. Possibly the same male was at **Elland GP** on 26<sup>th</sup> December (DT).

### **MUSCOVY DUCK** *Cairina moschata*

One was on the **River Calder** in the **Horbury Strands/Wyke** area on 11<sup>th</sup> May and two were on the **River Calder** near **Sands Lane GP** on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

### **HELMETED GUINEAFOWL** *Numida meleagris*

Four birds were in **Haigh Woods** on 24<sup>th</sup> March (DT).

### **BLACK GROUSE** *Tetrao tetrix*

Rare visitor

Birds (two or three different males?) that presumably emanated from the ill-fated Derwent Valley introduction scheme were reported from the following sites:-

**Carlecotes/Riddle Pit Farm** - a male displaying on 12<sup>th</sup> May from 05.00hrs. to 05.30hrs. at least (MC, DHP) and again on the following morning from 05.30hrs. to 05.45hrs. (BA).

**Tinker Hill** - a male was heard calling at 06.00hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup> May (DT).

**Swinden Plantation, Little Don Valley** - a male flushed from the plantation on 8<sup>th</sup> June (DM Pearce).

### **DUSKY-HEADED CONURE** *Aratinga weddellii*

Endemic to Western Amazonia

A single bird at **Crosland Moor** on 1<sup>st</sup> October and what may have been the same bird was also seen on 31<sup>st</sup> October (MLD).

## ADDITION TO 2008 REPORT

### **BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor:

A singing male was near the Central Library on 19<sup>th</sup> January (DButt).

## EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS

	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2009		EVER		2009	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	25/3	Dewsbury SF	29/9	1969	1/8	Dewsbury SF
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	18/4	Riding Wood Res.	21/11	1959	24/8	Ingbirchworth Res.
Common Tern	12/4	1996	20/4	Horbury Strands	16/10	2001	19/9	Blackmoorfoot
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	24/4	Deer Hill	27/10	1977	8/7	Scout Dike
Swift	16/4	2000	25/4	Ingbirchworth	8/11	2001	26/8	Blackmoorfoot
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	15/3	Healey Mills	23/10	1971	24/9	Elland GP
Swallow	10/3	1959	30/3	Ingbirchworth & Elland GP	5/12	1995	8/10	Blackmoorfoot
House Martin	20/3	2005	30/3	Ingbirchworth	27/11	1959	4/10	Fixby
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	22/4	Swinden Plantation	5/10	2000	20/8	Blackmoorfoot
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	24/4	Blackmoorfoot	24/10	1952	10/9	Deer Hill Res.
Common Redstart	21/3	1942	14/4	Holme Styes	24/10	1976	19/9	Ingbirchworth
Whinchat	11/4	1949	23/4	Brow Grains	9/11	1999	14/9	Blackmoorfoot
Northern Wheatear	1/3	1997	17/3	Ingbirchworth	4/12	1997	16/10	Blackmoorfoot
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	30/3	Little Don Valley	25/12	1855	9/10	Blakeley Res.
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	13/4	Deanhead Res.	29/8	2000	11/7	Wessenden Valley
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	29/4	Horbury Strands	26/9	1999	5/7	Horbury Strands
Reed Warbler	22/4	2002	25/4	Colnebridge SP	29/9	2001	22/6	Elland GP
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	21/4	Healey	27/9	1973	8/7	Scout Dike Res.
Common Whitethroat	3/4	1901	10/4	Horbury SF	12/10	1999	21/9	Ingbirchworth
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	29/4	Horbury Strands	24/11	1984	12/9	Horbury SF
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981	10/5	Sparth Res.	4/9	1956	No records	
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	7/4	Horbury Strands	27/10	1987	12/9	Tunnel End
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	11/5	Bretton Park & Woodsome Rd.	16/10	1985	30/8	Blackmoorfoot
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	20/4	Cliff Wood	19/9	1969	No records	

Denotes a new earliest/latest ever record.

**Note:** Blackcap and Chiffchaff dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds.



## LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS

	LATEST				EARLIEST			
	EVER		2009		EVER		2009	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Whooper Swan	3/5	2006	24/4	Blackmoorfoot	4/10	2005	3/11	Fisby
Pink-footed Goose	12/4	2009	12/4	Harden Res.	11/9	2007	24/9	Meltham Cop
Goldeneye	mid-May	?	1/4	Royd Moor Res.	mid-Sept	?	30/10	Ringstone Edge
Waxwing	29/4	1991	17/4	Skelmanthorpe	24/10	1965	No records	
Redwing	7/5	1975	12/4	Elland GP	27/8	1941	7/10	Blackmoorfoot
Brambling	13/5	1976	10/3	Windy Bank Wood	13/9	1983	7/10	Marsden GC

 Denotes a new latest/earliest ever record.

Note: **Fieldfare** - in view of the fact that this species previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has been removed from the table.

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### Organisations:

Barnsley Bird Study Group

Bird Guides

Gtr Manchester Bird Recording Group (GMBRG)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

Marsden Moor NT Estate

RSPB Denby Dale Office

## A putative eastern Song Thrush, *Turdus philomelos*, January 2009

Early in the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 I was driving north along Broadstone Road and had to slow down because of ice. As I did so I glanced towards the field on my right and noticed a medium-sized passerine feeding about 50 metres away amongst the mud and remnants of snow. The bird's identity wasn't immediately apparent. So, after stopping the car in the middle of the road, I lifted my binoculars. What appeared in view was a rather odd-looking Song Thrush. So odd, in fact, that it had me considering the possibility that it could be a Nearctic species. The most obvious feature was a very pale ground colour to the chest and flanks, almost completely lacking any warm orange-buff tones. The upperparts were similarly cold-coloured, tending towards grey. The bird definitely warranted a better look so I reached into the back for my telescope, only to find it wasn't there. Not really expecting anything worth looking at, I'd put it in the boot.

By now the thrush had moved further down the field. With the car still blocking the road and the snow-covered verges not suitable for parking, the best option appeared to be to roll it round the corner on to Birds Edge Lane from where closer views could be obtained. From there, the bird's jizz looked typical of Song Thrush, but the general coldness of the plumage was even more obvious, whatever the angle of view. At the time I was very familiar with Song Thrushes wintering in my then local patch in the lower Grimescar Valley. Seeing familiar birds in an unusual context can, admittedly, cause changes in perception but, even allowing for that, this one looked markedly different from those. Although hard to pinpoint, there was also something about its 'facial expression' which drew attention. After four or five minutes of watching and head-scratching, it then suddenly occurred to me that my Olympus camera was on the passenger seat. The camera was new, and I hadn't got used to it, but with the bird again starting to move away, and another vehicle approaching, I managed to grab a few shots before having to leave.

So, what was it? As with many species, the geographical variation of Song Thrushes is clinal, with the main pattern involving an increasing paleness of plumage from west to east, and a minor trend towards increasing darkness running north to south (*BWP*). Compared to British breeding *clarkei*, typical nominate *philomelos* from Scandinavia, Poland, and eastern Romania east to western Siberia and the Caucasus have greyer olive-brown upperparts, with the rump and upper tail coverts being particularly greyish and containing virtually no hint of rufous or brown. Also, the buff ground colour of the under-parts is paler, more cream, and less extensive, with the white of the belly extending further up the breast. Birds showing such characteristics are occasionally reported in Britain but almost all have been in autumn and on the coast. This is supported by evidence from ringing recoveries. These have produced a small number of Fennoscandian Song Thrushes in autumn but only one in winter, prompting *The Migration Atlas* to conclude that the great majority of such records refer to birds on passage, presumably to Iberia and the Mediterranean.

Taking this into account, any discussion as to the exact origins of the Broadstone Road bird can only be speculative. Ironically, the photographs turned out to be slightly disappointing, with the bird looking to me somewhat more ordinary than it had done in the field, albeit still with a definitely greyish rump. I'd intended to post them on the HBW forum but now felt cautious. It was only when noticing the colour of the soil (brownier than in life\* – I know this for sure because I double-checked it when unsuccessfully trying to relocate the bird a couple of days later) that my confidence started to return. Interestingly, or perhaps inevitably, Mick Cunningham then weighed in and, without prompting, also mooted the possibility of a continental or eastern origin. So, given this reaction, and my initial suspicions, I sent the photos via Mick to Martin Garner. Martin's response was encouraging. Even though the photos were 'straight out of camera', with absolutely no post-processing, he considered the bird to show characteristics associated with those from even

further east than I'd imagined – Finland or western Russia at least. He also drew positive comparisons with birds passing through the central/eastern Mediterranean region and even those reaching the Far East. Quoted here with kind permission, he commented: “the main point is that many nominate ‘continental’ birds that migrate through/winter in Britain are hard (though not necessarily impossible) to identify in the field, whereas birds of this type (your bird) are really quite striking, and easy to identify, and such birds, which are essentially grey above and white below, predominate in the eastern part of the Song Thrush range”. Or, as he more pithily put it, “slam dunk!”.

*David Pennington*

## **References**

Cramp (ed) – *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa: The Birds of the Western Palearctic* (OUP, 1988)

Wernham *et al* (eds) – *The Migration Atlas: movements of the birds of Britain and Ireland* (Poyser, 2002)

Witherby (ed) – *The Handbook of British Birds* (Witherby, 1949 reprint)

## **Acknowledgements**

Martin Garner

Mick Cunningham

\* ‘Olympus colours’ – thought by some to be over-saturated at their default setting.

## REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

It is imperative for all club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e. ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the club forum; to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the club area then do contact Mike Denton (01484 646990) who holds the necessary licence to monitor and document proceedings.

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place, then contact Mike Denton or the recorder urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from either Mike Denton or the Club Recorder. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within

the club area. It is by leaving these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

#### **Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species**

Black-necked Grebe  
Bittern  
Pintail  
Garganey  
Honey-buzzard  
Red Kite  
All harriers  
Goshawk  
Osprey  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon  
Avocet  
Stone-curlew  
Little Ringed Plover  
Dotterel  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Little Tern  
Barn Owl  
Kingfisher  
Firecrest

#### **Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area**

Nightjar  
Buzzard  
Raven  
Short-eared Owl  
Long-eared Owl

## CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES

(Use Ordnance Survey map Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

Location	Grid Ref.
Ainley Top	117193
Almondbury	170155
Annat Royd Lane	211053
Appleyards, Golcar	101152
Armitage Bridge	130135
Ashway Gap	023043
Aspley	151163
Bairtings Res.	006188
Bank Wood, Emley	263138
Banks Hall	282066
Bare Bones Road	144043
Bargate	096147
Barkisland	055197
Bartin	091072
Beaumont Park	130147
Bell Royd Farm	228048
Berry Brow	141138
Big Valley	130136
Bilberry Res.	102070
Binn Edge	053105
Bird's Edge	202077
Bird's Nest Lane	187066
Birkby	137181
Birks Moss	056078
Black Brook	060177
Black Hill	078047
Black Moss	040085
Blacker Beck	297161
Blacker Pit	299164
Blacker Wood	240111
Blackley Tip	102195
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127
Blake Lee, Marsden	029121
Blakeley Res.	054096
Booth Dam Quarry	018161
Booth Wood Res.	026163
Boothroyd Wood	183118
Boshaw Whams	151057
Bradley	165205
Bradley Park GC	159207
Bradshaw	052144
Bretton Lakes	280127
Broadstones Lodge	203064
Broadstones Res.	195065

Location	Grid Ref.
Brookhouse Bridge	198007
Brown's Edge	195058
Brownhill Res.	114060
Buckstones	010140
Bullecliff Farm	290156
Bullecliff Wood	292152
Bunny Wood, Golcar	095173
Butterley Res.	050103
Butternab Wood	122138
Cannon Hall	275085
Carlecotes	178034
Carr Wood	180133
Cartworth Moor	138060
Castle Dam, Penistone	255022
Castle Hill	152141
Cawthorne	285080
Cawthorne Dike	295089
Cheesegate Nab	175065
Chew Hills	023030
Chew Valley	025025
Choppards	142064
Cinderhills	147075
Clayton West	260110
Clayton West S.F.	266118
Cliff Wood, Langsett	215002
Cliff, Holmfirth	145082
Clock Face Quarry	044173
Clough Lee	046116
Clough Wood	175114
Cockley Hill	188179
Colne Valley	070140
Colnebridge S.P.	175207
Cooper Bridge	175206
Cowcliffe	139187
Coxley Bank	275168
Coxley Valley	271165
Cranberry	247008
Crimble	085145
Crosland Heath GC	110142
Crosland Hill	115145
Crosland Moor	120150
Crossley's Plantation	125050
Crow Edge	188046
Cubley	245023

<b>Location</b>	<b>Grid Ref.</b>
Cupwith Res.	038141
Dalton	165168
Dean Clough	080067
Dean Rocks	025038
Dean Wood	119134
Deanhead Res.	038152
Dearne Dike Lane	195075
Dearne Head	185076
Deer Hill Res.	070115
Deffer Wood	260090
Deighton	167191
Denby Dale	225084
Dewsbury SF	260198
Digley Bottom	115068
Digley Res.	107070
Dogley NR	187137
Dovestones Res.	018040
Drop Clough	048133
Dunford Bridge	158024
Edge Hill	235016
Edge Moor	104125
Elland GP	125222
Ellentree Brow	142045
Elysium Fields	133055
Emley Moor	225135
Emley Tx	223130
Farnley Tyas	166128
Farnley Wood	164134
Featherbed Moss	044010
Fenay Beck	183152
Fixby	139196
Flight Hill	153042
Flockton	245151
Flouch Inn	198016
Folly Hall	142159
Ford Inn	114084
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring	276027
Fox Clough	136057
Fox Holes, Langsett	190006
Fox House Moss	165042
Fullshaw	210012
Fulstone	175095
Garside Hey	032133
Gawthorpe Green	193168
Gilbert Hill	210007
Gledholt	133170
Golcar	096160

<b>Location</b>	<b>Grid Ref.</b>
Golcar Tip	104156
Grain's Moss	125025
Grange Moor	220160
Green Gate	204060
Green Gate Road	113080
Greenfield Res.	030054
Greenfield Road	103080
Greetland	085215
Grimescar Valley	130190
Gunthwaite Dam	246062
Hade Edge	146053
Hades Green Clough	141052
Haigh	294120
Haigh Clough	023127
Hall Bower	145140
Hall Dike	115118
Hall Ing Road	162115
Hard Hill	056111
Harden	153037
Harden Clough	144039
Harden Edge	158038
Harden Moss	100083
Harden Res.	150037
Hartcliff Hill	221017
Hazehead	195028
Healey Greave Wood	194116
Healey House	115124
Healey Mills	268193
Helme	101118
Hepworth	164066
Hey Green, Marsden	032122
Heyden Moor	092024
High Hoyland	273102
High Wood	290106
Highburton	193133
Hill Top Res.	074141
Hinchliffe Mill	127072
Hingcliffe Common	194001
Holmbridge	120068
Holme	108060
Holme Moor West	062114
Holme Styes	136054
Holme Styes Res.	141055
Holme Woods	105045
Holmfirth	143082
Holt Head	080123
Honley	138118



Location	Grid Ref.
Honley Moor	116113
Horbury Strands	288177
Horbury Wyke	297172
Houses Hill	199169
Hoylandswaine	265047
Huddersfield	145165
Hullen Edge	100208
Hullock Bank	172075
Ingbirchworth Res.	215060
Isle of Skye Quarry	093080
Issues Clough	082053
Issues Road	095061
Jackson Bridge	165075
Jebb Lane	280112
Jenkinson Wood	184116
Jubilee Quarries	103128
Kaye Lane	160147
King's Mill Lane	150161
Kirkburton	198128
Kirkheaton	185185
Kirkroyds	156091
Krumlin	056183
Langsett	212005
Langsett Banks	205003
Langsett Res.	210001
Law	158047
Law Slack Ponds	156047
Lepton	203152
Lepton Great Wood	195145
Lindley	120182
Lindley Moor	095185
Lingards	060132
Linthwaite	095145
Liphill Brook	129078
Litherop Lane	273123
Little Black Moss Res.	032087
Little Don Valley	195005
Lockwood	135152
Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150
Longwood	108167
Lower Cumberworth	223095
Lower Hopton	202191
Lower Maythorn	187056
Lower Stones Wood	187106
Lower Windleden Res.	157017
Lowfields, Elland	117219
Lumb Lane	160140

Location	Grid Ref.
Magdale Dam	135124
Magdalen Clough	090082
March Haigh Res.	015130
Margery Wood	275096
Marsden	045115
Marsden Clough	094072
Marsh	125171
Mathewman Wood	182098
Maythorn	186057
McAlpine Stadium	155176
Meal Hill	168070
Mellor Wood	158144
Meltham Cop	093120
Meltham Moor	080093
Meltham SF	112115
Middlestown	267172
Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Millhouse Green	218032
Millmoor, Meltham	088107
Milnsbridge	113158
Molly Carr Wood	160137
Morton Wood	158067
Myers Wood	188125
Mytholm Bridge	154102
Nether End	124081
Nether Moor	117133
Netherthong	139097
Netherton, Wakefield	283170
Netherwood	054127
Nettleton Hill	094170
New Hall Wood	265155
New House Wood	210082
New Mill	164088
Nont Sarah's	048152
Nopper Road	107135
Onkes	120174
Oldfield	136103
Orange Wood	102123
Ossett	290200
Outline	085180
Ox Lee	168055
Oxygrains Beck	003159
Paddock	125161
Park Mill	260114
Paul Lane	184203
Penistone	245033
Penny Spring Wood	160155

<b>Location</b>	<b>Grid Ref.</b>
Pole Moor	067158
Potato Lane	089125
Pule Hill	033104
Ramsden Res.	115055
Ravensthorpe	222202
Ravensthorpe GP	233202
Redbrook Res.	027098
Reynard Clough	136050
Riding Wood Res.	117050
Ringstone Edge Res.	050182
Ripponden	040197
Rishworth	032182
Roughbircworth	264016
Round Wood	157101
Royd Edge	095097
Royd House Wood	162133
Royd Moor Res.	222048
Ryburn Res.	020188
Salendine Nook	105178
Salters Brook	137002
Sand Ridge Moss	158032
Sands GP.	217196
Sands House	116145
Scammonden	050160
Scissett	248104
Scout Dike Res.	233049
Shelley	204113
Shelley Woodhouse	218110
Shepley	193098
Shore Head	148166
Silkstone	290059
Silkstone SF	295065
Skelmanthorpe	233105
Slaithwaite	080140
Slaithwaite Moor	040143
Smith Wood	179115
Snailsden Moor	135035
Snailsden Res.	135040
Snap Res.	117088
Snittle Road	149050
Snowgate Head	179085
South Crosland	113130
Sparth Res.	055125
Spicer House Lane	205055
Spring Wood	130124
Square Wood Res.	217078
Squirrel Ditch	152154

<b>Location</b>	<b>Grid Ref.</b>
Stainland	077194
Standedge	016098
Stocksmoor Common	275152
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158
Storthes Hall Moor	175112
Storthes Hall Woods	183125
Stubbin Clough	124072
Swinden Plantation	190002
Swinny Knoll	125097
T. P. Wood	132166
Taylor Hill	135145
Thongsbridge	151097
Thornton Lodge	135161
Thorpse	235095
Thunderbridge	188115
Thurgory	191158
Thurlestone Moor	175020
Thurstonland	165104
Tinker Hill	163038
Totties	157082
Townhead	166028
Tunnel End Res.	039120
Tup Stones	096018
Underbank	144076
Upper Cumberworth	210087
Upper Denby	230072
Upper Greetland	075212
Upper Longdendale	095005
Upper Royd	095095
Upper Stones Wood	185104
Upper Windleden Res.	152012
Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Waring Bridge	065131
Waterloo	177166
Way Stones Edge	004142
Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Wessenden Valley	055088
West Nab	077088
West Wood, Honley	151123
Wetshaw Edge	147032
Whitegate Lane	128055
Whitley Common	192056
Whitley Willows	196166
Wholestone Moor	077167
Will's o' Nats's	090121
Wilshaw	118100
Windle Edge	152017

<b>Location</b>	<b>Grid Ref.</b>
Windleden Edge	142010
Windmill Lane	195072
Windybank Wood	112104
Winscar Res.	150025
Wolfstones	124092
Wood Nook	122106
Wood Top	046113
Woodhead Res.	095002
Woodsome Lees	186134
Woodsome Road	185146
Wooldale	155090
Yatcholme	115050
Yeoman Hey	033050

## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

The following is a list of the 267 species of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2009. Eleven additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species, then, highlighted, the less common 'additional' race(s). For those species and races that have been recorded only once or twice, the years in which the birds appeared are also listed.

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

A report of a **Frigatebird** *Fregata* species flying low SW over Lockwood on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009, identified as a juvenile, but not to a particular species, was not accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and is not included in the list.

The 'Description required' column indicates those species and races for which records of sightings must be accompanied by a description and, if possible, photographs, as required by the Club (HBC), the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee (YNU) or BBRC. Consult the YNU and BBRC websites for lists of other species and races for which these organisations require descriptions. Descriptions for the YNU and BBRC should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarce species, to the Recorder (see inside rear cover).

You may wish to use the sheets to record your own year and lifetime lists for the Huddersfield area. Note that for some species distinguishing between races can be problematic at certain times of year and allocation to species only is advised – refer to a quality field guide.

The map on page 135 shows the Club recording area.

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>				
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	1996	YNU		
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>		HBC		
	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>		HBC		
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>		HBC		
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>				
9	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>				
10	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		HBC		
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>				
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2002	YNU		
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	2002			
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				
23	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		YNU		
24	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				
25	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>				
26	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	1983, 1985			
27	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>				
28	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		HBC		
29	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		HBC		
30	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				
31	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>				
32	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				
33	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				
34	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>				
35	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>				
36	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>				
37	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				
38	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
39	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				
40	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				
41	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		HBC		
42	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		HBC		
43	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		HBC		
44	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				
45	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				
46	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		HBC		
47	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		HBC		
48	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		HBC		
49	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		HBC		
50	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		HBC		
51	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		HBC		
52	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
53	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		HBC		
54	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				
55	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		HBC		
56	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		HBC		
57	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2008	YNU		
58	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		HBC		
59	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1989	YNU		
60	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				
61	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2008	HBC		
62	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		HBC		
63	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2008	HBC		
64	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		HBC		
65	Honey-buzzard	<i>Perisoreus inornatus</i>		YNU		
66	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				
67	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005	YNU		
68	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		HBC		
69	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		HBC		
70	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		YNU		
71	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		HBC		
72	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				
73	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				
74	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		YNU		
75	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982	YNU		
76	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		HBC		
77	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				
78	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1983, 1994	YNU		
79	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				
80	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
81	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				
82	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				
83	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		HBC		
84	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874	HBC		
85	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		HBC		
86	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				
87	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				
88	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		HBC		
89	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				
90	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005	HBC		
91	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i>				
92	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				
93	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				
94	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		HBC		
95	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				
96	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				
97	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				
98	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				
99	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				
100	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		HBC		
101	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		HBC		
102	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990	YNU		
103	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2007	YNU		
104	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		HBC		
105	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		HBC		
106	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				
107	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>		YNU		
108	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				
109	Jack Snipe	<i>Limnocyptes minimus</i>				
110	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				
111	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		HBC		
112	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				
113	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				
114	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				
115	Whimbrel	<i>Numerius phaeopus</i>				
116	Curlew	<i>Numerius arquata</i>				
117	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989	HBC		
118	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				
119	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	1983, 1990			
120	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				
121	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				
122	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
123	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		HBC		
124	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				
125	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				
126	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978	HBC		
127	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985	YNU		
128	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		HBC		
129	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		HBC		
130	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		HBC		
131	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988	HBC		
132	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992	HBC		
133	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		HBC		
134	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>				
135	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				
136	Little Gull	<i>Hydrochelidon minutus</i>				
137	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		HBC		
138	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				
139	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		YNU		
140	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellii</i>				
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>		HBC		
141	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>				
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>				
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>		HBC		
142	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		HBC		
143	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	2002	YNU		
144	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>		HBC		
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides glaucooides</i>		HBC		
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides kumlieni</i>	2008	HBC		
145	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		HBC		
146	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				
147	Little Tern	<i>Sterna alba</i>		HBC		
148	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		HBC		
149	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998	YNU		
150	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandwicensis</i>		HBC		
151	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				
152	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		HBC		
153	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964	HBC		
154	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		HBC		
155	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		HBC		
156	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		HBC		
157	Pallas's Sandpiper	<i>Syrhaptes parvipes</i>	1888	HBC		
158	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)				



# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
159	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				
160	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				
161	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				
162	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				
163	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				
164	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		HBC		
165	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				
166	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				
167	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>				
168	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>				
169	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				
170	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				
171	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	1872	YNU		
172	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				
173	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968			
174	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		HBC		
175	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		HBC		
176	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				
177	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				
178	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>				
179	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947	HBC		
180	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				
181	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000	HBC		
182	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				
183	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				
184	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				
185	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989	YNU		
186	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				
187	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				
188	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petronus</i>		HBC		
	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petronus petronus</i>		HBC		
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petronus littoralis</i>		HBC		
189	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		HBC		
190	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>				
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>		HBC		
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	1990	HBC		
191	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				
192	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>				
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		HBC		
193	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>				

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
194	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				
195	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				
196	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				
197	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				
198	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		HBC		
199	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		HBC		
200	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				
201	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				
202	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>				
203	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
204	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>				
205	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				
206	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				
207	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				
208	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>				
209	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				
210	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>				
211	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				
212	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				
213	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				
214	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				
215	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>				
216	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				
217	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977	HBC		
218	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985	HBC		
219	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		HBC		
220	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>				
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000	HBC		
221	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				
222	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				
223	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				
224	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				
225	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				
226	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				
227	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				
228	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				
229	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>				
230	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>				
231	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		HBC		

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
232	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				
233	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				
234	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		HBC		
235	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		HBC		
236	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				
237	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>				
238	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				
239	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				
240	Carion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>				
241	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>				
242	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		HBC		
243	Starling	<i>Sternus vulgaris</i>				
244	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	1859	HBC		
245	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				
246	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				
247	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				
248	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>				
249	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>				
250	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				
251	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>				
252	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				
253	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>				
254	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>				
255	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>				
256	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				
257	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983	HBC		
258	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				
259	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				
260	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>		HBC		
261	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		HBC		
262	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				
263	Chil Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>		YNU		
264	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999	YNU		
265	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				
266	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998	HBC		
267	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>				

## NOTES

## NOTES

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Terry Piggott

## HUDDERSFIELD RECORDING AREA

The bird recording area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits and Dewsbury Sewage Farm.

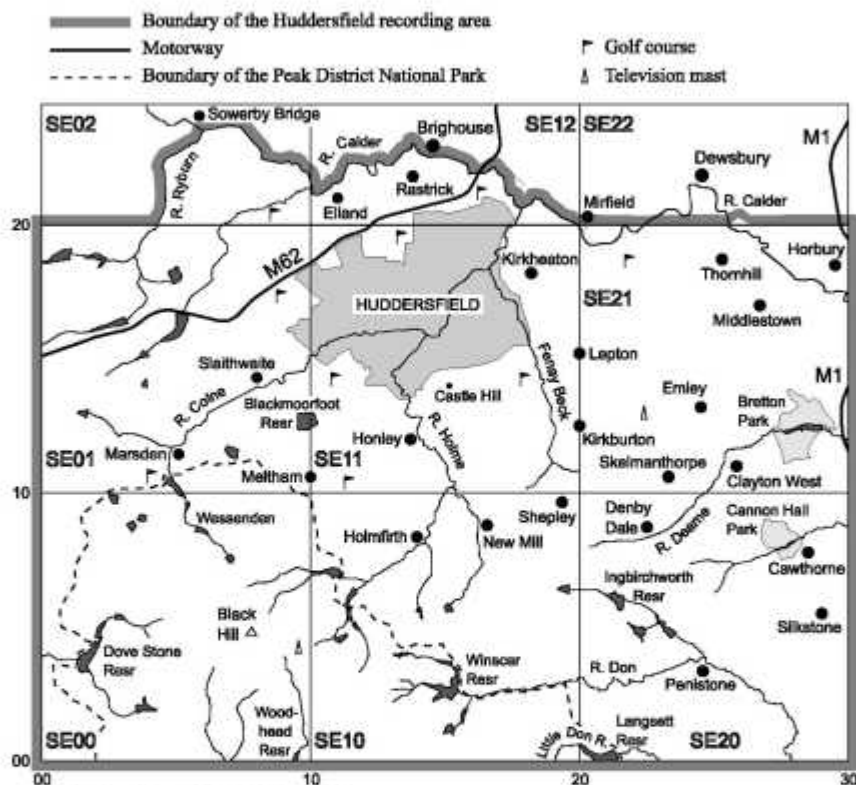


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area



# **Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

Registered charity no 1098296



**Bar-tailed Godwit – Deer Hill 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**This magnificent summer plumage Bar-tailed Godwit was just one of 168 species of birds seen around Huddersfield in 2009.**

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

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