



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296

Birds in Huddersfield

2005



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

by
Russ Boland

'Birds in Huddersfield 2005' 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: Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* by Stuart Brocklehurst.

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written by
Russ Boland

illustrations by
Russ Boland
Stuart Brocklehurst
Mick Cunningham

published by
Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club
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by

Russ Boland (RJB)
Stuart Brocklehurst (SB)
Mick Cunningham (MC)

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Stuart Brocklehurst is a wildlife artist and you can see more of his work on his web site:
www.wildlifewithpenandbrush.blogspot.com

FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

This report for 2005 adds to the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club archive, a resource whose value has recently been demonstrated most emphatically by the support it gave to our recent publication "The Birds of the Huddersfield Area". It is only by such persistent and diligent work as is evident here that information about birds in our area is collected and recorded year after year. To many of us it would be asking too much of our tenacity to undertake the compilation of successive reports yet Brian Armitage, had, up to 2004, both kept records and written the report, tasks undertaken with professional skill. Our gratitude to Brian for both these tasks should be recorded here. For this report he has been the recorder while Russ Boland, co-author for 2004, has now kindly taken on the full task of writing of it, with a result that certainly maintains the very high standard to which we have been accustomed in club reports. He is to be congratulated on this fine work.

They have, as ever, been ably provided with the raw material from the many members and others who get out into the field again and again. We are grateful for their contribution and rely on them to maintain their vigilant observations for our future reports.

Russ Boland, Stuart Brocklehurst and Mick Cunningham have contributed excellent illustrations. Our thanks to them for enhancing the text in this way.

As is always the case, but not always obvious, activity behind the scenes is needed to get a report ready for our members. Mike Wainman has again kindly seen it through the publishing process to turn it into a professionally presented book, a task involving not just detailed arrangements with the printer. Mike Denton generously helped with proof-reading.

I commend this report to members and the wider world of birdwatchers. Without having to read every word, anyone can see by just a few glances how much information it contains and what labour has gone into putting it all there.

Michael Rayner

ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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 2005*" 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 early in 2008 a major new work "*The Birds of the Huddersfield Area*".

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 since records began. 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 and are on sale in local bookshops and regional RSPB reserves.

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 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 sites of particular birding interest.

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, English Nature (now 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 committees.

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 (inside rear cover) or visit our website for more information.

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk

2005: THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 173 species were reliably reported in 2005, which included two new species for the club area, and another putting in only its third-ever appearance. Two species were also proved breeding in the area for the first time. Additionally, four migrants made their earliest-ever appearances and were stark reminders of our changing climate.

As in 2004, the main attraction of January was Waxwings; these delightful birds were out in force in greater numbers this time, with gatherings including 500 in the Folly Hall area early month. From similar climes were over 2000 Fieldfare – this unusually high number were in the Ingbirchworth area mid-month.

The expected and often impressive westerly passage of Pink-footed Geese peaked around mid-month, with a total of 1,200 noted from various sites. A Scaup began a several week on-off love affair with the small Windybank Wood Res. from 10th and, later on, another visited Blackmoorfoot Res.

Dewsbury Sewage Farm is establishing itself into one of the region's prime sites for Water Pipit; one duly beginning a long stay from 13th. A Mediterranean Gull roosted among the 7000 plus Black-headed Gulls at Blackmoorfoot for several nights.

In February, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls put in two appearances apiece at Blackmoorfoot. These two species are becoming increasingly rare in the club area due to the closure of land-fill sites in neighbouring localities. Another Mediterranean Gull roosted here from 20th. Up to 100 Tree Sparrows at Denby, 80 Pied Wagtails at Honley and 65 Yellowhammers at Royd Moor were all testament to bird-friendly farming practices, intentional or not.

During the afternoon of 27th news broke that a White-tailed Eagle had been seen over Langsett Res. This huge raptor was previously at large in East Anglia, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire before this brief appearance put it onto the Huddersfield List. Its rapid departure left a posse of quickly assembled local birders at the nearby Dog and Partridge pub frustrated, with nothing but a snowy waste to look at.

With the mild conditions in March came an early wave of migrants including our earliest-ever Sand and House Martins, whilst a record-breaking Osprey at Deer Hill Res. was a fore-runner of what was to become an excellent spring for this species. Later, a Red Kite was seen over Penistone and a Black Redstart was an exciting find at Oldfield on 20th. After another Osprey at Langsett on 22nd there was a flurry of activity late-month with a showy Red-breasted Merganser at Boshaw Whams, a Little Gull at Ingbirchworth Res., a Black-tailed Godwit at Scout Dike Res. and, best of all, the two Avocets which flew over Dewsbury SF - the first definite record for the area, and just reward for the dedicated patch worker there. Encouragingly, there was some impressive numbers of Twite in the Deer Hill area also around this time.

April began with another Little Gull at Elland GPs and an exceptional count of 450 Brambling at Barkisland. Elland also pulled in another record-breaking migrant – this time it was a Grasshopper Warbler on 10th, while the only Kittiwake of 2005 was recorded here on 15th. With spring migration in full swing in the last week of the month there were several interesting occurrences, including a party of nine Black-tailed

Godwits, two Arctic Terns and a Ruddy Shelduck of unknown origin at the Calder Valley hotspot of Dewsbury SF, a Hoopoe at Kirkburton and an arctic-bound Sanderling at Blackmoorfoot.

May opened with a Hobby over Denby Dale and two Arctic Terns at Elland. There were three more Hobby sightings in the month, while wader-wise there was a good series of Whimbrel records from upland waters, including Ringstone Edge which also had an excellent passage of Dunlin and a Sanderling. Pied Flycatcher and Wood Warbler remain in a precarious position within the club area, with just three reports between them.

During the breeding season there were mixed fortunes for our passerine migrants. There was a welcome increase in the reports of Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat. Blackcap continues to do well, but there appeared to be little change to the status of Tree Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Wheatear and Common Whitethroat. Whinchat fared less well than in 2004, Spotted Flycatcher again gives cause for concern and the situations of Redstart and Ring Ouzel were desperate. Of further concern is the apparent decline of Garden Warblers and, particularly, another decrease in the numbers of singing Willow Warblers in the club area. After the previous two years' success, this one was disappointing for Little Ringed Plover, but Ringed Plovers at Dewsbury SF provided the club area with its first ever breeding record.

Of our resident species which can be well monitored without too much difficulty, there were improved fortunes for Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, while Stonechat appears to be increasing. Although it seems less effort was made to locate breeding pairs of Twite this year, the high post-breeding counts obtained do create some optimism. Long- and Short-eared Owls seemed not to enjoy the breeding success they did last year, Little and Tawny Owls continue to go under-recorded, whilst Barn Owl retains its mystique *and* promise with four reports.

Despite often well publicised cases of persecution, scarcer raptors also continue to attract the right kind of attention. After recent suspected attempts, Common Buzzard was finally confirmed breeding, a pair of Merlin were successful, but there was a negative return for the ever-popular Peregrine this year. The aforementioned White-tailed Eagle aside, at least six Ospreys, three Hen Harriers, three Red Kites and single Marsh Harrier and Honey Buzzard represent a better than average year for larger migrant raptors. It was also an excellent year for Hobby, with thirteen reports.

The highlight in July, for those fortunate enough to witness them, were the series of Little Egret sightings, one at Blackmoorfoot on 15th was perhaps the same individual that would only play ball with anglers, not patch watchers, at Scout Dike a few days later. An excellent series of Black-tailed Godwit records at Ringstone Edge, including a party of 10 on 19th, bring to light what an excellent wader spot this is. A Mediterranean Gull was tracked flying through Dewsbury SF early month, whilst the month closed with three Common Scoters at Blackmoorfoot; more expected than the five Ruddy Duck which also visited here.

In August, additional Common Scoters, although not in the numbers witnessed at this time in recent years, visited Blackmoorfoot and Ringstone. It was a good month for terns, with a Sandwich Tern over Cooper Bridge, Arctic Terns dropping in at Ringstone and Scout Dike and the only Black Tern of the year also at Ringstone.

Autumn wader passage was better than average and included Ringed Plovers, a good flock of Dunlin, single Sanderling, two Ruff, two Bar-tailed Godwits, several Black-tailed Godwits, at least 4 Greenshank and 5 Turnstone.

Migration began in earnest early in September, with 7 Little Gulls and 650 House Martins passing through Dewsbury SF. Good numbers of Twite began to gather near Blackmoorfoot and a Black Redstart began a six day stay at Brow Grains from 11th. A sense of winter came with the first skeins of Pink-footed Geese which passed over Almondbury and Ringstone on 16th. The month ended with an Arctic Tern gracing Blackmoorfoot and the first returning Fieldfares flying over Kirkheaton.

During the enchanting month of October, birders who were not drawn to the East Coast still had much to savour in our landlocked area. Whooper Swans appeared at four locations and numerous skeins of Pink-feet passed over throughout the month. Easterly winds and rain brought in some impressive numbers of Redwings mid-month, and a Little Gull at Blackmoorfoot and three Water Pipits at Dewsbury SF added extra quality. One of the highlights of the year was the Yellow-browed Warbler at Scammonden Res. on 11th which, unfortunately, was enjoyed only by its vigilant finder.

Birds were still on the move during the first week of November and included a late Ring Ouzel at Shepley, a Whooper Swan at Scout Dike and Denby Dale and two Bar-tailed Godwits at Ringstone. There was a spate of Blackcap sightings, mainly from observers' gardens, from 20th, although five Bewick's Swans watched in a blizzard at Ringstone a few days later perhaps felt more at home.

Often a rather quiet month, December did produce more variety than usual with the highlight being a Firecrest in a Lindley Moor garden on 17th – a fine early Christmas present for the observer. A Knot at Broadstones Res. early month was unusual in both location and time of year, and a gathering of up to 70 Goosanders at Elland GPs must have been an impressive sight. At the year end up to six Waxwings frequented the Ring Road area, whilst 90 Yellowhammers at Kirkheaton were evidence of the value of set-aside fields.

Russell Boland

THE WEATHER IN 2005

January was typically mild and windy, and these conditions prevailed until the third week of February, when cold easterly winds brought significant snow falls to the region. March began with cold northerlies but, by mid-month, these had swung around to bring much milder air from the south. Rainfall was excessively low throughout the three months, resulting in the driest winter since 1975-76.

April had plenty of showers and, briefly during mid-month, snow flurries. Conditions in May were very varied: easterly winds to begin with, followed by northerlies and frost mid-month, and then southerlies producing wetter, milder days. June also began with winds from cooler northerly quarters which lasted until the third week, when much warmer conditions then predictably brought thunder and heavy showers.

The first few days of July were unsettled before hot, dry conditions were established; these then giving way to showery conditions which moved in from the north. August was predominated with winds from a westerly quarter, but remained mostly warm and dry. September began with a spell of easterlies before more typical southerly and westerly winds took over.

October was generally very mild with winds mainly from the south-west, although they did swing around from the east briefly during mid-month and the third week. Mild conditions reigned into early November and, after a spell of much colder north/north-west winds, they returned with the south/south-westerlies. December was generally mild and pleasant, but there was a short spell of much colder weather from the north that brought sleet and snow between Christmas and the New Year.

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. See also the map inside on rear cover.

In 2005, 2006 and 2007 there were major changes to the taxonomic order, which now follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), not the Voous order of earlier years. The BOU expects all reports to adopt this new order.

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

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

The following have been 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 becomes *Stercorarius skua* and Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*.

The *Sylvia* warbler sequence has been re-arranged and now becomes Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* and Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

The Tits (genus *Parus*) have been split into smaller genera and their order re-arranged. New scientific names are applied to the following: Blue Tit becomes *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Coal Tit *Periparus ater*, Willow Tit *Poecile montana* and Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*.

Other minor changes in order have been 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.

Precise locations for records of Schedule I 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
F	-female	S	-South
M	-male	E	-East
ad.	-adult	W	-West
imm.	-immature	CP	-Country Park
juv.	-juvenile	F&M	-Foot & Mouth
1 st W.	-first winter	GP	-Gravel Pit
1 st S.	-first summer	NR	-Nature Reserve
2 nd W.	-second winter	SF	-Sewage Farm
2 nd S.	-second summer	SP	-Sludge Plant
3 rd W.	-third winter	Res.	-Reservoir
max.	-maximum/maxima	r.h.	-redhead
min.	-minimum	v.m.w.	-visible migration watch(ing)
		yg	-young

On page 124 is a complete list (The Huddersfield List) of the 264 species, plus ten additional distinct races, of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2007.

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2005

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

Reported from four sites, three of them in the Calder Valley, with breeding evidence obtained from two.

Bretton Lakes – up to three adults were present throughout the year. Three small cygnets were reported from the low lake for a short period but no dates are available, and there is no certainty as to whether these birds were hatched in the park or at a nearby site.

Dewsbury SF – three (two ads. plus an imm.) were on the River Calder on 26th Jan.

Elland GPs – one on 3rd Jan and then one from 22nd Jan to 6th Dec with three on 7th Feb and four on 3rd May. Two were present on 19th Aug, three on 28th Nov and four from 6th to 28th Dec.

Horbury area – two ads. were present during April and May, with three ads. on 17th April. A pair with four young cygnets were seen on the canal on 8th and 9th June.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor, becoming rarer.

There was just one record of this increasingly rare species.

Five were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** during heavy sleet and high winds on 24th Nov (HBC).

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A very good year for this species with reports from eight sites; five of the ten records received were in October.

Boshaw Whams – a single on 16th Jan (RDH).

Fixby – one flew low to the W over the M62 near Huddersfield Crematorium at c.13.00 hrs. on 1st March (JKP).

Baitings Res – three present at c.15.00 hrs. on 19th March.

Marsden – six adults flew down the valley at c.10.35 hrs. on 4th Oct (MLD).

Ringstone Edge Res – four on 13th Oct and seven during the afternoon on 27th Oct (Birdguides).

Kirkheaton – 14 flew low to the NW at c.11.30 hrs. on 23rd Oct (Birdguides). Incidentally, 14 were reported leaving Old Moor RSPB (approx 30 km to the SE) at c.10.00hrs.

Ryburn Res – two on 25th Oct (JED).

Scout Dike Res – an adult left to the NW at 10.30 hrs. on 5th Nov (RJB). Five minutes later it was seen over Denby Dale. Two swans here on 15th Nov which anglers described as being 'all white with yellow on the bill' were more than likely this species (via RJB).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

Passage in the early months was considered above average, with c.5,150 birds recorded. The only significant movements occurred in January when c.1062 were counted on 8th, although the vast majority were from one site; 530 on 9th and c.1,200 between 14th and 16th. Passage was much reduced in February and had almost finished by the comparatively early date of the 6th. As expected, the direction of flight was between W and NW, the only exceptions being 42 NE over Crosland Moor at 11.25 hrs. on 5th Jan and 107 NE at 16.35 hrs at Blackmoorfoot on 29th Jan. Timing of passage was remarkably consistent, with the majority moving between 10.30 hrs. and 11.30 hrs. and just seven reports after midday.

1st Jan – 7 W at 10.15 hrs., c.80 WNW at 11.00 hrs., c.50 W at 11.15 hrs. and c.65 NW at 11.20 hrs. at Blackmoorfoot. Sixty flew W at Lindley, and a skein was heard after dark at Slaithwaite.

2nd Jan – 3 W at 09.00 hrs. and 19 W at 09.10 hrs. at Blackmoorfoot and c.70 over Lockwood.

5th Jan – 90 W over Bradley, c.130 W over Hopton, 70 W over Folly Hall and a skein was heard heading NW at 17.00 hrs. at Linthwaite.

8th Jan – 1,000+ W at Denby Dale, and 62 at Ringstone Edge Res.

9th Jan – c.200 NW at Blackmoorfoot, c.150 NW at 11.30 hrs. at South Crosland, c.130 W over Whitley Edge at 11.25 hrs., and 70 over Golcar.

11th Jan – 90 W at 11.00 hrs. and 40 W at 11.15 hrs. at Blackmoorfoot, 110 W at Scammonden at 10.38 hrs. plus a further 77 birds dropped in with Canada Geese from the SE at 11.00 hrs. c.150 NW at Oldfield at 10.55 hrs.

13th Jan – 38 W at Dewsbury SF at 08.20 hrs.

14th Jan – 600 moved over Almondbury in two skeins, 140 NW at Bradley Park GC at 11.30 hrs. and a skein heard over Wooldale after dark.

15th Jan – 70 over Honley.

16th Jan – c.150 W over Whitley Edge at 10.30 hrs., 160 WNW over Cooper Bridge at 11.10 hrs. and c.90 W over Scout Dike Res at 11.10 hrs. – one of these dropping in to join the Canada Goose flock.

22nd Jan – 65 W at Shelley at 10.00 hrs.

23rd Jan – 130 NW at Blackmoorfoot at 14.20 hrs. and c.30 over Shepley.

29th Jan – 70 NW at Blackmoorfoot at 14.30 hrs., 150 W at Almondbury and 40 NW at Meltham.

30th Jan – 82 W at Blackmoorfoot at 16.10 hrs., 150 NW at 17.00 hrs. at Shelley, 100 NW at Meltham Cop and 50 W at Almondbury.

31st Jan – 20 NW at Blackmoorfoot at 08.55 hrs.

2nd Feb – 11 left Blackmoorfoot to the NW at 09.22 hrs. and 120 flew W at Lindley.

6th Feb – 100+ NW at Blackmoorfoot at 11.30 hrs.

27th Feb – 40 flew NW over Dalton at 08.20 hrs. during very light snow.

17th March – 66 flew W at Dewsbury SF; this was the last record of the first winter period.

Grounded birds were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and 3rd Jan (one), and 11 were down at **Ringstone Edge Res** on 21st Jan. Up to nine birds associated with the Canada Goose flock in the Scout Dike/Royd Moor area during Jan and Feb. A sickly looking individual was at **Red Lane** for two days in mid-March.

In the latter part of the year good numbers were again recorded. After the first returning skein was noted on 16th September an approximate total of 3,600 birds passed over, with c.2,600 in October. Passage was particularly evident between 8th and 12th Oct, including c.835 on 9th. Other significant movements occurred on 17th Sept and 18th Oct. Flight direction was predominantly easterly up to 10th Oct, when timing of passage was also at its most consistent; between 07.30 to 09.30 hrs. being the most productive period.

16th Sept – 50+ SE at Almondbury at 10.45 hrs, with 72 SE at Ringstone Edge perhaps the same.

17th Sept – 58 (36 + 22) E at Blackmoorfoot at 07.50 hrs., 110 E over Scout Dike at 07.50 hrs. and 130 (70 + 30 + 30) E at Shelley between 07.50 and 08.00 hrs.

28th Sept – c.80 E at 08.00 hrs. and c.90 E at 08.10 hrs. over Thurlstone, and c.100 E over the Little Don Valley at 08.10 hrs.

3rd Oct – 155 E at Blackmoorfoot at 09.50 hrs.

8th Oct – 140 NW at Blackmoorfoot at 14.20 hrs.

9th Oct – 400 E at 09.00 hrs. over Upper Cumberworth, c.300 at 09.00 hrs. and c.150 at 09.30 hrs. over Hartcliffe Hill/Langsett, 50 E over Bradley Park GC at 09.00 hrs., 160 E at Blackmoorfoot at 09.40 hrs. and 225 E over Dewsbury SF.

10th Oct – 44 NW at Blackmoorfoot at 10.30 hrs. and a skein was heard at 10.25 hrs. over Oldfield.

11th Oct – 30 NW over Bradley Park GC at 13.30 hrs.

12th Oct – c.125 NW over Dalton at 11.25 hrs.

18th Oct – 64 W over Dewsbury SF at 08.20 hrs., 300 SE over Denby Dale at 13.30 hrs., and c.220 W at Ringstone Edge Res.

26th Oct – 5 W at Blackmoorfoot at 08.30 hrs.

29th Oct – c.60 NW over Almondbury at 10.45 hrs.

7th Nov – 100 E at Blackmoorfoot at 08.45 hrs.

9th Nov – 80 E at Blackmoorfoot at 12.35 hrs.

10th Nov – 120 E over Dewsbury SF at 09.15 hrs.

9th Dec – 95 NW at Blackmoorfoot.

20th Dec – 150+ W at Blackmoorfoot at 07.55 hrs.

31st Dec – 60 flew NW at Blackmoorfoot at 17.00 hrs. after attempting to land in fields to the west.

Ringstone Edge Res drew 65 birds down on 13th Oct and 13 on 11th Dec, whilst singles were at **Bretton Lakes** on 20th Nov and in the **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area during Dec.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

Reported from nine sites. There was a noticeable influx during April that probably related to birds undertaking local movements, and there was some evidence of passage from farther afield at one site.

Baitings Res – a single on 16th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – eight flew NW on 1st Jan, 4 arrived from the N at 11.05 hrs. and departed N fifteen minutes later on 3rd April, a single on 3rd May, two flew W on 6th June and a single on 12th Sept.

Bretton Lakes – two on 21st Jan and one regular thereafter, with one reported on 20th Nov.

Dewsbury SF – two at the works and one flying W on 22nd March, 4 S on 21st April, 5 W on 27th April and 3 W on 29th April.

Horbury – two off Balk Lane on 25th March.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 19th April and 9 on 28th Oct.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 25th March, three on 12th April and four on 17th April.

Royd Moor Res/Scout Dike Res – one was usually associating with Canada Geese from 4th Feb to 29th March, up to two in April and one in May. Two records from Scout Dike in Sept which may relate to birds with origins well outside the area were 22 low to the N in low cloud and rain on 11th, and 12 high to the N on 17th - a day of early Pink-foot movement (RJB).

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

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

The only reports of breeding came from **Bretton Lakes**, where young were observed on 7th May, **Wessenden Head Res**, where a pair and two young were seen on 17th May, and **Snailsden Res**, where 10 young were seen on 30th May.

Big numbers were present at the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs during the winter months, with record counts again. A flock of c.800 counted at Ingbirchworth on 28th Oct is by far the largest number ever seen in this area (RIDH).

Monthly max. at regularly counted sites:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	116	106	23	2	3	3	67	67	44	78	113	129
Bretton Lakes	nc	39	40+	44	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	44
Royd Moor/ S. Dike	460	550	360	30	nc	nc	nc	580	nc	nc	480	530
Ingbirchworth	310	400	160	1	0	0	0	0	450	c.800	270	220
Scammonden	60	68	27	10	18	39	nc	nc	nc	80	nc	nc

Maximum numbers from less frequently counted sites are as follows:-

Boshaw Whams – 90 on 17th Jan.

Broadstones Res – 42 on 3rd Dec.

Dean Head Res – 18 on 25th March.

Deer Hill Res – 13 on 14th July.

Digley/Bilberry – 10 on 26th April.

Dovestones – 143 on 27th July.

Elland GPs – 10 on 29th April.

March Haigh Res – 13 on 29th May.

Ringstone Edge Res – 100 on 8th Aug and 14th Oct.

Ryburn Res – 24 on 25th Oct.

Snailsden Res – 30 (20 + 10 young) on 30th May.

Wessenden Head Res – 22 on 6th June.

Up to four birds were noted at **Baitings Res, Gunthwaite Dam, Horbury SF, Longwood Res, and Windybank Res.**

Records of birds probably undertaking local movements came from **Blackmoorfoot**, where 26 flew SW on 29th May, from **Dewsbury SF**, where 25 went W on 1st Sept and 66 E on 15th Oct, and from **Shelley**, where 8 flew W on 23rd March.

A basically white bird that was considered to be a Canada x Greylag hybrid was present at **Blackmoorfoot** during Aug and **Scout Dike Res.** on 19th Oct. Two other Canada x Greylags were at **Ingbirchworth** in Oct. One considered to be an Canada x Barnacle Goose hybrid was at **Elland GPs** on 24th April.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

All records this year doubtless refer to escaped/feral birds.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single present from 21st to 27th Nov and again on 29th Nov and 3rd to 6th Dec.

Bretton Lakes – up to two regularly during the first winter period, with a single on 15th Nov.

Scout Dike Res – three left to the NE on 6th Nov.

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

There were 25 records received from five localities, fifteen of them coming from the favoured Blackmoorfoot site. There was a notable pattern of occurrence between March and May, which suggests a return passage to breeding sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles on 9th, 14th and 15th Jan, two on 27th and 31st Jan, 6 on 3rd Feb, singles on 13th March and 5th and 12th April, 5 on 27th May, a juv. on 26th July, 10 on 30th July were probably on moult-migration, two on 22nd Aug, 5 on 18th Sept and 3rd Dec.

Boshaw Whams – two reported by anglers on 20th March.

Dewsbury SF – a single left W after a two hour stay on 26th Jan, two on 30th April and 3rd May.

Horbury Wyke – a pair on 25th March, two on 27th April and 2nd May which may have been the Dewsbury birds, and a single on 10th May.

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 10th and two on 22nd March.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor.

At **Elland GPs**, what was presumably last year's regular male was present from 3rd Jan to 6th March, and was joined by a female on 9th Jan only (HBC, JED). A single was at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th Sept (JH), and a good count of 10 (at least 4 males) were at **Ryburn Res.** on 25th Oct (JED).

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

Reported from thirteen sites with larger numbers than usual occurring in both winter periods; record numbers were at Scout Dike Res in the early months and there were very good counts at Blackmoorfoot Res and Broadstones Res at the year end. A significant arrival took place between mid-Oct and mid-Nov.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in Jan there were five on 1st and up to three on a further 7 dates. Up to four on 18 dates in Feb. A single on 4 dates from 1st to 7th March, plus 9 on 23rd. In April there were 18 on 4th and the last two on 21st. The first returning birds were 15 on 24th Aug down to 7 the next day. In Sept, after 11 on 3rd, there were up to 15 on a further nine dates. In Oct up to 14 were counted on nine dates between 4th and 18th, with an impressive 78 on 19th – the highest number here since 81 on 16th Oct 1997 – with just a single the next day and up to 7 on a further six dates to the month end. In Nov there were up to 5 on six dates between 5th and 29th. Up to 9 were seen on seven dates between 2nd and 29th Dec.

Broadstones Res – 42 on 24th Oct, c.80 on 6th Nov (HQ) with 45 on 13th, and 53 on 10th Dec.

Colnebridge SP – four on 4th Oct.

Deer Hill Res – six on 12th Oct.

Dewsbury SF – 46 on 11th Nov.

Elland GPs – a single on 6th and 30th Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res – up to 6 in Sept, 20 on 16th Oct and 7 in Nov.

Langsett Res – a male on 29th April.

Meal Hill Lake – 25 on 30th and 31st Dec were probably from Broadstones.

Ringstone Edge Res – three on 15th and 16th and 11 on 23rd Sept, 7 on 4th, 19 on 19th and a single on 31st Oct, two on 27th Nov and three on 25th Dec.

Royd Moor Res – seven on 24th Jan, 45 on 20th March were no doubt part of the Scout Dike flock, up to 5 from 1st to 10th April, 10 on 14th Oct, 27 on 15th and 9 on 20th Nov, and 26 on 29th Dec.

Scout Dike Res – after 19 on 9th Jan there were unprecedented numbers, with 46 on 29th Jan, up to 50 in Feb increasing to a max of 62 on 12th and 13th March (RJB) which fell rapidly thereafter. Singles on 4th Sept and 13th Nov.

Windy Bank Res – a male from 7th to 12th Jan with two males on 14th, three on 28th Nov and two on 21st Dec.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A considerably better showing than last year, with thirteen records from five sites. There was also evidence of passage in March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single on 15th Jan (JKP), a female on 19th June (MLD), two males on 24th July (CH), a male arrived from the E on 8th Sept (MLD), five (2 males) on 17th Oct (PDB, DHP) and two males on 24th Nov (MLD, CH).

Bretton Lakes – six (3 males) on 14th Jan (PB) and a male on 20th Nov (BA).

Horbury Wyke – a male on 25th March, three (2 males) on 26th March and a pair on 2nd April (BA, JHod, DHP).

Royd Moor Res – a male and a female on 20th March (RJB).

Scout Dike Res – two males on 22nd March (RJB).

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

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

Birds were reported from seventeen sites, with the highest numbers noted at the year end, particularly in late Nov and early Dec.

There were no reports of breeding this year, although a pair at **Cupwith Res** on 11th April was observed in an area where nesting previously occurred.

The more significant counts of the year were as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – after three on 1st Jan up to two were noted on six dates in Feb. In March it was noted on twenty four dates, with 4 from 1st to 12th and 8 from 13th to 21st. In April there were 9 on 4th and up to 4 on seventeen dates between 5th and 27th. Singles were present on 1st May and 16th June, with two on 27th July. In Aug there were up to 3 on six dates between 2nd and 28th and 10 on 31st. Up to 3 were noted on most days in Sept, with 18 on 3rd and 9 the next day. In Oct there were 4 on 4th with up to 3 on a further six dates. It was recorded on fourteen dates in Nov with a max. of 8 on 19th. In Dec, after 8 on 2nd had increased to a year's best of 33 on 3rd, there were up to 9 on six dates to the year end.

Bretton Lakes – twelve on 16th Jan, when much display was observed, 14 on 16th Feb, 10 on 27th March and 22nd April and 6 on 20th Nov.

Dewsbury SF – 38 on 13th Jan reducing to 18 by 4th Feb, then 18 on 7th March had increased to 36 on 10th before dropping to just two on 16th April. Five on 5th Sept increased to 18 on 29th, 10 on 21st Oct and 70 on 8th Nov increasing to 85 on 14th.

Elland GPs – two in Jan and Feb, five in March, ten in Oct, four in Nov and Dec.

Horbury Wyke – six on 27th Feb, 10+ on 25th March and 25 on 2nd April. Two on 27th Feb at the strands and a single female on 24th April.

Langsett Res – good numbers were present in autumn, possibly as a result of much lower water levels than normal: 60 on 9th Oct, 93 on 22nd Oct, 68 on 5th Nov and an exceptional 108 on 4th Dec (RJB).

Ravensthorpe GPs – 23 on 23rd Jan, 29 on 16th Oct, 35 on 30th Oct and at least 14 on 25th Dec.

Royd Moor Res – six on 6th Feb, up to 5 in Aug, 17 on 27th Sept, 30 on 11th Oct, 16 on 26th Nov and 74 on 3rd Dec.

Reports from other sites were: **Boshaw Whams** – 10 on 18th Dec; **Broadstones Res** – a single on 7th Sept; **Colnebridge SP** – a pair on 3rd Feb and single males on 14th Feb, 19th and 27th Dec; **Horbury SF** – at least 4 on 23rd Jan and a two on 26th March; **Ingbirchworth Res** – three in Nov and 6 on 12th Dec; **Ringstone Edge Res** – up to 6 on five dates in Feb and 7 on 8th Nov; and **Wessenden Res** – three on 21st March.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

It is highly likely that breeding activity was under-reported this year, with records received from only six sites – a rather poor total.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 13 ducklings out of 74 reached the flying stage.

Bretton Lakes – 3 young were seen on 27th April.

Colnebridge SP – breeding reported from the canal, river and ponds but no details were given.

Horbury area – on 1st May a female and 7 young on the canal, a female with 3 young at the Wyke and a female with 3 young on the river. A female and 5 young were at the strands on 24th April, when a nest with 5 eggs was also located.

Ingbirchworth Res – bred but no details given.

Scout Dike Res – a female and 9 young were seen on the outflow pool on 23rd April, and at the res. two broods totalling 15 young were noted, at least 8 reaching the flying stage.

Max. numbers at regularly counted sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	21	21	14	11	13	14	19	29	41	52	42	31
Elland GPs	57	6	37	30	23	22	39	44	39	42	46	44
Ingbirchworth	11	11	2	8	nc	5	9	90+	140	32	17	16
Scammonden	nc	29	21	nc	6	11	nc	14	20	22	nc	nc
Scout Dike	17	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	35	102	34	nc	40	25

Counts from other waters were as follows: **Baitings Res** – 9 on 20th March; **Bretton Lakes** – 35 on 16th Feb, 12+ on 25th March, 20+ on 22nd April and 30+ on 15th Nov; **Dewsbury SF** – 42 on the **River Calder** on 8th Aug, 140 on 1st Sept and 52 on 8th Nov; **Longwood Res** – 8 on 13th Jan, 22 on 22nd Feb and 20 on 13th March; **Ringstone Edge Res** – 11 in Feb, seven in March, six in April, three in July, 22 in Sept, 19 in Nov and two in Dec; **Royd Moor Res** – 67 on 13th Sept, 68 on 8th Oct, 43 on 5th Nov and 78 on 17th Dec; and **Windy Bank Res** – 50+ on 10th Jan and c.20 on 6th March.

Elsewhere, other notable records were: up to 30 at **Broadstones Res**; 20+ at **Denby Dale Mills**; up to 20 all year at **Meal Hill Lake**; a max. of 33 at Middlemost pond, **Birkby** on 5th Nov; 92 at **Holmfirth** on 26th Jan; and 11 on 2nd Feb and 7 on 1st March at **Ringstone Edge Res**.

Pairs were reported from **Cupwith Res** (2), **Lepton Great Wood** and **Thunderbridge**, and birds were noted daily from a garden at **Hagg Wood**. At **Harden** in spring a pair was

attracted to an 8ft diameter pond in the observer's garden, where they became very confiding. Unfortunately both birds were killed by traffic shortly afterwards.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Reported from four sites, September proving to be the most productive period and Blackmoorfoot once again having the majority of records.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male on 5th Jan with this or another on 19th Jan, three (2 males) on 3rd Feb, four on 1st Sept with two on 9th, 17th and a single on 18th, eight on 19th Oct with two the following day, a male on 23rd Nov and a male and a female on 9th Dec.

Dewsbury SF – a single on 29th Sept.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 18th Sept.

Scout Dike Res – three (one male) flew NE on 26th March.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

A typical showing with birds reported from six sites. All but two records were from August onwards.

Blackmoorfoot Res – four on 17th Aug with three the next day, five on 17th Sept and a single on 20th, four on 19th Oct, three (2 males) on 11th Nov with three (one male) on 15th.

Broadstones Res – two males with Wigeon on 6th Nov.

Dewsbury SF – three (one male) on 1st Sept and two on 15th Sept.

Ingbirchworth Res – a male and a female on 2nd April.

Royd Moor Res – a male on 20th March.

Scout Dike Res – an eclipse male briefly on 11th Sept.

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

Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

Reported from nine sites, which is a typical number. Birds were absent in May, June and August, with the majority of sightings in March, November and December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles on 1st and from 7th to 11th March were the only early year records. In Sept there were two on 9th and a single on 18th, seven on 5th Oct with up to 6 on five dates thereafter; in November there were 4 on 14th, a year's best of 10 on 21st, two on 24th and a single next day; five on 2nd Dec with singles on 3rd, 10th and 7 on 20th.

Boshaw Whams – four on 17th Jan, a single on 4th March and singles on 18th Dec with two on 21st.

Bretton Lakes – ten on 3rd Jan, 17 on 16th Feb – the highest count in the club area this year, 16 on 6th March, 6 on 25th March and 22nd April, 6 on 15th Nov and two on 12th and 28th Dec.

Elland GPs – a single from 13th to 22nd Jan, then two from 30th Jan to 20th Feb, four on 6th and three on 16th March and two from 1st to 26th Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res – up to 6 reported in Nov.

Ringstone Edge Res – singles on 4th Oct and 30th Dec.

Royd Moor Res – three on 12th March.

Scout Dike Res – singles on 16th Jan, 4 on 6th Feb, a single from 25th Feb to 12th March and two from 19th to 22nd March, an un-seasonal male on 10th July, a single on 23rd Nov with two on 26th, and singles on 10th and 27th Dec.

Windy Bank Res – a single on 12th and 23rd March.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Reported from seventeen sites.

The only confirmed breeding records came from **Bretton Lakes**, where broods of six and five were observed on the Upper Lake on 24th July, and from **Scout Dike Res**, where seven out of a brood of eight were believed to have reached flying stage. Birds were also present once again at **Carlecotes Ponds** from April to June, breeding possibly occurring here.

Monthly max. at selected sites were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	3	3	5	5	2	9	15	9	7	5	6	3
Bretton Lakes	20	21	46	20+	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	8	6
Elland GPs	16	4	15	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	7	16
Ingbirchworth	12	9	10	7	nc	8	4	7	4	3	6	24
Scout Dike	15	22	17	12+	nc	9	22	12	8	10	12	1

Reports from other sites were: **Boshaw Whams** – two on 20th March, 4 on 19th April and 18th Dec; **Bilberry Res** – five on 5th Oct; **Birds Edge** – single on the mill pond on 20th Dec; **Broadstones Res** – five on 10th Dec; **Carlecotes Ponds** – present from April to June, with a max. of 7 on 27th April; **Deanhead Res** – two on 10th April; **Meal Hill Lake** – four on 5th April, two on 23rd and 4 on 31st Dec; **Royd Moor Res** – four on 6th Feb, a pair on 3rd April and 12 on 13th Nov; **Scammonden Res** – two on 5th Oct; **Sparth Res** – a pair on 17th April; and **Windy Bank Res** – up to 4 on eight dates between 7th Jan and 25th March, and a two on 18th July.

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

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

There were two records, one involving a particularly long-staying individual.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a female on 16th Feb (MLD). Scaup has now been recorded here eight out of the last ten years.

Windy Bank Res – the female from Dec 2004 was first reported on 10th Jan and was aged as a 1st W. the following day. It was then reported on a further four occasions to 23rd March, but was assumedly present on many other preceding dates (PB, PDB, S+HC, DHP, M+SW).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

There were six records from two sites, five of these coming from Blackmoorfoot, which remains the best site to catch up with this species, particularly during the early autumn period.

Blackmoorfoot Res – on 30th July a single male (MLD, CH) was followed by another male and two female-types at dusk (PB). A male on 9th Aug (PDB) plus a male and female on 19th Aug (PDB), and another male and female on 4th Oct (MLD, CH, DHP).

Ringstone Edge Res – a female on 9th and 10th Aug (HBC, PDB).

(COMMON) **GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

Uncommon winter visitor.

This species was reported from fifteen waters between 2nd Jan and 17th May, and from 15th Oct to the year end. Once again Blackmoorfoot was the only site to hold birds with any regularity. As in the last two years, no more than ten were counted from any site.

Blackmoorfoot Res – up to two birds were recorded on twelve dates in Jan; it was recorded on twenty three dates in Feb with a max. of 4; daily in March, with a year's best of 10 (4 males) on 7th and 5 on 23rd. In April it was recorded up to 27th with a max. of 6 on 4th. The first birds back were 8 on 17th Oct and it was seen on a subsequent 11 dates with max. of 9 on 25th; recorded on twenty three dates in Nov with a max. of 4; and thirteen dates in Dec with a max. of 3.

Boshaw Whams – one from 14th to 28th Jan, with three on 17th, three on 1st and 2nd Feb and three on 20th and 25th March.

Elland GPs – two in Jan, four on 20th Feb, three in March, three in Nov, and a single on 5th Dec with 4 on 6th and 9th Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res – single on 11th Jan, three on 24th Jan, four on 15th and 16th Oct and two on 24th.

Records from other sites were: singles at **Bilberry Res.** on 13th Jan with two on 25th Jan and 13th March; a single at **Deer Hill Res.** on 19th March; five were on the River Calder at **Dewsbury SF** on 10th Jan; two at **Digley Res** on 1st and 13th Jan; a single at **Langsett Res.** on 9th Feb; a single at **Riding Wood Res** on 12th March; **Ringstone Edge Res.** had singles on 13th Feb, two on 22nd March, two in April, three in Oct and a single on 24th Nov; three were at **Royd Moor Res** on 17th Dec; two at **Scammonden Res.** on 18th March; **Scout Dike Res.** had one from 2nd Jan to 5th Feb, two on 17th May (BA) and 15th Nov; and a single was at **Windy Bank Res.** on 22nd and 28th Nov.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

There were eight records from six sites, although three of these probably related to the same wandering male.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male was present from 4th to 19th June (MLD, DMO), a female-type on 18th July (MLD, DHP) and a female-type from 31st Oct to 3rd Nov (DMO, CH et al) and on 9th, 10th and 13th Nov (MLD, CH).

Boshaw Whams – a male on 25th March was probably the same bird seen here from 3rd to 14th April (MC et al).

Deer Hill Res – a male left high to the SE after a brief stay on 1st May (DMP).

Hinchliffe Mill – a male at the dam on 23rd April (S+MC, DSI). See Boshaw Whams.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Reported from seventeen sites; some particularly high counts were made in December from the three main sites of Blackmoorfoot, Bretton Lakes and Elland GPs.

Max. numbers reported at regular sites were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	28	17	21	2	0	2	0	1	1	9	11	41
Bretton	20	nc	14	nc	40	32						
Dewsbury SF	4	5	3	4	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Elland GPs	5	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	70+
Ringstone Edge	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	13	3	35

Birds were recorded at Blackmoorfoot on 142 dates; the species being absent only in May and July. While counts in the early months at Elland GPs were much lower than usual, an impressive 70+ were present on 5th Dec with 50+ on 6th and 9th.

Elsewhere up to 10 birds were on the River Calder at **Cooper Bridge** on seven dates between 9th Jan and 10th March; eleven were on the Calder at **Horbury Wyke** on 23rd Jan, with a pair here on 10th and 15th May; and up to 8 different birds were at **Windy Bank Res** on many dates between 7th Jan and 9th March, with a max of 5 on 28th Jan.

Records from other sites were: a single at **Aspley** on 9th Jan; singles on the River Calder at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 8th and 20th March; a pair were on the Calder at **Brighouse** on 10th Nov; two on the R. Holme at **Lockwood** on 12th Jan; three on 14th Jan and 7 on 7th Feb at **Clough Lee, Marsden**; two on 21st March and a single on 20th Nov at **Ingbirchworth Res**; a single at **Scammonden Res.** on 16th Jan; singles on 2nd Jan, 10th Dec and two from 24th to 31st Dec at **Scout Dike Res**; and three flew W over **Thurstonland** on 18th Dec.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce visitor. Has bred.

There has been a significant fall in records for this species since 2002; it now appears to be a scarce bird within the club area, presumably as a result of the controversial cull carried out elsewhere in the country. There was just a single record.

Blackmoorfoot Res – four males and a female on 24th July (CH, DMO, DHP).

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*
Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Very few records were received for this species. Although breeding was reported from **Dovestones**, **Langsett** and **Winscar**, no evidence was forthcoming. However, breeding had doubtless taken place elsewhere.

Birds were reported during the breeding season at **Cupwith Moor**, where six males were seen on 31st March, **Heyden Bridge**, **Holme Moss**, **Wessenden Head Rd** and at **Digley**, where there were 'many' calling on 26th April.

The only counts obtained were very low, these being seven in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 5th Sept, nine at **Hey Clough**, **Holme** on 5th Oct, five at **Langsett** on 11th Oct and a flock of 12 at **Crossley's Plantation** on 16th Oct.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*
Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

There were reports from nine sites. It remains impossible to determine which records refer to birds being released for shooting.

Cawthorne – two on 10th Feb (PB).

Cumberworth/Upper Denby – four on 5th Feb (JMN).

Deffer Wood – a single nearby on 14th March (SRG), and one heard calling from Denby Hall Farm on 13th March (BA).

Dewsbury SF – two were on the road by the gate on 17th April (BA).

Digley – three on 16th April (HQ) and two on 24th April (DT).

Dovestones – two on 11th May (SRG).

Holme – a single near the school on 17th April (SRG).

Jebb Lane – two on 23rd March (PB).

Shepley – two on 4th and 26th Jan (SRG).

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*
Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Sites from which this species was reported numbered thirty two, which appears encouraging. However, released birds once again cloud the picture. Breeding was confirmed at only two localities and autumn counts were unexceptional.

Confirmed breeding came from **Scout Dike Res**, where two young were seen with four ads. on 29th Sept, and at **Bullcliffe Farm** where an ad. and 10 young were seen 14th Aug.

Highest counts during the winter months were 17 at **Shepley** on 4th Jan, 15 on 26th Jan and 10+ on 23rd Dec, 11 at **Snape Res** on 22nd Nov, 15 near Goat View Farm, **Briestfield** on 3rd Dec, 14 at **Thurgory** on 4th Dec and 10 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 20th Dec.

The larger counts made during the autumn suggest probable breeding, these being 10 at **Wilshaw** on 18th July, 11 at **Shelley/Emley** on 15th Aug and 10 on 14th Nov, 10 at

Honley Moor on 18th Sept, 10 on 4th and 12 on 9th Oct at **Ringstone Edge**, 17 at **Scout Dike** on 8th Oct and 16 at **Lepton** on 31st Oct.

Records involving more than four birds came from **Dewsbury SF**, where there were six on 9th and 17th Oct, from **Deer Hill** where there were six on 18th Nov, and from **Ravensthorpe GPs** where there were seven on Christmas Day.

Up to four birds were noted at **Annat Royd Lane**, **Oldfield** and **Royd Moor** in Dec, and at **Upper Denby** in Oct. One to three birds were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot** on six dates, and on one to two occasions at **Balk Lane**, **Birds Edge**, **Browns Edge**, **Cartworth Moor**, **Farnley Tyas**, **Flockton**, **Houses Hill**, **Litherop Lane**, **Middlestown**, **Miry Lane** and **Ringstone Edge Res**.

(COMMON) **PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*
Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Reported from twenty eight sites, mainly in the S and E of the area; a large proportion of the records received will undoubtedly relate to birds raised for shooting.

The only reported breeding was at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Broadstones Lodge**, but it certainly occurred elsewhere.

Twenty birds at **Digley** on 26th April and eight in a field at **Annat Royd Lane** on 24th Jan were the only noteworthy counts received.

Birds visited gardens at five localities: **Almondbury** in mid-March; **Hagg Wood** in June and July; **Netherthong** in Feb, March and Dec; **New Mill** in Jan and March; and occasionally at **Jackson Bridge**.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*
Feral introduction

This species retains a toehold in the club area at **Bretton Lakes**, where eight birds were apparently released early in 2000, since when it has been recorded annually. Single males were seen here on 26th and 29th April and 28th Dec (SRG), and 25th March and 27th April (JED).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Partial migrant breeder (1), 5-15 pairs.

Records were received from seventeen sites, but breeding was only reported from one.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one daily from 1st to 6th March, two on 12th May and one on 2nd, 24th, 30th and 31st Aug. Up to four (2 imms.) from 1st to 30th Sept, then up to two from 1st Oct to 16th Nov.

Bretton Lakes – up to two present in both winter periods and a single on 4th Aug.

Elland GPs – one to two present throughout the year with 4 on 18th Sept.

Ingbirchworth Res – up to two in Feb, March and April, one in June, two from July to Sept, three in Oct and a single in Nov and Dec.

Meal Hill Lake – two were present all year but there was no proof of breeding.

Scout Dike Res – up to 10 birds were present in early spring, with 7 counted on 8th May. Breeding was unsuccessful due to falling water levels; the juv seen on 2nd Sept was believed to have been reared elsewhere. Up to two birds occasionally to 13th Nov.

Records from other sites were: singles at **Broadstones Res.** on 29th March, 10th and 17th May; birds were present on the **River Calder** from Jan to April; a single was at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 4th April; singles at **Dewsbury SF** on 22nd and 23rd Jan and 7th and 10th March, with two on 16th and 19th Oct; singles at **Digley** on 13th Jan and **Gunthwaite** on 19th Feb; two at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 19th Nov; two at **Royd Moor Res.** on 10th April; singles at **Scamonden Res.** on 11th Jan and 13th Feb; singles at **Tunnel End Res** on 28th March, 3rd July and 5th Oct; up to two were at **Windybank Res.** from 10th Oct to 21st Dec; and at **Winscar Res.** courtship was observed but exact dates were not received.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

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



There were records from twelve waters with successful breeding reported from at least four of these. A minimum of seven young were reared, which can be considered a good number considering how poor some recent years have been.

The species continues to be seen in the highest numbers at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** After the first on 28th Jan it was seen almost daily from March to the year end. The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	6	6	12	17	28	19	14	11	8	2

One pair attempted to breed but failed due to falling water levels; both nests were left high and dry on 15th and 31st May respectively.

Bretton Lakes – two in Jan and Feb had increased to six by 27th April and a pair with two young was seen on 23rd May. Apart from a single on 4th Aug no autumn records were received, however, up to 11 were present from 20th Nov at least.

Elland GPs – one to three were regular from Jan to July, with six counted on 25th March. Apart from a single on 15th Oct none were reported until Dec, when one remained throughout and was joined by another for 11th.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single in Jan and Feb and a two were present in late March. Reported to have bred but no details were given.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 13th March were the first, one of these staying to 2nd May when two were present, with four on 4th, five on 5th and four again on 10th May. One to two was regular until 18th Nov, with three on 17th Sept.

Scout Dike Res – up to five in Jan and Feb had increased to seven from 22nd March to 19th April. Two pairs reared three young (2+1). Nine ads. were present on 27th June, up to four in Sept and Oct, two in Nov then none until three on 24th Dec.

A pair fledged two young at **Hill Top Res**; no other records were received for this site.

Longwood Res. held two on 22nd Feb and 14th March. A pair was seen nesting on 11th April, but the outcome was unknown.

Elsewhere, a pair was at **Boshaw Whams** on 21st May, three at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 11th Feb, a pair with two young at **Royd Moor Res.** on 27th June were believed to have been one of the Scout Dike pairs, and a single was at **Ryburn Res.** on 16th April.

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

Uncommon passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Reported from twenty one sites with birds recorded in every month. The species was most frequently seen in the Calder Valley, with the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs and Blackmoorfoot also regularly attracting birds.

The largest numbers this year came from **Elland GPs**; the monthly maximums here are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	9	4	3	0	0	1	1	2	4	19	29

The Nov and Dec counts are the highest on record here (HBC).

Blackmoorfoot Res – one to three birds were recorded on fourteen dates from 15th March to 19th Nov.

Boshaw Whams – recorded on at least ten dates with one to four usually present, and maximums of five on 1st April and eight on 20th Feb.

Colnebridge SP – up to three birds were observed flying over on eight dates between 30th July and 26th Dec.

Dewsbury SF – one or two recorded daily from Jan to late April, up to six occasionally thereafter and a flock of 24 on 15th Oct (JH).

Horbury Wyke – three over on 24th April, two on 17th April, one on the River Calder on 10th May, singles on 9th June and three over on 12th Aug.

Ingbirchworth Res – one to two regular in April and Nov, singles on 23rd Aug, 30th Oct and 13th Nov.

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 26th June, 11 NW on 16th Aug and two on 19th Oct.

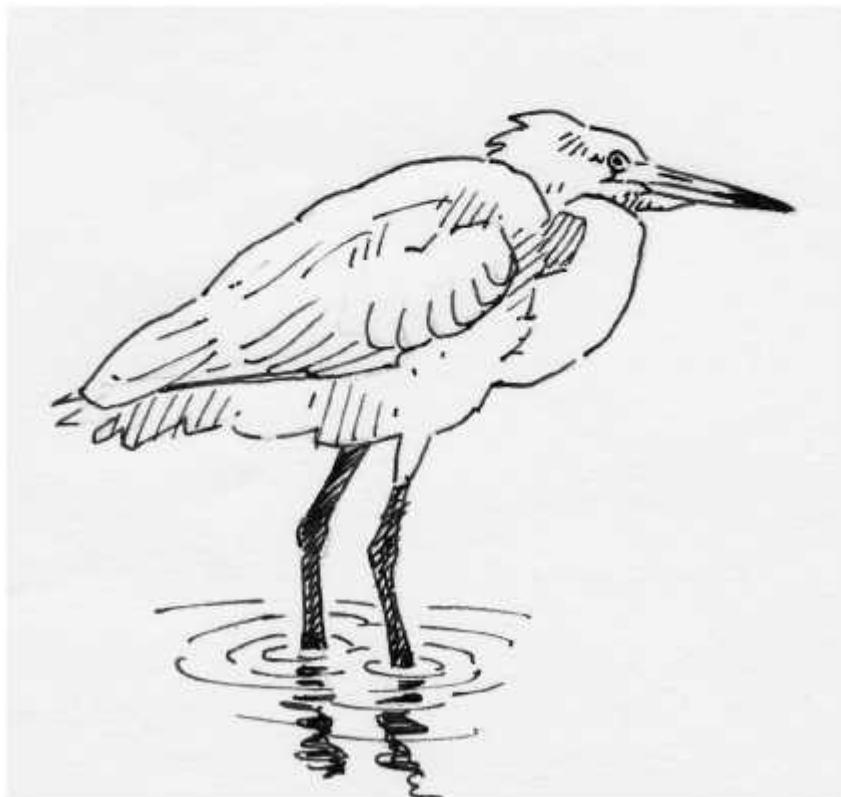
Royd Moor /Scout Dike Res – one or two noted on at least thirteen dates with a max. of three on 7th Aug.

One to three birds were occasionally recorded from the following sites: **Baitings Res.** (three on 16th April); **Bradley Hall Farm** (up to two in March); **Bretton Lakes**; **Brighouse**; **Brownhill Res.** (four on 13th April); **Ryburn Res**; **Scamonden Res**; and **Yatcholme Res.**

Elsewhere a single flew N over **Crosland Moor** on 13th March, one flew over **Shelley Whins** on 4th Jan and one soared over the moor at **Snailsden** on 10th April.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor.



There were reports from two localities - the third and fourth records for the club area. There was a notable influx of this species into the region during July, although it is a distinct possibility these records relate to the same bird.

One was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th July, being first seen at 08.55 hrs. (JED, MLD, CH et al).

At **Scout Dike Res.** a bird described by anglers as 'a small, pure white heron' was apparently present early on 17th July and at least two preceding dates, each time appearing early and leaving to the NW when disturbed. It failed to show on 18th but reappeared briefly on 19th, again flying off to the NW, this being the last time it was seen (DF via RJB).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

This species continued to utilise a wide range of habitats in the club area; reports coming from over thirty sites, including several flyover records.

Away from the breeding areas most records related to one to three birds, but five were at **Dewsbury SF** on 26th June and **Horbury Wyke** on 25th March, 17th April and 15th May, with four at **Scout Dike Res.** on 18th Sept and 13th Nov.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one to four birds were seen on most days, although there were five on 4th April, nine on 28th June and eight regular in July.

Breeding was reported from five localities with details as follows:

Bretton Lakes – birds were back at the heronry by 16th Jan and 30 + birds were present on 22nd April. Forty one nests (16 at the upper lake and 25 on the low lake) were counted on 25th March and some were occupied by well grown young, although the exact number is unknown (JCC).

Cannon Hall – seven birds were present on 20th Feb, including one collecting twigs and nest-building. At least four nests were occupied on 24th April, although there are probably others at this inaccessible site. An ad. and two nearly fledged young were seen on 27th June (PB).

Elland GPs – one, possibly two pairs were reported nesting but the outcome was unknown. Eight were present on 8th March.

Hall Dyke – on 8th Feb three birds were present, including a pair adding material to a nest possibly used last year. Six were present on 18th March and ads. were sitting on three nests. Four nests were occupied on 24th April; the nest from 8th Feb now holding quarter grown young (PB).

Scammonden Res – a max. of 16 were present on 13th March; nine nests were counted on 27th April and eight of these were occupied by 12 young on 8th May (JED).

Worthy of note were three hunting frogs at **Winscar Res.** on 7th April and one briefly in the vegetable plot of a **New Mill** garden on 19th Jan.

(EUROPEAN) **HONEY-BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus*

Rare passage visitor.

One was observed flying slowly to the W at c.14.00 hrs over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 2nd Aug (PB). Having been accepted by the Y.N.U. records committee, this was the 209th species recorded at this site – an impressive total for an upland reservoir.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor.

A species which will presumably be seen with more frequency in the club area in the not too distant future; three records is a typical showing.

One flew W over **Penistone** on 16th March (NEP). One reported over **Calder Grove** at c.10.15 hrs on 16th May may have just been inside the club area (Birdguides). One flew NW over **Kirkheaton Cricket Club** on 20th June at 13.25hrs. (BA).

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Vagrant

An imm. flew W over **Langsett Res.** at 14.05 hrs on 27th Feb (JHol). A new species for the club area. See account at the end of this report.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

A cream-crown which left **Deer Hill Res.** to the W at 11.20 hrs. on 2nd Sept (TD) was the only record.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

Four records constitute an average year for this species.

In October a ringtail was quartering the road at Goat Hill Moor at **Nont Sarah's** on 27th (JF via NC) with possibly the same bird seen over **Scammonden Res.** also on this date (HBC), and on 30th a superb male was watched for 20 mins. at **Brow Grains** before leaving towards **Deer Hill** (DMP). A ringtail was seen from the north bank of **Langsett Res.** quartering moorland on the south side on 12th Nov (RJB).



White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

(NORTHERN) **GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*
Sporadic breeder (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce visitor.

At one site birds were seen on 14th Jan and five dates in March, with display being observed on 19th, but none were reported after mid-April (PDB, MC, DHP).

At another site single birds were present on 15th Feb and 4th April (HQ).

There were four records away from possible breeding areas: two, including a particularly large female, was mobbed by a Raven at **Holmebridge** on 19th Feb (DMP, SP, KW); one, probably a male, was at **Golcar Tip** briefly on 26th March (DMP, SP); one was buzzed by a Merlin at **Winscar Res.** on 17th April (MC); and an imm. male that soared over **Langsett Res.** at mid-day on 24th Sept (RJB) was perhaps the same individual seen at Midhope, just outside the club area, in Aug.

In view of the virtual disappearance of this species as a breeding bird in the Peak District, all records of this species 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.

This species was reported from over sixty sites once again.

Dated records, totalling 167, were distributed throughout the year as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	5	25	23	8	11	7	23	19	14	13	10

Birds were reported regularly throughout the year at several sites but the dates were not supplied, and are not included in the above totals.

The majority of records referred to one or two birds, but three were seen at **Heyden Bridge** in March, at **Dewsbury SF** in April and **Denby Dale** in Oct.

Although there was no confirmed breeding, it probably occurred at the following sites where display was observed: **Almondbury**; **Denby Hall Farm**; **Dewsbury SF**; **Langsett**; **Heyden Bridge**; **Shelley** and **Scout Dike Res.**, where much noise, believed to be from begging young, emanated from conifers by the dam. A bird was observed taking twigs to a nest at **Blacker Wood** in early May. There was a rather disturbing case at **Royd Edge**, where a female was seen sitting on a nest on 27th May; the observer then finding the nest shot out during his next visit.

Gardens were visited regularly at Fixby; occasionally at Hagg Wood, Jackson Bridge and New Mill; on four dates at Shelley and two at Golcar.

Prey items recorded were Collared Dove (Almondbury and Shelley), Chaffinch (Shelley) and, surprisingly, a Swallow in flight at **Crosland Hill** on 8th Aug (DB). Attempts were also made on Starlings (Almondbury) and Linnets (Cheesegate Nab).

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

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

Records were submitted from twenty four sites, which is a slight reduction from the last two years. The majority of sightings were in the months March to May; September, which is often one of the better months, produced only four records, and there were only two reports from October onwards. Although the species may have gone under-recorded this year, successful breeding was confirmed in the club area for the first time.

At one site, after the initial sighting of a two on 11th Feb, a single was seen on 20th Feb, three on 11th March and two again on 24th April. Two ads. were then observed taking small prey items into trees on 17th, 22nd and 26th June. Two young were raised in what appeared to be only a lightly constructed nest which, incidentally, was in close proximity with a Sparrowhawk nest. An ad. and a 1st S. bird were then seen here on 3rd Aug (PB, JHod).

Three other potential breeding sites were searched without success (PB).

Cawthorne area – two on 13th Jan, singles then on 10th Feb, 6th and 13th March, two on 27th April and a single on 8th May (PB, CPK, MW)

Bulcliff – singles on 1st March, 4th April and two on 24th April. Two (one 2nd. Calendar year bird) on 29th May and two on 21st Aug (PB, JHod).

Heyden Bridge/Ancote Hill – single birds on 11th, 12th, 18th and 21st March, followed by singles on 10th and 23rd April (PDB, PB, MC).

Carr Wood – one over at tree top height towards Farnley Tyas on 10th Jan (BA).

Yateholme – three were at Netherley Clough on 30th Jan (JHod).

Hopton – one SSW over Whitley Wood on 23rd March (PB).

Ramsden Clough – a single on 10th April (MC).

Elland GPs – one over on 22nd April (HBC).

Harden – one seen on 24th April was either carrying prey or wearing jesses, and another on 3rd Sept. A buzzard sp. was seen distantly and briefly here on 6th March and it is worth mentioning that a Rough-legged Buzzard was reported just outside the area, not far from here, at this time (MC).

Kexborough – one soaring just inside the club area on 29th April (RJB).

Langsett – one over on 29th April (SRG).

Middlestown – one at Denby Wood on 29th April (PB).

Thornhill – two over towards Emley on 13th May (JRS).

Blacker Wood – one over low towards Clayton West, mobbed by corvids, on 7th June (BA).

Washpit Valley – one seen soaring before drifting off N on 9th June (PB).

Cheesegate Nab – one on 14th Aug (HQ).

Lindley Moor – one flew NE being mobbed by a Kestrel on 14th Aug (JED).

West Bretton – singles on 8th Sept (SRG) and over the MI on 24th Sept (JKP).

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

Ryburn Res – one sat on a telegraph pole watching for rabbits on 12th Dec (HBC).

Scout Dike Res – one flew S on 29th Dec (RJB).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.



It was pleasing to report an exceptional year for this species, especially after a dismal showing in 2004. All the nine records were in spring and involved at least seven individuals, with the records on 12th and 13th April possibly relating to the same bird.

Deer Hill Res – one flew W on 19th March; the earliest ever in the club area (KW).

Langsett Res – one reported flying W at 18.10 hrs on 23rd March, and one N at 13.40 hrs. on 10th April (Birdguides).

Cheesegate Nab – one over in the afternoon on 12th April (PDB).

Dewsbury SF – one flew low to the E at 09.30 hrs on 13th April.

Ramsden Res. – a convincing description of one eating a fish on a post on 13th April (via LW).

Scout Dike Res – one was well described by anglers, including one who has photographed the species in Scotland, on 13th April. It attempted to fish before leaving SE at 11.30 hrs. (via RJB). Another was well described on 14th May; this caught a fish before leaving to the E, pursued by crows, at 08.55 hrs. (via SRG).

Blackmoorfoot Res – one flew N at 18.40 hrs. on 18th April (MS).

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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Reports came from about fifty sites which unfortunately indicate a return to the under-recording of this species; this is underlined by only four cases of confirmed breeding – hardly a true reflection.

Two young were raised in the tower at **Blackmoorfoot** and four young were raised at **Colnebridge SP**. It was reported to have bred at **Merrydale Clough**, **Ramsden Clough** and **Winscar** but no details were forthcoming. A juv. seen with two ads. at **Dewsbury SF** on 31st July was probably locally reared and nesting was also thought to have occurred at **Annat Royd Lane**, **Ingbirchworth**. A pair at **Bullcliffe** was still territorial in June and was observed attacking passing Common Buzzards. Pairs were reported during the breeding season at **Blacker Wood**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Emley Moor**, **Lepton Great Wood** and **Woodsome**.

All bar one sighting involved one to four birds, the exception being six together at **Holme Moss** on 13th Sept.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

There were reports from nineteen sites, with the majority of sightings occurring in April as birds began to move into potential breeding areas. There was only one confirmed breeding record.

A male was back on territory at one site on 3rd April, and on 17th May it was seen to attack a Short-eared Owl. A nest and three eggs were found on 25th June (this date suggests a second attempt), two of these hatched and the young were ringed.

A pair was present in suitable habitat at another site during April and May but no breeding was proved; the very low numbers of Meadow Pipits in the area was cited as one possible factor (DMP).

In the early months singles were at **Blackmoorfoot Res** over Meltham Cop on 23rd Jan and 20th March, **Bretton Lakes** on 26th Jan and **Scammonden Res** on 17th March. Sightings increased in April with one chasing Meadow Pipits around the observer's garden at **Harden** on 1st, single birds were then seen at **Snape Res** on 2nd, **Whitley Common** on 3rd, **Flight Hill** and **Broadstones Res** on 9th, **Dovestones** on 14th, at **Winscar** on 17th when one buzzed a Goshawk, and **Meltham** on 28th. In May one was seen carrying food at **Snailsden** on 1st, a pair was at **Butterley** on 2nd, a male was at **Digley** on 10th and one was at **Crossley's Plantation** on 29th.

There were fewer records in the second half of the year, with a male at **Oxygrains** on 17th July and a female/imm. at **Scout Dike Res** on 23rd July with possibly the same on 27th Aug. In Oct one was mobbed by Corvids at **Millhouse Green** on 2nd and a male was over fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 12th. The last two reports came in Dec with one at **Spicer House Lane** on 18th and one at **Scout Dike Res** on Christmas Eve.

(EURASIAN) **HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*
Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

Although there were no reports of breeding activity, thirteen records remains an excellent total nonetheless.

Denby Dale – one over high to the SE at 12.00 hrs. on 2nd May (D.But).

Whitley Lower – one chased Swifts and House Martins at c17.00 hrs. on 14th May (JRS).

Woodsome Lees – one on 23rd May (BA, DHP).

Will's o' Nat's – one flew low across the road causing panic among Starlings on 28th May (BA).

Deer Hill Res. – one was observed resting on a fence post near the shooting lodge and hunting insects on 19th June (SP).

Bulcliff – two sightings on 26th June within 30 mins. probably involved the same individual: one left to the W after a brief altercation with a Common Buzzard, and one then drifted overhead to the E (PB).

Meltham Mills – one on 26th June (TD).

Penistone – one over the Water Hall Park housing estate on 26th June (NEP).

Shelley – one briefly attacked Swallows whilst heading E on 1st July, and an adult flew W at 07.50 hrs. on 29th Aug (SRG).

Ingbirchworth Res – one watched for 3 to 4 mins. at c.20.45 hrs. before leaving N on 7th July (DPH, RMH).

Dewsbury SF – two drifted off S at 09.10 hrs. on 22nd Sept (JH).

Ringstone Edge Res – one was photographed on the late date of 12th Oct (HBC).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

Birds were present at five locations where breeding had previously been proved or suspected, but none such was forthcoming this year. However, one of our neighbouring areas enjoyed its most successful breeding season on record.

Away from these sites this spectacular falcon was reported from a further sixteen localities, with most sightings coming in March and April when birds are presumably returning from wintering areas.

Litherop Lane – a male on an unspecified date in Jan.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one flew W on 5th March and an ad. female departed S. on 18th July.

Holme Moss – one on 5th March.

Harden – one on 6th March and a male and a female on 24th April.

Dovestones – one by the boatyard on 8th March.

Heyden Bridge – singles on 14th, 19th, and 20th March and 17th April.

Dean Head Res – a male and a female on 1st April.

Holt Head – one on 12th April.

Bartin – a young bird on 16th April.

Baitings Res – one on 11th May.

Winscar Res – a juv was perched on the cliff face on 16th May.

Ringstone Edge Res – in the autumn a juv was seen regularly harassing gulls and waders, and even attacked a Great Crested Grebe on two occasions (HBC). A male was also here on 20th Nov.

Dewsbury SF – one flew E on 2nd Sept.

Shelley – a juv over to the W on 9th Oct.

Buckstones – one on 7th Oct.

Scout Dike Res – an ad., probably a male, flew N on 19th Nov with probably the same bird N again on 23rd Nov.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Another typically sparse showing with reports from four sites.

Singles were at **Bretton Lakes**, by the old boathouse on 5th Feb (HQ) and 27th Oct (M&SC). In the **Golcar** area singles were by the dam on 4th March (JKP) and 22nd March (JL). One was heard calling at **Elland GPs** on 27th March (HBC) and **Tunnel End** on 30th Oct and 18th Nov (JMP).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

There were reports from twenty four sites but it doubtless occurs at others.

Breeding was confirmed at **Blacker Beck**, where a pair raised two broods: six young from seven eggs were seen on 2nd May, but only two were seen from a clutch of seven on 18th June. A half-grown youngster seen at **Deer Hill Res.** in July probably constitutes the first ever breeding record here, and a juv. was noted at **Winscar Res.** on 26th June. A nest and six eggs were found at **Dogley NR**, but it was considered to be a poor year at **Lumb Lane** with only a single young bird seen; predation by cats was thought to be the reason. Breeding was also reported from Middlemost Dam, **Birkby**, **Cartecotes Ponds** and **Colnebridge SP** but no details were received.

The highest counts received were unremarkable, these being twelve at **Golcar Canal** on 5th Jan, eight at **Elland GPs** on 6th Dec and seven at **Bretton Lakes** in Feb and **Ingbirchworth** in Oct.

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

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

Reports came from fifteen sites with breeding confirmed at six.

Max monthly counts at favoured localities were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	4	1	1	0
Elland GPs	8	nc	5	6	7	5	6	4	4	nc	20	22
Ingbirchworth	3	4	4	8	nc	4	11	6	nc	5	2	2
Bretton Lakes	nc	9	10	13	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	26 +	nc

Details of successful breeding were received for the following sites:

Colnebridge SP – three pairs reared 14 young.

Elland GPs – four young were seen on 8th May.

Horbury – a pair with 4 young at the farm pond on 15th May.

Scout Dike Res. – six broods (5, 5, 5, 3, 4 and 3) were noted but it is not known how many reached the flying stage.

It was also reported to have bred at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Meal Hill Lake** but no details were received.

Notable counts from other waters were up to four at **Longwood Res.** from Jan to April, 9 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 24th Jan and up to 12 at **Meal Hill Lake**. Records of one to two birds came from **Boshaw Whams** in April and Dec, **Clough Lee** in Dec and it was reported as 'regular' on the canal and River Calder at **Bradley Hall Farm**.

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

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

Reported from fifteen sites with birds recorded between 7th March and 12th August. Breeding evidence was obtained from one site and it almost certainly occurred at another, traditional site. The vast majority of records came from March and April, and as several sites are in close proximity it would be very interesting to know how many different birds are involved.

Dewsbury SF – first seen in March with a single on 7th followed by two on 17th, 18th and 26th. In April two on 11th, five W on 13th, two from 15th to 17th and two again on 20th and 21st. Singles on 4th May and two on 5th July.

Winscar Res – a bird was back on territory here on 12th March with four the following day. Two were here on 4th and 16th April and two ads. and a juv. on 26th June, the youngster probably locally reared.

Scout Dike Res – one to two from 19th March to 12th April and two on 8th May.

Broadstones Res – two regularly here from 19th March to the end of April were probably a wandering pair from Winscar.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a good series of records here: one on 22nd March; five on 15th and a single on 19th and 29th April; a single on 1st and 2nd May, two on 16th, one on 22nd and up to three from 23rd to 31st. At nearby Meltham Cop a nesting attempt failed when the

eggs were predated, possibly by a mammal. In June singles from 4th to 6th, two on 7th, five on 16th, one on 19th and 22nd, two on 26th and two W on 30th, two on 3rd July, three W on 13th and four on 20th, one or two from 3rd to 6th Aug and the last on 12th.

Horbury – one over on 26th March and one heard calling on 17th April.

Digley Res – one on 1st April with four on 26th. Two, on 8th July and three (including a pair displaying) on 17th July.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 14th April and three SE on 7th July.

Ringstone Edge Res – three on 17th April were the first followed by two on 19th, 21st and 30th, three on 5th, two on 18th and 20th and three again on 24th June, a single on 4th, 10th and 11th July with two on 17th and one on 21st the last.

Baitings Res – two on 2nd and 10th May and a single on 10th June.

Elsewhere singles were at **Boothwood Dam** on 16th March, **Deer Hill** on 5th May, **Dovestones Res.** on 11th May, **Scammonden Res.** on 26th June and a ‘party’ were reported at **Holmfirth** on 22nd July.

(PIED) AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare visitor



Two flew E low over the works at **Dewsbury SF** calling at 08.05 hrs. on 25th March (JH) – the first definite record for the club area.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

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

After the last two excellent years this one was a disappointment; it was reported from just seven sites with definite breeding occurring at only one and probable breeding at another. It was recorded between 18th March and 15th Sept.

Dewsbury SF – one on 18th March was the first, two were observed displaying on 22nd and four were counted on 26th and 30th, two on 28th April with four again on 2nd May and two pairs on territory on 6th May. Eight ads. on 5th July increased to 9 on 11th with up to 5 on a further five dates and two juvs. on 31st. A single on 15th Sept was the last.

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 5th April was the first, then three on 17th, one on 21st and two on 30th. In May three on 2nd and a pair was then present throughout the month. Two pairs, both with young, were seen on 26th June. In July up to six ads. and at least one chick were reported on 9th and 10th, four ads. and three juvs. on 17th a max. of nine birds on 19th with an ad. and juv. still present on 22nd, the juv. remaining the next day.

Scout Dike Res – a single on 9th April and two (one juv.) on 10th July.

Isle of Skye Quarry – one or two were present between 11th April and 12th July but there was no sign of breeding.

Ravensthorpe GPs – at least one on 5th June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single on 29th May.

Wessenden Res – one calling on 30th May.

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

Records came from five sites, one of which provided the first breeding record for the club area.

Dewsbury SF – first noted on 30th March when three arrived from the W, circled briefly and then left E. In April one flew W on 20th and there was another single on 26th. Two displaying birds were observed on land adjacent to the works on 5th and 6th May, with broken wing display seen the following day. Three ads. were present on 20th June and a single on 26th. The first of two chicks fledged on 2nd July, four ads. were seen on 5th, two ads. and two juvs. on 11th and 7 birds were present on 14th increasing to 10 the following day – the last date the species was noted (JH et al).

Ringstone Edge Res – there was a good series of records in April/May. Five on 30th April increased to 10 the following day. At least 4 were present on 2nd May, a single on 3rd, two on 5th were displaying and a single on 11th and 12th (PDB, JED, DHP, HBC). The only autumn record was three on 25th and 26th Aug (HBC).

Scout Dike Res – an adult and a juv. from 27th to 29th Aug, with an ad. and juv. again on 20th Sept, the juv. remaining until 27th (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – an ad. and juv. on 9th Sept (MLD).

Royd Moor Res. – one briefly on 17th Sept (RJB).

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

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

In contrast to 2004 the greater numbers were seen in the first half of the year, including a much improved spring passage. Numbers on autumn passage were poor again and there was only a trio of three-figure counts in the latter months.

Birds were recorded at four sites in January. After 10 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd, 250 were at **Annat Royd Lane** on 15th with 300 at nearby **Spicer House Lane** on 17th. Two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th was the only record of the month here. February revealed some higher counts with 190 at **Ingbirchworth** on 11th, 200 at **Ringstone Edge** on 13th, a monthly max. of 118 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th 60 in fields at **Scout Dike Res.** on 19th and 40 with Lapwings at **Windmill Lane** from 21st to 28th.

In March numbers at **Ringstone Edge** increased to 250 on 1st with 200 still here on 29th. Up to 110 were in fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot** all month, increasing to 268 from 5th to 20th April and up to 128 still present at the month end. Four hundred were counted in the traditionally good **Whitley Edge/Brown's Edge Road** area on 9th and 17th April. Also in April 53 were at **Snape Res.** on 8th, c.100 were still at **Ringstone Edge** on 16th, 45 at **Issues Road** on 16th and the first bird was back singing on territory at **Harden** on 13th.

Forty birds were still at **Snape Res.** on 9th May and up to 56 birds were still present at **Blackmoorfoot** during the month, with up to 27 lingering into June – all probably non-breeders.

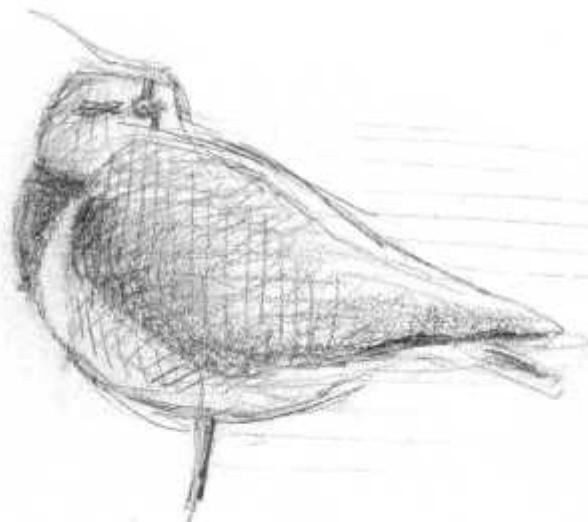
There were few reports during the breeding season: A pair (including a bird on the nest) was by a footpath at **Snailsden** on 10th April; a nest and four eggs were located at **Deer Hill** in May and a predated egg was found at **West Nab** in early June; and a maximum of four pairs were on territory at the **Deer Hill/West Nab** summit, with 10+ birds calling at the latter site on 22nd June.

The only site to record birds during July was **Blackmoorfoot** with up to 19 early on, falling to a single by 27th. There were no reports from anywhere in August but migrants began moving through in September, where they occurred at four sites: seven flew SW at **Scout Dike Res.** on 11th, a single was at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th, up to seven were at **Blackmoorfoot** from 24th to 27th, 65 were at **Ringstone Edge** on an unspecified date; and visible migration watches at **Thurlstone** produced three S on 25th and nine S on 28th.

More were seen in October with 21 at **Ringstone Edge**, four at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th, 11 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 15th, six at **Annat Royd Lane** had increased to 150+ by 30th and one 18th one flew S during a v.m.w at **Denby Dale** and 49 flew E at **Dewsbury SF**. There was little increase in numbers during November with 50 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd rising to 102 by 29th and 120 at **Ringstone Edge** on 8th easily the highest counts. Others were 80 at **Broadstones** on 20th, 24 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 24th and 50 at **Maythorn** on 26th. The low numbers were prevalent in December with only 60 at **Ringstone Edge**, 27 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 19th and 29th, 20 at **Broadstones** on 23rd and 25 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 24th.

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

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



Maxima at regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	210	40	38	nc	nc	64	188	300	270	300	216	150
Ingbirchworth*	500+	190	nc	350+	nc	nc						
Scout Dike	250	130	nc	nc	nc	nc	110	180	230	160	0	90
Ringstone	nc	500	200	nc	10	94	144	nc	nc	220	150	nc

Ingbirchworth* - includes Annat Royd Lane and Spicer House Lane

Counts from other sites were: **Boshaw Whams** – 85 on ice on 22nd Jan; **Broadstones Res.** – 60 on 20th and 120 on 22nd Nov; **Dewsbury SF** – 250 on 27th Jan and 48 on 16th July; **Crossland Hill** – 100 on 9th Jan, 130 on 29th Oct, 160 from 9th to 21st Nov and 150 on 15th Dec; **Farnley Tyas** – 76 on 1st Feb; **Holme Styes** – 80 on 14th Jan; **Kirkheaton** – 60 on 23rd Jan; **Maythorn** – 50 on 20th Nov; **Royd Moor Res.** – 250 on 11th Feb and c.280 on 5th Nov; **Sands GPs** – 50 on 9th Oct; and **Windmill Lane** – 125 from 21st to 28th Feb and 100 on 6th Nov.

During the breeding season four pairs nested at **Meltham Cop**, near Blackmoorfoot, and one to two pairs nested at **Shelley Royd House** – the first time here for a few years. In May two pairs hatched young at **Isle of Skye Quarry**, two broods were noted at **Boshaw Whams** and the species was particularly successful at **Snape Res.** where ‘many’ young were reported. Four or five breeding pairs were located at **Nont Sarah’s** and birds were reportedly on nests at **Annat Royd Lane** from 29th March.

A disastrous season was reported from **Deer Hill** where only one brood was raised. Probably none of 13 birds located incubating on 3rd April was successful; the first attempts were believed to have failed due to predation by crows and the second and third attempts by the introduction of cows into the main breeding habitat. One pair deserted due to a covering of thick snow on 15th and 16th April and another pair, probably making their third attempt, failed on a covered settling tank in June; this being mowed by Yorkshire Water shortly afterwards (DMP).

(RED) **KNOT** *Calidris camutus*

Rare passage visitor.

A bird which gave close views at **Broadstones Res.** on 3rd Dec (HQ) makes this the fifth consecutive year the species has occurred.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Three records once again make this the fifth consecutive year of occurrence.

A summer-plumaged bird was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 30th April, leaving to the SE at 16.35 hrs. (BA, PB). Singles were then at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 23rd May and 19th July (HBC).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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

Away from the favoured locality of Ringstone Edge, which had another very good series of records, it was a very disappointing showing with reports from just four more sites and no breeding records. Records fell in the period between 7th March and 5th Nov.

Dewsbury SF – single birds on 7th March, 15th May, 31st July, 14th and 16th Sept.

Scout Dike Res – one in breeding plumage by the outflow on 9th April.

Ringstone Edge Res – a party of 12 on 30th April were the first of the year here. A good run of records in May with 9 on 1st and 2nd, 6 on 3rd, 7 on 4th, 5 on 9th, 1 to 3 from 10th to 12th and 4 on 15th. The first returning birds appeared in July with 4 on 14th, then 3 on 15th, 5 on 17th, 10 on 19th and a single on 22nd. The only August record was one on 26th. An impressive 29 were here on 2nd Sept but then no others until singles on 4th, 14th and 19th Oct.

Blackmoorfoot Res – seven on 1st May with three on 2nd and 5th and a single from 4th to 7th. Singles on 18th Sept, 4th and 23rd Oct and 5th Nov.

Deer Hill Res – a displaying bird was seen here in early June and one on passage on 4th Sept.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor.

This species was only recorded from **Dewsbury SF** in September. One was present from 16th to 20th and a female was seen 22nd (JH).

JACK SNIBE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Records were received for six sites with four of the nine reports coming in December.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 26th March (JH) and 9th Oct (BA).

Elland GPs – two extremely late birds were flushed on 30th May and two again on 30th Dec (HBC).

Ringstone Edge Res. – singles on 9th and 15th Oct (HBC).

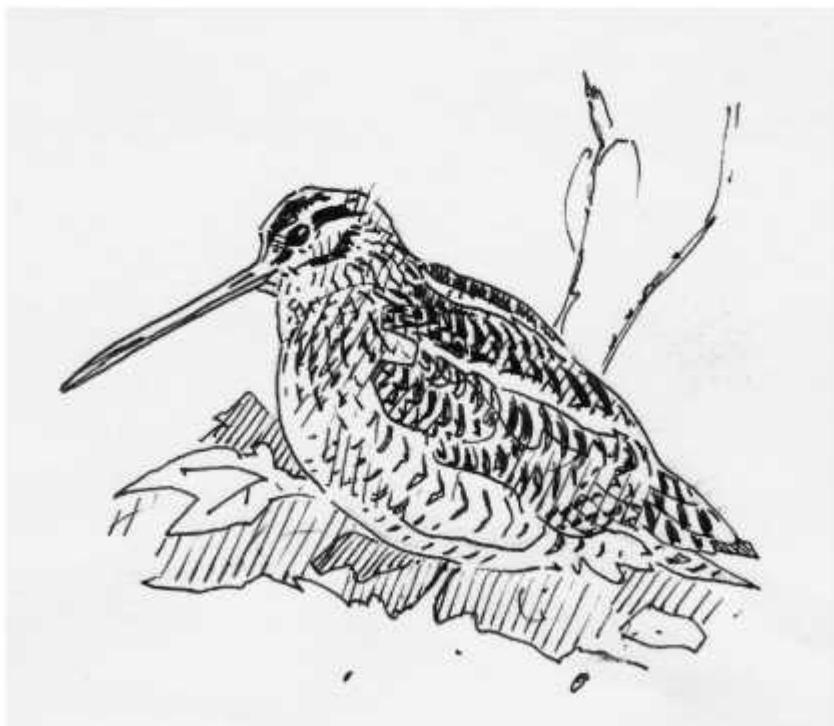
Scout Dike Res. – one was flushed from the favoured area on 3rd Dec (RJB).

Deer Hill Res. – one was flushed from rough pasture by the track on 19th Dec (HQ).

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single on 22nd Dec (DHP).

(COMMON) **SNIBE** *Gallinago gallinago*

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



In the first half of the year it was recorded at **Dewsbury SF** on ten dates with a max. of 18 on 7th March, and at **Blackmoorfoot** one to three birds were recorded on only five occasions from 15th Jan to 13th May. Elsewhere in January 10 were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 12th and damp fields at **Golcar** attracted 12 on 15th and 20 on 22nd, but no more than five were seen at **Ravensthorpe GPs** – the habitat is no longer considered suitable for large numbers at this formerly productive site. Four were at **Boshaw Whams** on 2nd Feb, with singles at **Winscar Res.** on 28th and **Ingbirchworth** on 16th March, four at **Horbury** on 26th March and 12 were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 25th March and 21st April. A single was at **Mill Moor** on 29th April.

After the first at **Harden** on 18th March birds were back on territory at a further nine sites. Occasional drumming and chipping was recorded at **Snape Res** from April to June with four together on 11th April and five on 1st May. Four (including two drummers) were at **Digley** on 26th April with one chipping on 29th May. Chipping birds were also at **Cupwith** in April (2) and **Buckstones** and **Windleden Edge** in May. At **Deer Hill** at least three displaying pairs were located and a newly hatched chick was seen between here and **Brow Grains**. An agitated pair at **Law** on 5th May was thought to be nesting. Displaying birds were noted at **Broadstones**, **Black Clough** in April and at **Holt Head** on 30th June.

Post-breeding counts were unexceptional with a count of 40 at **Ringstone Edge** on 15th Oct being by far highest and part of an influx into the area at the time. Birds were recorded on twenty eight dates at **Blackmoorfoot** from 16th Aug to 27th Dec with a max. of 7 on 18th Sept. Birds returned to **Dewsbury SF** on 8th Aug and were recorded on a further twenty one dates with a max. of 18 on 11th Nov. Ten were at **Scout Dike Res.** and 5 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 15th Oct – a day of easterly winds and rain, and a max. of just 5 at **Ravensthorpe GPs** during the month. In November 10 were counted at **Deer Hill Res.** on 18th, a single at **Snape Res.** on 22nd and 5 at **Shepley** on 28th. The year finished with singles at **Colnebridge SP** on 18th and **Golcar** on 24th December.

(EURASIAN) **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*
Resident breeder (2), 25-75 pairs. Uncommon winter visitor.

There were reports from 13 sites, although roding was recorded at only two, and there was a notable influx into the area in Oct and Nov.

During the early months, singles were noted in January at **Bank Wood**, **Wilshaw** on 9th and **Tip Wood** on 13th, and in March at **Woodhead** on 12th and **Colnebridge SP** the following day.

In the breeding season the **Yateholme** area was the only site where birds were reported with any regularity. Roding birds were observed from 30th May to 9th July, and conservative estimates were that six birds were present and three territories established. A roding bird was at **Lepton Great Wood** on 27th April and also of interest was one flying E over **Dewsbury SF** on 25th April.

More were seen in the second winter period from October onwards, with continental immigrants likely to have been involved: singles were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th and 27th Oct and 21st Nov; probably 4 birds were flushed at **Denby Delf** on 18th Oct; singles were

at **Deer Hill** on 4th Oct and 15th Nov; singles at **Holme** on 8th and 30th Nov; and one was at **Folly Dolly** on 17th Nov. The last sighting of the year was of one at Harden Clough, **Meltham** on 12th Dec.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rare to scarce passage visitor, increasing.

It was an excellent year for this elegant wader. There were nine records from four sites involving at least 25 birds.

On 26th March a bird moulting into summer plumage was flushed from a small pool near **Thurlstone** (RJB) before flying towards **Scout Dike Res.**, where it stayed in fields, often accompanying an Oystercatcher, until 28th - the first site record. What was almost certainly the same bird had been seen briefly at **Ingbirchworth Res.** earlier (JMCL).

At **Dewsbury SF** a party of 9 circled the works at 07.40 hrs. before flying S on 25th April (JH), and singles were here on 15th and 24th Aug (JH).

There was a very good run of records at **Ringstone Edge Res.** in July with singles on 4th and 12th (HBC), a party of 10 on 19th (HBC) and three flying S on 23rd (DHP).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Three records represent a very typical showing.

An adult was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 2nd Aug (PB, MLD, DHP) and one flew SW at 20.15 hrs. here on 4th Aug (JKP). Two were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 8th Nov (HBC).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor.

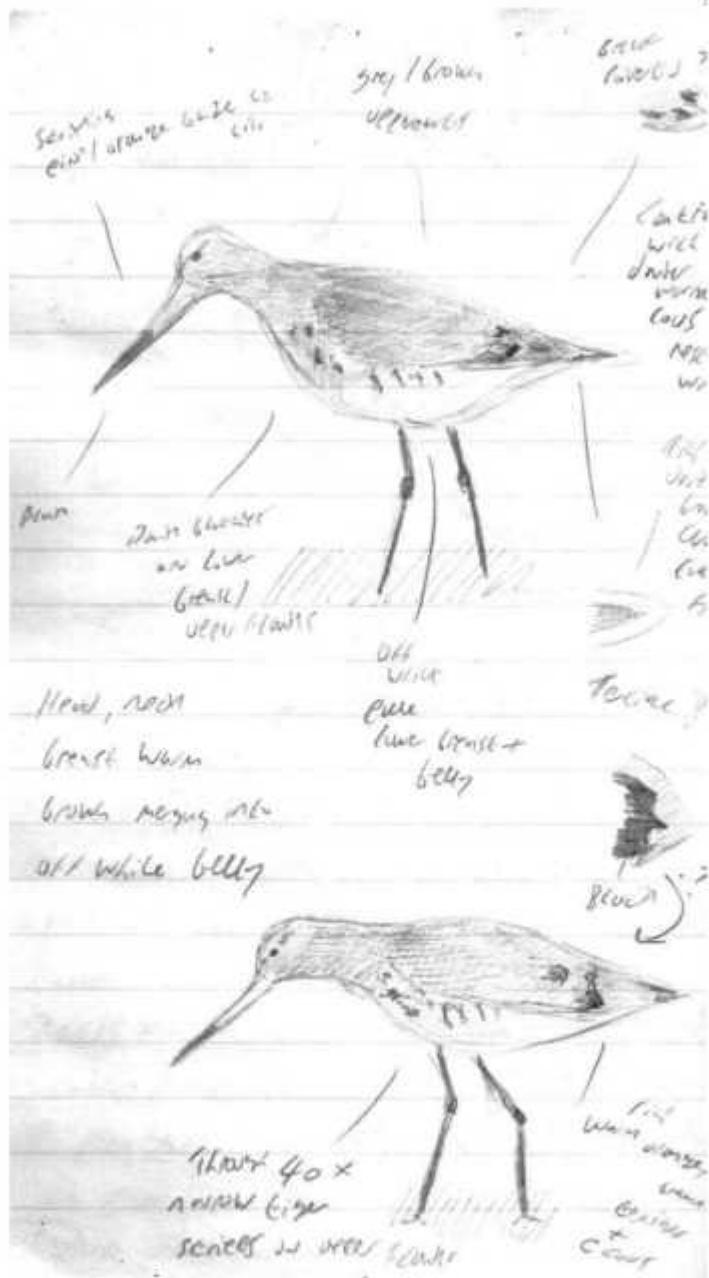
Although only reported from four sites, twelve records represent a better than average year.

Deer Hill Res – two flew high to the NE on 21st April and five flew NE on 1st May (DMP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – in May two departed from a field to the W with two Curlew on 1st (BA, DM), four were at the field to the W. on 3rd (PB, CH), six over on 4th (S&HC) and four flew W at 08.35 hrs. on 11th (MLD, CH). In July one heard calling on 24th (CH) and another flew W at 09.55 hrs. on 30th (MLD).

Ringstone Edge Res. – a single on 3rd May, two on 8th May and two on 30th July (HBC).

Scout Dike Res – one flew S at 06.50 hrs. on 20th July (RJB).



Field Drawing: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
 Scout Dike Res. 26th to 28th March

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

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

The first returning bird was at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on the early date of 16th Feb. The next were not reported until early March when two flying W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 3rd were followed by singles at **Broadstones Res.** on 7th and **Butterley Res.** the next day.

The main arrival took place from 13th March with the largest numbers being flocks of 26 at **Deer Hill** on 13th and 42 at **Heyden Bridge** on 21st, whilst smaller parties included 10 back on territory at **Harden** by 18th, and 10 (5+5) at **Bird's Nest Lane** on 19th. Other sites to record birds in March were **Digley** (three) on 13th, **Dewsbury SF** (single) on 18th, **Scammond Res.** (single) on 18th, **Baitings Res.** (single) on 20th, **Isle of Skye Quarry** (single) on 21st and **Honley Moor** (single) on 22nd. After 7th March **Blackmoorfoot** recorded up to five birds on another 13 dates until 11th May. Small parties lingered at several sites into April, the largest being 14 at **Issues Road** on 17th and 12 at **Digley** on 26th.

The only proven breeding was reported from the **Deer Hill/Meltham** area where two pairs were successful; one pair needing a second attempt to raise young after the first was abandoned by mid-March, possibly due to predation by a fox.

Elsewhere, birds were reported on territory at **Buckstones, Butterley Res, Dean Head Res, Dovestones, Langsett, Emley Moor, Greenfield Road, Harden Moss, Ingbirchworth** and **Scout Dike Res.** while a pair displaying at **Flockton** were at a notably lower altitude than the others.

At **Blackmoorfoot**, after one to three birds had been noted on 10 dates in June, one to two were recorded on a further five dates in July. Also in July singles passed W at **Dewsbury SF** on 12th and over **Shelley** on 31st while four were still at **Deer Hill** from 29th to 2nd Aug. After one at **Blackmoorfoot** on 28th and 29th Aug birds moved through in September with a single here on 2nd, 6 W on 9th and 5 W on 12th, four were still at **Deer Hill** on 3rd and singles were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th, 14th, and 24th. The last record of the year was six at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th Oct.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

This species was reported from sixteen sites and it was recorded in the area between 10th April and 12th Oct.

The first was at **Butterley Res.** on 10th April (JMP) followed by one at **Longwood Res.** on 11th and **Dewsbury SF** the next day. One to two birds were recorded at a further six sites before April was out, with six at **Langsett Res.** on 21st being the exception.

The only confirmed breeding records came from **Butterley Res.**, where a family party were seen on 17th July, and **Winscar Res.**, where at least one pair raised two young. Pairs were noted during the breeding season at **Blakeley Res.** (two), **Dewsbury SF** (one), **Dovestones Res.** (two), and **Wessenden Head Res.** (two). Single birds were also at **Cupwith Res.** on 11th June and **Deer Hill Res.** on 15th May, 7th and 26th June. Two birds

were observed displaying at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17th April but there was no attempt at breeding.

As birds began to move through on autumn passage, several sites recorded the species. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one to two were noted on 18 dates from 3rd July to 31st Aug, then a single on 11 dates in Sept with the last sighting on 17th. At **Dewsbury SF** there were three on 5th and four on 31st July, two on 11th Aug and then one on 14th and two from 16th to 26th Sept. Elsewhere, one was regular at **Scout Dike Res.** in July with two on 4th Sept, one remaining until 13th, singles were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 17th and 19th July; one was regular at **Ringstone Edge Res.** up to 21st July and one was at **Broadstones Res.** on 9th Sept.

The last two birds of the year were singles at **Sands GPs** on 9th and at **Dewsbury SF** from 4th to 12th Oct (JH).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

The stronghold of this species in recent years has been Dewsbury SF, and again there was an excellent series of records from here. Records came from a further six sites and made 2005 a better than average year.

Dewsbury SF – two on 10th, 13th and three on 22nd Jan; up to three from 7th to 25th March, then four from 28th to 15th April and three from 16th to 20th April the last. Three from 5th to 13th July and four on 31st July; two on 8th and three on 22nd Aug; up to five from 1st to 21st Sept, and lastly three from 14th to 18th Oct (JH et al).

Ringstone Edge Res. – one over on 5th June and singles on 20th June and 30th July (HBC).

Isle of Skye Quarry – one on 20th July (DHP).

Elland GPs – one near the weir on the River Calder on 17th Aug (HBC).

Brow Grains – one was flushed from the catchments area here on 5th and 12th Sept (DMP).

Sands GPs – singles on 9th (BA) and 16th Oct (DHP).

Ravensthorpe GPs – one on Christmas Day (DHP).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

A poor year with records from just three sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – one on 12th July (MLD, DHP) and then one from 29th Aug to 2nd Sept, with probably the same individual on 5th and 9th (MLD et al).

Ringstone Edge Res. – one on 19th July (HBC).

Panna Mill Dam – one on 4th Aug (DMP) was considered unusual here.

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

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

Records were received for twelve sites; the majority of sightings were in March and April as birds moved through on spring passage.

The first report of the year came from **Dewsbury SF** on 10th Feb, with two or three birds then on 17th and 18th March. Also in March a single was at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 6th, one in song behind the observer's house at **Harden** on 16th, one at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 19th with three here on 25th, two at **Boshaw Whams** on 20th, two back at **Winscar Res.** on 25th and finally one calling at **Horbury** the next day. Further passage birds were observed at **Dewsbury SF** on 20th (2) and 21st, **Scout Dike Res.** (two N) on 24th April and **Carlecotes Ponds** (single) on 27th.

The only reported breeding occurred at **Winscar Res.** where display and song were recorded but, unfortunately, no more details were given. Breeding probably occurred at **Little Black Moss Res.**, where a pair was reportedly on territory on 24th April, with the possible sighting of a small chick on 10th June, and **Swellands Res.** where a pair were alarming, possibly indicating the presence of young, also on 10th June.

Apart from a single, probably non-breeding, bird at **Deer Hill Res.** on 7th June the only other records were single passage birds at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 15th and 22nd July, **Dewsbury SF** on 16th Sept and SW over **Scout Dike Res.** on 15th Oct.

(RUDDY) **TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

Rare passage visitor.

There were two records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** in September – the first here since 1991. A party of four flew S at 10.45 hrs. on 4th (MLD, CH) and a juv. was present on 11th (MLD, DMO).

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

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

A very poor year with just a single record: one at **Elland GPs** on 15th April (HBC).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

Some very large numbers roosted at **Blackmoorfoot Res** in the early months, but numbers were unremarkable at most other sites.

Max monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	7350*	7050*	6200*	nc	nc	53	160	250+	650	nc	700	5850*
Scout Dike /Royd Moor	nc	140	400	nc	nc	nc	12	110	53	180	100	115
Ingbirchworth	210	80	148	nc	nc	2	nc	nc	3	230	23	33

* Combined counts of Black-headed and Common Gulls.

At **Dewsbury SF** in January large numbers were recorded flying past as they left Pugney's Country Park; these included 1,800 on 9th, c.5000 on 17th, a max. of c.8000 on 21st and c.5000 on 22nd. On 8th Nov 850 were also recorded here.

Elsewhere other counts came from **Elland GPs**, where there were 53 on 30th, c.200 on 6th Feb, 80 on 15th March and 67 on 15th Dec, and **Ringstone Edge Res** where there were 100+ on 30th July, 164 on 21st Aug and 110 on 4th Oct. The roost at **Langsett Res.** in the early months was much reduced; birds are now thought to be favouring Broomhead Res., approximately 22 km to the E. In the later months c.220 roosting on 22nd Oct increased to c.660 on 5th Nov, falling to just a 'handful' on 26th Dec. There were also counts of 328 at **Bretton Lakes** on 15th Nov, 75 on plough at **Shelley** in Nov, 69 at **Oldfield** on 24th Dec and up to 50 frequented **Woodsome Golf Club** in autumn and winter.

Ten birds were present in June at **Little Black Moss Res.**, where breeding occurred in 2003/4, but there was no sign of activity this year. A pair was behaving territorially at **Horbury** on 26th March.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor

Four records from four sites constitute a reasonable year.

An ad. in winter plumage was seen intermittently at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and neighbouring fields on 25th March (RJB et al) and a 1st S bird was at **Elland GPs** on 5th April. At **Dewsbury SF** on 1st Sept a juv. flew W at 07.35 hrs. followed by six ads. at 08.20 (JH), and an ad. was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 17th Oct (DHP).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

Recorded at just two sites with Blackmoorfoot once again hosting a bird on several dates. Since 4th Aug 1975, when the first inland Yorkshire record occurred here, this species has been annual bar 1992 and 1999.

An adult was seen in the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 6th almost daily from 10th to 26th Jan (PB, MLD, JKP et al), with a different ad. from 18th to 20th Feb (MLD et al). The other record came from **Dewsbury SF** where a first-summer bird flew E up river at 08.35 hrs. on 1st July (JH).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Apart from the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res** few counts were submitted, although an influx was noted at other sites in December.

Max. monthly counts here were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1110	7050*	6200*	4	5	0	16	4	37	nc	500	5350*

*Combined counts of Common and Black-headed Gulls.

Attempting accurate counts when both these species are roosting is often very difficult, but the count of 1,110 birds on 22nd Jan (PB) is considered higher than average. A ratio of one to seven for the combined Jan and Feb counts here can be used to assess the number of Common Gulls in proportion to Black-headed Gulls.

Much smaller numbers were elsewhere: 200+ in fields at **Ingbirchworth** on 11th Feb being particularly noteworthy, with up to 17 were present here in March and 35 were counted on 24th Dec. A party of 18 birds arrived at **Langsett Res.** on 9th Oct but did not stay to roost; **Ringstone Edge** recorded 46 on 13th March and 50 on 20th Dec; 50 passed over **Shelley** on 15th Dec and up to 20 frequented the **Shepley** area in both winter periods. At **Scout Dike Res** there was an early year max. of just 8 on 22nd Jan, after one NE on 22nd July one to three were seen regularly to the year end with 7 on 15th Oct and 12 on 3rd Dec the best counts.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus graellsii*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

Although the established pattern of occurrence continues - small numbers in the early part of the year with the highest numbers appearing later on - numbers at three traditionally favoured sites in autumn were very low.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the max. monthly counts were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	7	53	3	27	6	34	39	21	11	4	4

The autumn counts appear to be the lowest here in recent years.

Reports of birds on spring passage this year were very few. At **Scout Dike Res.**, after a single flew W on 29th Jan, 10 moved E on 20th March but only one to four birds were noted on 4 dates thereafter. Another single over **Shelley** on 31st Jan was followed by another single over on 14th March and seven over on 21st March. The only other records were eight E at **Dewsbury SF** on 26th April and three on 13th May.

Apart from one site, numbers recorded in the autumn build-up were generally poor.

At **Ringstone Edge Res.** there was a max. of only eight on 21st Aug – a very disappointing scenario. Another traditionally good site in autumn is **Royd Moor Res.** where, after the first significant gathering of 32 on 13th Aug, numbers peaked at only 126

on 13th Sept, falling to 76 on 22nd Oct and just 8 on 5th Nov. Although water levels were low, which loafing birds are believed to prefer, insufficient feeding nearby was cited as a possible factor. On a more positive note numbers at **Langsett Res.** were much higher, with c.1000 roosting on 28th Sept dropping to 610 on 9th Oct and 300 on 5th Nov. c.300 were counted in fields at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 18th Sept and the only other significant counts were 30 near **Ingbirchworth** on 30th Oct and 10 at **Broadstones Res.** on the same date.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Somewhat under-recorded this year; it was only reported from eight sites.

The max. monthly counts at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
180	374	316	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	14	47

The December count is the lowest here in recent years and can probably be attributed to the closure of local refuse tips.

The only other sites where birds were recorded on more than one or two occasions were **Scout Dike/Royd Moor Resrs.**, where eight flew SE on 19th Jan, 17 flew W on 6th March and one to four birds were noted flying over on another 8 dates between 2nd Jan and 20th March, one or two birds were then noted flying through on four dates between 16th Oct and 24th Dec, with 27 flying NE on 27th Dec; and **Elland GPs** which had four on 30th Jan, six on 6th March, four on 3rd April, five on 19th Nov and seven on 11th and 15th Dec.

Only very small numbers were noted elsewhere, with singles at **Bretton Lakes** and **Winscar** in Jan., three at **Dewsbury SF** in March, up to three at **Ingbirchworth Res.** in Jan and Dec, two over **Shelley** in Jan. plus three over on the unusual date of 15th May.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

Reports came from seven sites. A spring record aside, there is likely to have been some overlap, especially in July.

Flight Hill – a 2nd S bird seen between Harden and Victoria on 13th March (MC).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a 2nd S on 2nd July (PB), and an ad. departed NW on 24th July (DHP) with probably the same bird seen on the overflow tower the next day (PB)

Ringstone Edge Res – single ads. were seen on 15th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, 30th and 31st July (HBC, DHP). One observer thought that three individuals may have been involved.

Gate Royd Wood – an ad. flew W on 24th July (PB).

Hartcliffe Hill – an ad. with Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 18th Sept (RJB).

Langsett Res. – two ads. on 28th Sept, a single ad. on 9th Oct, two ads. again on 23rd Oct and a single ad. on 5th Nov (RJB).

Ingbirchworth Res. – an ad. with Lesser Black-backs on 6th Nov was considered the same as the one at Langsett the previous evening (RJB).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Rare to scarce winter visitor.

This species has occurred almost annually at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** since 1984; one to three birds usually being recorded. This year maintained the trend, with a 1st W bird from 10th to 12th Feb (MLD, CH) and again on 18th (PDB).

It is now extremely scarce away from this site.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare to scarce winter visitor.

Once again the only records came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where a 1st W bird was seen on 15th Jan. (JKP), with this or another 1st W in flooded fields to the west of the Res. on 12th Feb (MC).

Like Iceland Gull it remains rare elsewhere.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor.

This species was under-recorded, with reports from only three sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res. where it was only reported with any regularity, had monthly max. of:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
83	71	34	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	43

There has been a gradual decline here since 2002, again which can be attributed to the closure of local tips.

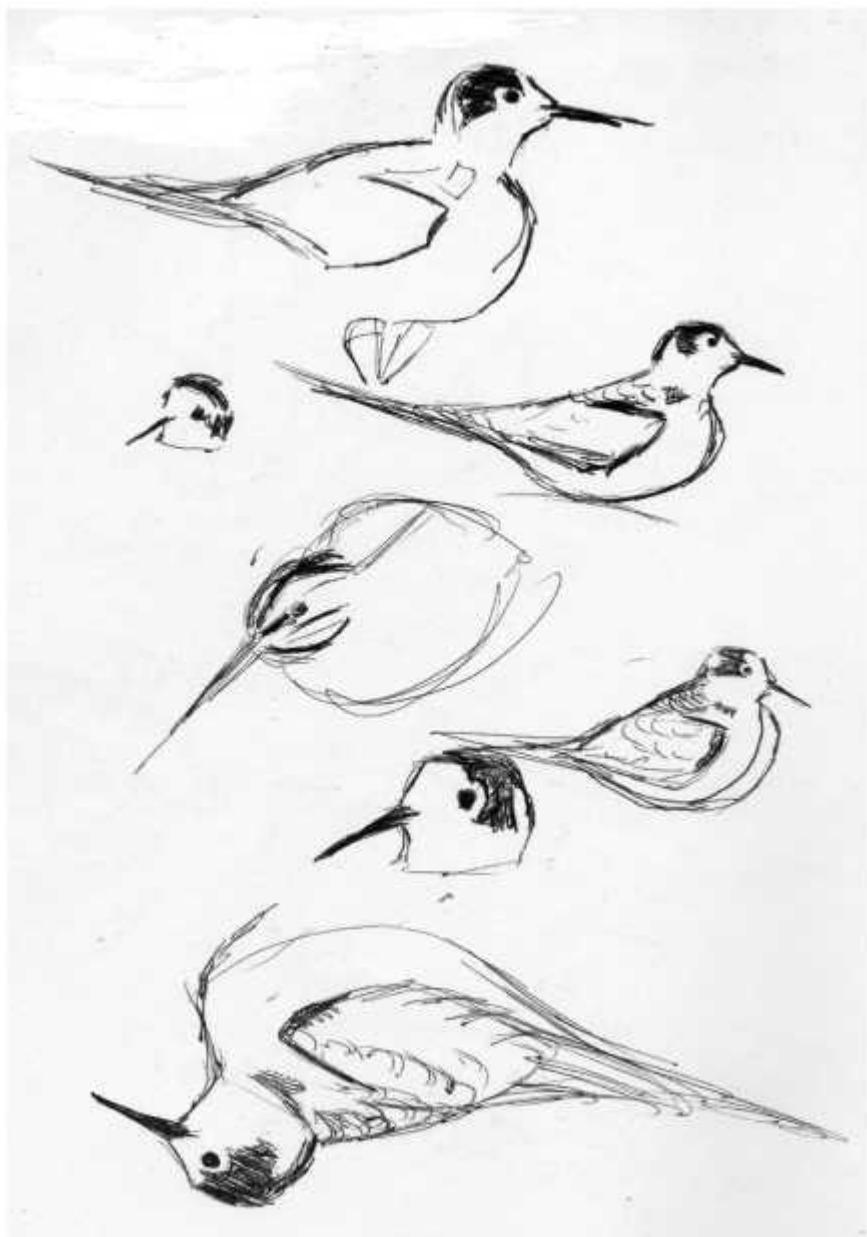
The only other records in a very disappointing year were three ads. over **Shelley** on 3rd Jan and one flying up the valley at **Yateholme** on 31st Jan.



Glaucous Gull (1st winter) *Larus hyperboreus*

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*
Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record concerned one at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 31st Aug (HBC).



SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Rare passage visitor.

This species has occurred annually since 2000 by the way of single records, and the scenario was repeated this year.

Two flew high over Leeds Road at **Cooper Bridge** on 4th Aug (JKP).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

It was recorded in the area between 27th April and 18th Oct, with reports received from at least five but probably seven sites. The majority were from the Calder Valley.

Dewsbury SF – three on 27th April were the first (JH), followed by singles almost daily until two on 1st July. There was then notable passage in July with 7 (4 ads., 3 imms.) W on 13th, 6 ads. W on 14th and 3 ads. E on 31st.

Horbury area – two at the Wyke on 2nd May, a single at the Strands on 15th May and three on 9th June.

Elland GPs – a single on 29th May, with two on 7th June and a single on 10th June; three on 21st July, two on 31st July and the last two on 14th Aug.

Ringstone Edge Res. – singles on 11th and six on 18th June, plus singles on 14th and two (ad. and juv.) on 18th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – a single on 15th, three on 16th and one W on 22nd June; two ads. W on 1st Aug, singles on 13th and 17th Sept and a 'commic' tern on the late date of 18th Oct (DMO).

Ravensthorpe GPs – five terns moving high E at 10.10 hrs. on 17th July were probably this species, but Arctic Tern could not be ruled out.

Three 'commic' terns that flew quickly S at 06.00 hrs. at **Scout Dike Res.** on 8th July were distant and avoided specific identification.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

A good year with at least six records from five sites:

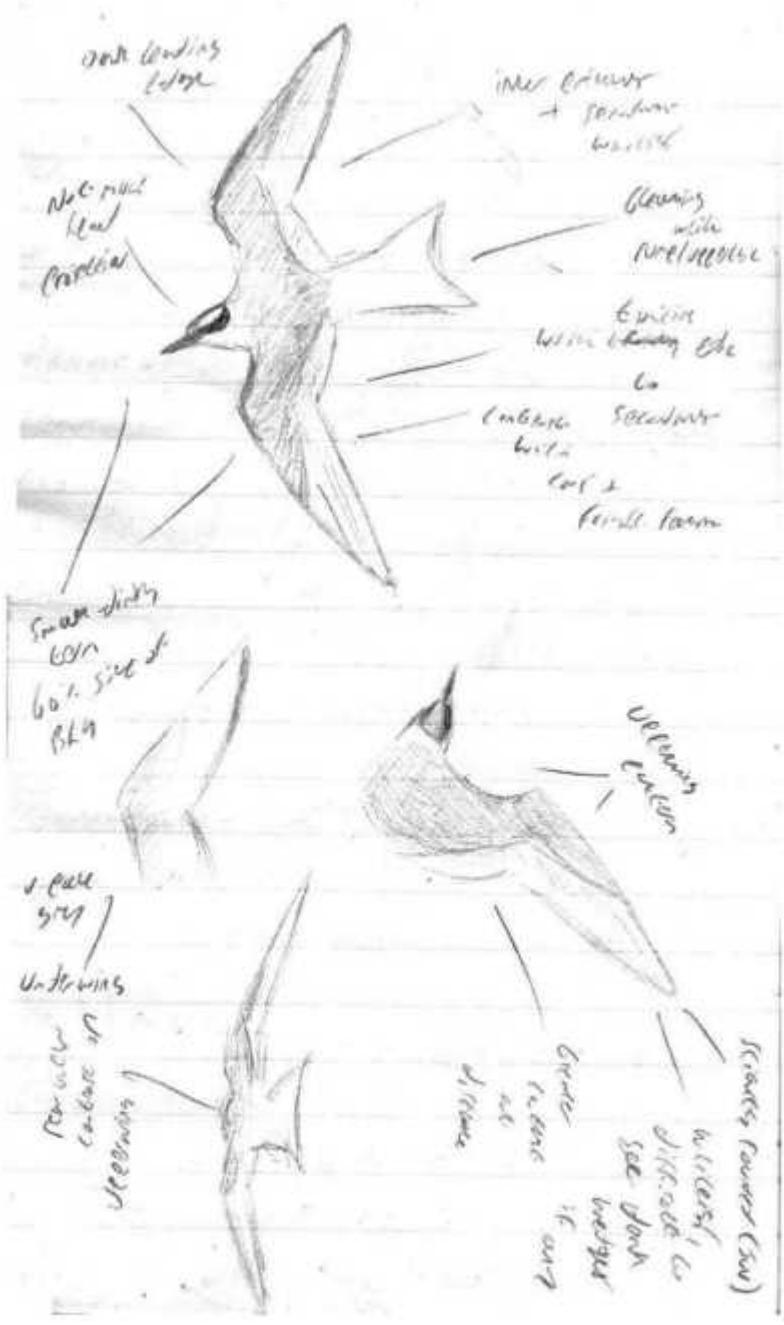
Dewsbury SF – two flew up the R. Calder at 10.10 hrs. on 26th April (JH).

Elland GPs – two on 7th May with perhaps the same the following day (HBC).

Ringstone Edge Res – singles on 2nd Aug and 1st Sept (HBC).

Scout Dike Res – a juv. was present from at least 18.30 hrs. to dusk on 16th Aug (RJB, MC, JMcl), and was the first here since 1994.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an imm. on 29th Sept (MLD, JKP).



Field drawing: Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
 Scout Dike Res. 16th August

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*
Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

No significant records received.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*
Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

Widespread in the area with reports from some 27 sites, although no particularly large flocks were seen.

The highest count of the year came from **Kirkheaton** with 56 on 3rd Feb. Other significant counts were 25 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th March, 25 at **Annat Royd Lane** in Oct, 20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 21st Oct and 17 at Thurgory Lane, **Lepton** on 8th March.

Single figure counts were reported from **Dewsbury SF**, **Digley**, **Dovestones**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Flouch**, **New Mill** and **Deer Hill**. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, apart from the aforementioned 25, up to five were recorded daily from Jan to Sept, birds becoming scarcer thereafter with up to four noted on just 12 dates to the year end.

Reports of breeding pairs came from **Bretton Lakes**, **Brown's Knoll Wood**, **Elysium**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Longwood**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Lindley Moor**, **Penny Springs Wood** and **Weatherhill**. Two to three pairs bred in the farm buildings at **Shelley Royd House** and a pair bred for the first time at Far Bank, **Shelley**.

It was a regular visitor to gardens at **Almondbury** and **Meal Hill**.

(COMMON) **WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*
Resident breeder (4), 2,000-2,500 pairs. Numerous but irregular winter visitor.

An extremely common species in the area but it was very under-recorded this year.

It is most evident in the winter months when large numbers can be seen flying to and from roosting and feeding areas. At **Dewsbury SF** c.150 flew S on 9th Jan, 300 flew SW over **Lindley Moor** on 15th Jan, 300+ were at **New Hall Wood** on 18th March and 300 were observed arriving to roost at **Wilshaw** during Feb and March. Large roosts of 1000+ birds were reported from the **Woodsome Valley**, but no specific dates were forthcoming, and c.100 were present at **Shelley** during both winter periods, with 'hundreds' going to roost at **Storthes Hall Woods**.

The only breeding report was of a pair raising two broods in a garden at **Shelley**.

Up to six birds were regular in a **New Mill** garden and up to five visited a garden at **Almondbury** in Nov.

(EURASIAN) **COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

There was little to report on this common resident.

The only significant counts received were 35 at Jenkyn Lane, **Shepley** on 20th Jan and 35 near Hey Slack Farm, **Cheesegate Nab** on 27th Oct.

A pair raised two young in a **Lindley Moor** garden, whilst it was recorded regularly in observers' gardens at **Almondbury**, which had up to eight in July and Aug. **New Mill**, **Lockwood**, **Netherthong** and **Shelley**, where up to 12 in the 2nd winter period suggests a good local breeding season, although they were the favourite prey of Sparrowhawk !

(COMMON) **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*
Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs.

There were reports from 20 sites, which is a slight increase on the usual number, and birds were recorded in the area between 23rd April and 22nd July.

In April there was a noticeable arrival after the first one at **Harden** on 23rd (MC). Reports of singles on 24th came from **Healey House**, **Meltham** and **Wessenden Head**, with further ones at **Deer Hill** on 25th, **Dewsbury SF** on 26th and two at **Millmoor Rd** on 29th.

In May singles were at **Bartin** on 2nd, **Almondbury** on 7th (where it remained into the breeding season), **Shelley** and **Dovestones** on 11th, two were at Harden Clough, **Meltham** on 18th and then singles at **Healey House** again from 24th, **Holme Styes** on 26th, **Bilberry Res.** on 27th and **Farnley Tyas**, **Stockmoor** and **Yateholme** on 30th.

During the breeding season further reports came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where there was a single on 3rd June and two from 7th to 9th June, and from **Deer Hill** where singles were noted 7th, 22nd and 30th June. The latter locality provided the only July records – a juv. being mobbed by Meadow Pipits on 3rd and the last of the year on 22nd (KW).

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*
Rare visitor. Former resident breeder.

Following four records in 2003 and a single in 2004, four reliable sightings this year again raise hope for the future.

One was reported from Edge Moor, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 8th March (via DWB), and is the first record here since 1976. One was seen hunting alongside the **M62 near junction 24** (but in the club area) at 02.22 hrs. on 9th July (CCT). Another was at **Denby Delf** on 26th Oct (RT).

In early Sept. one was present in the **Flockton** area, where it was seen to roost in farm buildings (via JG). However, the report that it was approachable down to just 6ft suggests it was an escape. What was probably the same individual hunted along a hedgerow near **Bretton Roundabout** on 17th Sept (JKP).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*
Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.



Reported from over thirty sites, although once again there was a shortage of records from the SE of the area, where habitat seems most suitable.

Proof of breeding success came from **Panna Mill Dam**, where at least two young were seen.

Pairs or individuals were noted during the breeding season at the following localities: **Blackmoorfoot, Castle Hill, Digley, Harden, Ingbirchworth, Issues Road, Kirkheaton, Lumb Lane, Meltham** (probably 4 pairs), **Miry Lane, New Mill, Oldfield, Shelley, Snape Hill and Wood Nook**.

One to three birds were noted at several sites outside the breeding season.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*
Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Reported from 27 sites, the majority of records concerned calling birds.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Meltham Pleasure Park**, where two young were raised. A pair was also reportedly using a nest box at **Honley Moor** but no details were submitted.

Birds were noted during the breeding season at **Almondbury, Birkby, Carlecotes Ponds, Jenkinson Wood, Holmroyd Wood, Langsett, Meal Hill, Upperthong, Winscar** and the **Woodsome Valley**.

One or two birds were reported from several sites outside the breeding season, with three calling at **Shelley** in the first winter period.

LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.



After the successes in 2003 and 2004 it was disappointing not to report any cases of confirmed breeding this year. Birds were, however, present during the breeding season at two sites.

At a favoured site single birds were seen on 11th May and on 8th and 9th June (JED, TM), whilst one hunted at another site on 26th June (BA, MC).

Elsewhere, a male was observed at **Harden** on 23rd and 24th April; on the latter date it was seen to land on a wall 15ft away from the observer's house (MC). One sat on a fence post at 19.50 hrs. on 4th May and at 20.00 hrs. on 1st Aug at **Flight Hill** (MC).

In the autumn one was reportedly present at **Denby Delf** during late Sept and early Oct, with a fresh feather found here on 14th Oct (TM), and another was at **Thornhill Millbank** on 22nd Oct (JH).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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

It appears the species' did not enjoy the exceptional success it had last year, this one was a much more typical showing.

This year the only breeding success came from one established site, where a pair raised two young; the nest site within 200 metres of a Merlin's nest (JHod).

In the **Deer Hill/Brow Grains** area, two were seen together from 7th April to 12th May but then separately on many dates thereafter until July. The male was very grey, becoming increasingly pale – almost Barn Owl-like in fact, by mid June; the female was more typically brown. The pair failed, the nest presumably predated by crows.

In the **Harden/Winscar** area the resident observer reported one or two regularly from the area around his house from 7th April to mid-May and again on the isolated date of 3rd Sept. Other observers noted two on 29th April and singles on 16th April, 4th May and 26th June.

At nearby **Flight Hill**, what was undoubtedly the same pair was embroiled in full display on 18th and 24th April. On the former date, wing-clapping, towering and diving were noted. A sighting of a bird at **Issues Road** on 16th April probably relates to one of these individuals.

Elsewhere, two were hunting at **Cupwith** on 21st April and **Reynard Clough** on 22nd April, and singles were at **Greenfield Road** on 16th April, 18th April and 18th June, **Millmoor** on 4th May, and two were at **Holme Moss** on 19th May with a single here on 30th May.

The only late year record concerned one at Edge Moor, **Blackmoorfoot**, on 13th Nov.

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

Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

A very similar spring showing to last year, with birds reported from a dozen sites before the end of April. In autumn, however, there was just a single September record.

The first to appear were singles at **Holme Village** and **Holmfirth** on 22nd (JMD), with the next at **Scout Dike Res.** on 24th. After singles at **Aspley** and **Dewsbury SF** on 26th the main arrival took place from 27th, with 'several' at **Ingbirchworth** and a single at

Marsh. The 28th saw three at **Scout Dike**, whilst on 29th singles were at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Langsett**, **Marsden**, **Shelley** and a good count of 20 were at **Elland GPs**.

Numbers increased in early May with 50 at **Horbury Wyke** on 2nd, 16 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th increasing to 35+ by 18th, 40 at **Elland GPs** on 8th, 10 at **Dalton** on 11th and an impressive 100+ at **Scout Dike** on 17th.

Counts in June included up to 20 daily at **Blackmoorfoot** with a max. of 55 on 11th, and 30 at **Dewsbury Sewage Farm** on 5th.

The only breeding records submitted were of birds nesting in the mill chimney at **Almondbury**, in St. Luke's Hospital, **Crosland Moor** and c.20 nest sites were counted under railway arches at **Slaithwaite**.

As return passage commenced in July, up to 34 were seen daily at **Blackmoorfoot** with a max. of 60+ on 30th, **Dewsbury SF** recorded 60 on 1st and 42 on 5th, and 30+ moved over **Almondbury** on 23rd.

The vast majority of birds had left by the end of August; 20+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st had decreased to no more than eight on 20th and the last report was of six on 28th. The last sightings elsewhere were three at **New Mill** on 13th, singles at **Shelley** on 17th, two at **Almondbury** on 15th, two at **Lindley** on 16th, two at **Scout Dike** on 27th and one at **Crosland Moor** on 29th.

The last report of the year was one at **Honley** on the isolated date of 21st Sept (WBH via HQ).

A partial albino, which had a white belly and pale flecking on the mantle and rump, was observed at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th July (MLD).

(COMMON) **KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*
Resident breeder (2), near 30 pairs.

Although there were reports from twenty three sites, which is a very similar situation to 2004, the only proven breeding, albeit with an unknown outcome, occurred at **Elland GPs**.

Birds were noted during the breeding season at **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Lockwood** on the River Holme, **Waterloo**, **Horbury**, at **Dewsbury Sewage Farm** on the River Calder, **Thornhill** and at **Ravensthorpe GPs** three birds, probably two of them juveniles, were seen on 17th July.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** single birds were noted on 140 dates, with two on 6th, 11th and 16th Jan, 7th Feb, 25th Sept, 19th Oct and 19th Dec. Elsewhere, the vast majority of sightings involved one or two birds, with the exceptions being three at **Cooper Bridge** on 2nd Feb, **Horbury** on 10th May and **Bretton Lakes** on 29th Sept.

(EURASIAN) **HOOPOE** *Upupa epops*

Rare visitor.

Following last April's Kirkheaton bird, what was possibly the same individual was present in a **Kirkburton** garden on 28th and 29th April and was photographed (via SRG).

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

Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

There were reports from over forty sites, but it was almost certainly overlooked at several as no breeding records were received.

The vast majority of reports involved single birds and during the breeding season these were logged at **Almondbury**, **Blacker Wood**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Dalton**, **Deer Hill**, **Golcar**, **Granny Lane**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Jenkinson Wood**, **Marsden**, **Meal Hill**, **Meltham**, **New Mill** and **Oldfield**. Two birds, presumably pairs, were seen at **Healey House** on 5th March, **Wessenden** on 1st May and **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 4th May.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Reported from around fifty sites; a significant drop from the previous two years.

Successful breeding was recorded at five sites. Pairs fledged young at **Orange Wood** and at the west bank at **Blackmoorfoot**; a pair and young were observed at a nest hole at Back Lane, **Upperthong** on 31st May; two pairs fledged young at **T.P. Wood**; and a pair and two young visited a garden feeder at **Meal Hill**.

Juveniles which may not have travelled far were noted at **Almondbury** (two in June) and at **Lumb Lane** (one on 15th June).

Breeding probably occurred at numerous other sites, however, and birds were noted during the nesting season at **Blacker Wood**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Brown Knoll's Wood**, **Cliffe Wood**, **Golcar SF**, **Hagg Wood**, **Healey House**, **Honley Wood**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Jenkinson Wood**, **Marsden**, **Mollicar Wood**, **Morton Wood**, **New Hall Wood**, **New Mill**, **Royd House Wood**, **Stoneycliffe Wood**, **Thunderbridge** and **Waterloo**.

Feeding stations were visited at **Dewsbury Sewage Farm** and in gardens at **Almondbury**, **Barkisland**, **Fixby**, **Lockwood**, **Marsh**, **Netherthong** and **Windybank Wood**.

The vast majority of records involved one to three birds with the exception being at least six, including four together, at **Bretton Lakes** on 25th March.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1), 1-10 pairs.

A reasonably good year with records received for nine sites; breeding was proven at one and probably occurred at another.

Healey House – a pair were first seen on 5th March with subsequent sightings on 19th and 25th and 5th and 7th April. The pair was then observed feeding an unknown number of young between 17th and 9th June, when three definite young were being fed by the male.

Bretton Lakes – singles were noted on 27th Jan, 12th and 16th Feb, and 14th and 25th March.

Brown's Knoll Wood – after the initial sightings of singles on 29th and 30th Jan, a male and a female were present from 6th to 8th Feb with birds then noted on 19th Feb (male drumming), 2nd March and 1st, 4th and ultimately 9th April.

Mellor Wood – singles were here on 1st and 6th March (male), and 2nd April when one was heard calling.

Shelley – recorded on at least three days in April, with a male feeding on an oak tree for 5 mins. on 9th and this or others noted on 11th and 17th.

Dewsbury SF – two were by the approach road to the works on 19th April.

Almondbury – a male was reported from a garden at Dartmouth Avenue on 8th July, whilst one which spent 20 mins. in another garden, where it initially fought with a Nuthatch, was the observer's only 2nd such sighting in 20 years (AK).

Millmoor Road – one flew over the road near the riding school on 31st July.

Squirell Ditch – a male was present on 15th Nov.

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

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

In the early months there were good numbers once again in the Thurgory area at **Lepton**: c.25 was counted on 14th Jan and c.30 on 30th Jan increased to c.40 on 7th Feb. Also in Feb, c. 20 birds were in stubble at **Farnley Tyas** on 1st, eight at **Royd Moor Res.** on 16th, up to seven were at **Blackmoorfoot**, six at **South Crosland** and at least nine in game crop at **Denby Hall Farm** from 27th. Smaller numbers were noted elsewhere and included early singing birds at **Shepley** on 11th and **Oldfield** on 7th.

Birds began to appear and sing at more sites in March with two at **Wood Nook** on 12th, one at **High Hoyland** on 13th, six at **Ingbirchworth** and a single at **Shelley** on 19th and **Bradley Hall Farm** on 20th, two at **Lindley Moor** and **Scapegoat Hill** on 24th and two at **Windmill Lane** on 29th. There was some indication of movement in March, with three N over **Holme Moss** on 9th and 20 W over **Dean Head Res.** early on 13th.

As spring progressed a party of 16+ birds were in a field at **Digley** on 16th April, and further singing birds were noted this month at **Bretton Lakes**, **Deer Hill**, **Carlecotes Ponds** (in 'good numbers') and at **Snape Res.** In May, singing birds were also noted at **Dewsbury Sewage Farm**, **Holme Styes** and **Scout Dike Res.** Pairs were located during the breeding season at **Bullcliffe**, **Emley Moor** and **Stocks Moor Common**, whilst in the **Wessenden/Pule Hill** area seven singing males were located. In the **Crosland Road/Lindley Moor Road** area, where the species was described as 'just hanging on in an area where it was numerous thirty years ago', six breeding pairs were located.

A flock of 20 at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 18th Sept aside, migration was predominantly recorded in October. Twenty eight flew S at **Dewsbury SF** and three flew over **Shelley** on 9th, a flock of c.40 flew E at **Scout Dike Res.** and two flew SW over **Marsden G.C.** on 14th and five flew W over **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 27th. Eighteen were back at Thurgory Lane, **Lepton** on 13th and six were at **Gawthorpe Lane** on 16th.

With the exception of c.40 at **Lepton** on 4th Dec few were noted from the late months, with four W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 12th Nov and a single on 19th Dec, and four at **Spicer House Lane** on 20th Nov.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder, increased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor.

The earliest ever for the Huddersfield area occurred on 7th March when one flew across Dalton Bank Road at **Colnebridge SP** at 17.30 hrs. (AK). The next were two flying W at **Dewsbury SF** on 17th followed by a single here on 18th when two were also over **Shelley** – the observer's first record here. The only other March reports were two at **Elland GPs** on 20th, and four at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21st and **Scout Dike Res.** on 26th.

There were more arrivals in April with a max. of 4 at **Elland GPs** on 17th, a site maximum of only 8 at **Scout Dike** on 16th, 7 at **Dewsbury SF** on 11th, a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 19th and 10+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 22nd.

At the species' breeding stronghold at **Ravensthorpe GPs** at least c.30 nest holes were thought to be occupied during late May and early June. At **Horbury** c.40 birds were counted on 24th April but it was not known how many of the c.40 nests were occupied. Negative results were obtained from **Sands GPs** this year.

Elsewhere, there were 30 at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th May, 48 on 1st and 35 on 5th July, 10 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th July and a single on 31st Aug, and a single at **Scout Dike** on 20th July. The only other records came from **Blackmoorfoot**, which had three on 30th June, two on 10th and a single on 28th July, one on 2nd Aug and two on 1st, three on 17th and one – the last – on 24th Sept.

(BARN) **SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4), 500-600 pairs. Numerous passage visitor.

The first of the year was one at **Honley** on the very early date of 17th March (WDH via HQ). The next, and only other March appearances, was one at **Elland GPs** on 27th and **Scout Dike Res.** on 29th.

Birds appeared at several sites in the first week of April, with singles at **Scholes** on 1st, **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 2nd, **Netherthong** on 3rd, two at **Meal Hill** and a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th, two at **Oldfield** on 5th and one at **Stockmoor** on 7th. The main arrival followed with counts of 50 on 9th and a spring maximum of c.100 on 20th at **Scout Dike**, 60 on 14th and 100 on 18th at **Elland GPs**, 15+ at **Boshaw Whams** on 19th, 20+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 22nd, flocks of 18+ and 25 at **Harden** on the evening of 23rd and 100

at **Heaton Lodge SF** also on 23rd. **Blackmoorfoot** recorded a spring max. of 40+ on 6th May.

Breeding occurred at two local barns at **New Mill**, at three farms in the **Lindley Moor** area, at Jagger Lane, **Kirkheaton**, **Colnebridge SP**, and **Dovestones**. There were an estimated 12 pairs in the **Shelley/Emley** areas, and parents were still feeding young at **Lindley** on 7th and 13th Sept.

Post-breeding counts in July included 60 at **Scout Dike** on 24th, 110 and 250 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th and 28th respectively. Further gatherings were reported in Aug with 60 at **Langsett Res.** on 16th, 40 on wires **Kirkheaton** on 22nd, a monthly max. of 40 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8th, 11th and 27th, 150 over **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 31st and a max. of just 20 at **Dewsbury SF** on 24th, where it was a very poor year for the species.

In September, 40 were at **Millmoor Road** on 12th, a monthly max. of c.50 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 12th and c.40 at **Scout Dike** on 3rd and 24th. A v.m.w. at nearby **Thurlstone** produced 18 S on 24th and 10 S the following day.

Birds were reported from seven sites in October including a marked movement on 9th: 30+ were still at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st, with three on 2nd, 7 on 3rd, four S. on 9th and six S. on 10th, one on 8th and 10 S on 9th at **Scout Dike**; one E at **Horbury** on 9th; 15 W at **Lindley Moor** on 1st; 10 E at **Sands GPs** on 9th; 6 SW at **Fixby** on 2nd; and at **Meltham** there were 10 on 1st, two on 12th and five on 15th (M+SW) – the last of the year.

(COMMON) **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*

Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs. Common passage visitor.

Like the previous two species there was an exceptionally early arrival: one was reliably reported from **Scout Dike Res.** on the record-breaking 20th March (BBSG via RJB). The next one did not arrive until 5th April at **Elland GPs**. During the next few days singles flew W at **Dewsbury SF** on 11th and two were at **Horbury SF** on 17th, then 20 at **Scout Dike** on 20th, 20+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 22nd, c.50 at **Heaton Lodge SF** on 23rd and 12 over the breeding area at **Storthes Hall** on 29th. In May, spring maxima were 60 at **Dewsbury SF** on 10th, 100+ at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17th but just 18 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 25th.

Breeding was reported from six sites: young were raised from two nests at **Golcar**; at **Lindley** young were fledged from two nests at Holly Bank Road, while young were watched being fed near the fish and chip shop on the late date of 20th Sept; fifteen occupied nests were counted at the Black Horse pub, **Dalton**; twenty one nests were counted at **Stainland**; nesting took place near the traffic lights at **Waterloo**; and at **Shelley** in both the park and village.

Post-breeding counts in the early autumn period at **Blackmoorfoot** included 32 on 19th July, and 40+ on 8th, 11th and 27th Aug, whilst **Scout Dike** recorded c.30 on 31st July and 70 on 20th Aug and 30 passed E at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 31st July.

There was a significant increase in numbers in early Sept, with 80+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and 3rd, 60+ at **Scout Dike** on 6th, 650 E at **Dewsbury SF** in two hours early on 7th,

250 SW at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 8th and a further 390 SW there on 19th, and 30 passed NW over **Fixby** 16th.

There were reports from only four sites in October – singles at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Meltham** on 1st, 11 SW at **Scout Dike** on 8th and 12 over **Millbank** on 9th (BA) being the last.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

Recorded at eleven sites, with singing males noted at seven of these.

Scout Dike Res – one flew SW on 16th April (RJB).

Cheesegate Nab – singles on 18th and 19th April.

Heyden Bridge – a singing male was in roadside trees on 23rd April.

Holme Styes – one on 25th April and at least two singing males in the clear fell area here on 8th May and 12th June.

Dovestones – two singing males on 11th May.

Royd Edge Clough – a singing male on 29th May.

Little Don Valley – a singing male on 8th June.

Carlecotes Ponds – three (2 singing males) on 9th June and four (2 singing males) on 7th July.

Yatcholme – a singing male was present on 12th June.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – a migrant on 2nd Sept.

Ringstone Edge Res. – single migrants on 2nd and 6th Sept (HBC).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (5), 2,500-4,000 pairs. The commonest bird of open country.

In the early months at **Scout Dike Res.** there were 20 on 9th Jan increasing to 35 on 29th, and up to 30 still present in early Feb. At **Blackmoorfoot** there were up to 11 in Jan and a max. of 30 in Feb on 5th. Elsewhere, 50 fed in stubble at **Shelley** on 1st, 13 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 13th with 32 on 22nd, and 12 were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 15th Feb.

In March and April birds began to arrive at breeding areas and also pass through on migration. At **Dewsbury SF** 22 on 7th March increased to 40 on 13th and 141 on 18th before decreasing to 60 on 28th. In April 150 moved NW in 2 hours on 11th, 50 were present on 15th, 150 were grounded and 100 moved NW in one hour on 16th, with 40 present the next day dropping to 20 on 21st. Up to 40 were at **Scout Dike** from mid-March to 16th April, and a flock of c.60 were at **Harden** on 28th March. Fifty were at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 4th April with 20 still here on 27th, and 80 moved N at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th April. **Shelley** recorded its first spring migrant on 18th with 50+ then present until early April, whilst 50 were at **Digley** on 26th April.

The only report of breeding was of a bird seen carrying food at **Wessenden Head** on 6th June, but this is hardly indicative of the species' true status in the area. One observer, however, did consider this species to be at 'rock bottom' in the **Deer Hill** area.

Dispersing flocks and migrants began to appear from mid Aug with a max. of 80 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th, 20th and 21st Aug and a Sept max. of 40+ on 2nd, although 150+ were at nearby Potato Lane on 5th. Twenty were at **Scout Dike** from 20th Aug, increasing to a max. of 35 in Sept and Oct. Visible migration watches yielded c.530 S at **Thurlstone** in two hours on 28th Sept and 400 S in two hours at **Royd Moor Hill** on 9th Oct. This activity also produced the following counts at **Marsden GC**: 40 on 29th Sept, 48 on 9th and 17 on 11th Oct all SW. Sixty moved S in one hour over **Colnebridge SP** on 26th Sept, and a total of 1541 birds were logged moving SW at **Ringstone Edge** in Sept.

Small numbers were noted at several sites at the year end: in the **Blackmoorfoot** area a max. of 22 were in fields to the E of the Res. on 29th Nov and 20 were in fields to the W on 8th and 19th Dec, with 15 at Edge Moor on Christmas Eve; at **Scout Dike**, after a max. of five in Nov, a flock of up to 45 began to winter in grassy fields by the activity centre in late Dec; 'several' were in the **Shelley** area on 22nd Nov and up to five were at **Deer Hill** and **Oldfield** in Nov.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

There was another excellent series of records from **Dewsbury SF**. A single was present from at least 13th Jan to 30th March with two birds present on the latter date. There were also three here on 31st Oct. (BA, JH).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Recorded from seven sites with the majority of sightings in September.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 17th April, 2nd June and 11th and 20th Aug with possibly two on the late date of 9th Oct (BA, JH).

Scout Dike Res – one on the dam wall on 24th April, one on 27th Aug with probably the same on 28th, and one S on 13th Sept (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – one flew W on 17th May and singles then on 19th Aug and 13th Sept. (MLD, CH).

Deer Hill – one on 29th Aug (KW).

Ringstone Edge Res – singles on 1st, 2nd and 17th Sept (HBC).

Panna Mill Dam – a juv. with Pied Wagtails on 16th Sept (DMP, KW).

Lindley Moor – a 1st. W briefly on a back lawn on 23rd September was the observer's first here for 30 years (JED).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*
Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.



Recorded from nearly forty sites, which is consistent with the last three years.

Successful breeding occurred at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where a pair raised two broods by the Yorkshire Water building on the N bank, **Bretton Lakes** where one of an estimated three pairs was seen with two fledged young on 2nd May, and **Scout Dike Res.** where a pair with one juv. was noted on 20th June, with three juvs. also seen on 24th July. Juvs. were observed being fed at Eastergate, **Marsden** but no dates were specified. A pair was seen carrying food at **Langsett** filter beds on 29th April, and successful breeding was reported from both **Horbury** and **Oxygrains** but no details were submitted.

During the breeding season, pairs were present along **Fenay Beck** at Kirkburton, Thunderbridge and Dogley NR, **March Haigh Res.**, **Digley Res.**, **Dovestones**, **Morton Wood**, Steps at **Honley** and **Yateholme**.

One or two birds were seen away from traditional areas outside the breeding season, with singles in **Huddersfield Town Centre** on 21st Feb and two at the observer's garden pond

at **Harden** on 8th April being notable. Two which flew S over **Thurlstone** on 27th Sept were probably migrants.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Continues to be under-recorded, with reports from only twenty five sites.

In the early months 25+ birds were at **Annat Royd Lane** on 17th Jan and 40+ were in heavily manured fields at **Honley Moor** on 2nd Jan, increasing to 60+ on 7th Feb and 80 on 15th Feb before sharply falling. More sites recorded birds in March as migrants began to appear, with 12 at **Upper Oldfields** on 6th, 28 at **Ingbirchworth** on 14th, 8 at **Dewsbury SF** on 18th and 6 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 25th. An early year max. of 8 was at **Scout Dike Res.** on 9th April.

Breeding was reported from **Emley Moor** where a pair raised two broods inside a calor gas storage unit, and from farms in the **Lindley Moor**, **Birchcliffe** and **Scammonden** areas. Two pairs, each with one juv., were seen at **Dean Head Res.** on 23rd June, and a pair was successful at **Scout Dike**.

Notable post-breeding counts at **Dewsbury SF** were 41 on 31st July, 42 on 11th Aug and 32 on 1st Sept, and low water levels at **Scout Dike** attracted 17 on 8th and 35 on 30th Aug. Autumn migration was recorded in October from **Scout Dike**, which had 23 on 8th, and **Royd Moor Hill** where 33 flew S on a v.m.w. the following day. At **Marsden GC**, v.m.w.'s produced 6 on 29th Sept, 24 on 9th Oct and 10 on 11th Oct – all SW.

The only notable late year count was 45+ at **Silkstone SF** on 14th Dec.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

It was another poor year for this race with just six records.

Single birds were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 9th and 16th April (RJB, MC), **Dewsbury SF** on 16th April, 2nd and 10th May (JH) and **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 3rd May (HBC).

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

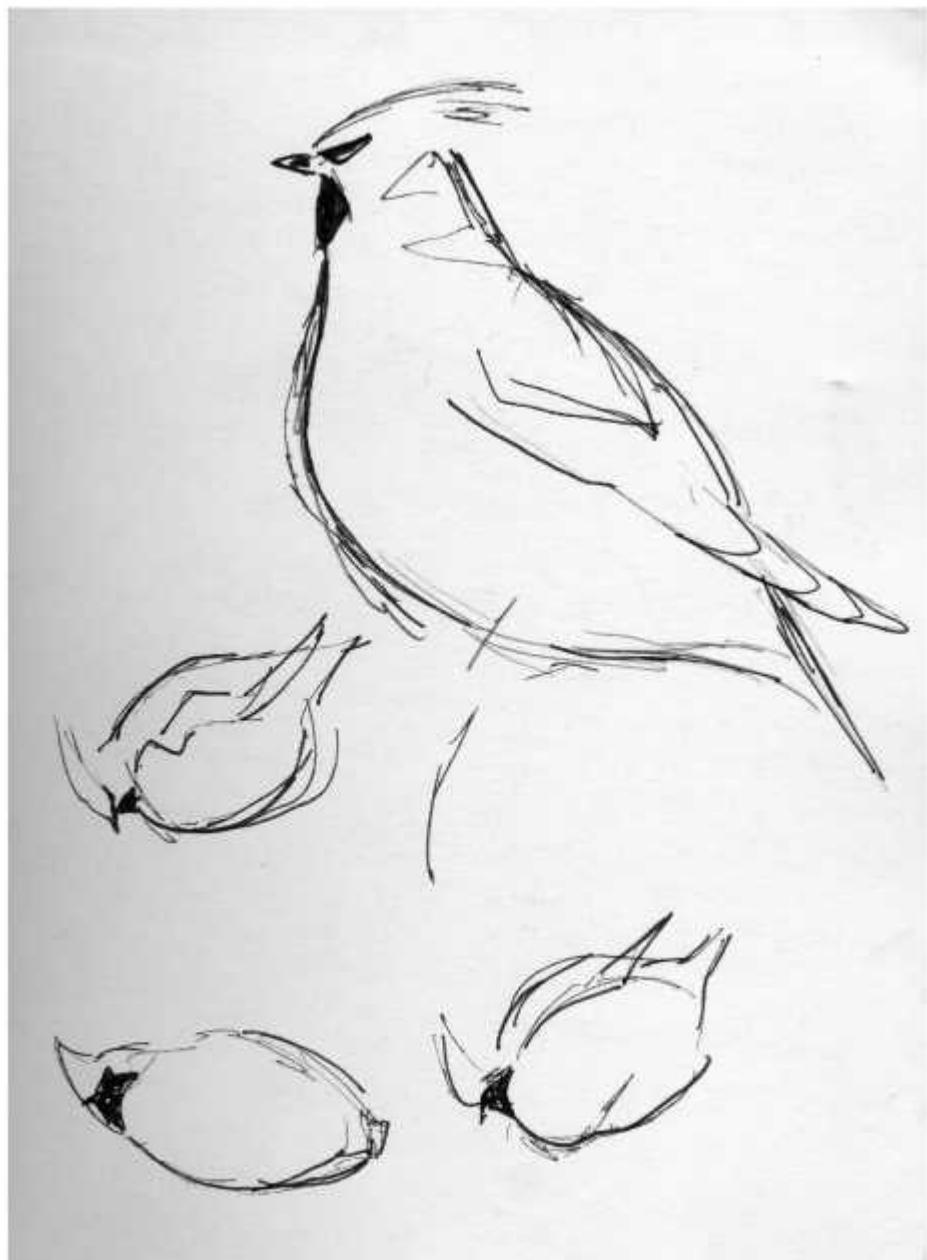
Excellent numbers of this attractive winter visitor could be seen in the area in the early part of the year, when sightings occurred between 1st Jan and 24th April. There was undoubtedly much interaction between sites, especially in early Jan.

Longroyd Bridge – c.200 on 1st Jan and 300+ on 3rd Jan.

Lockwood – 50 on 2nd Jan and 40 on 4th Feb.

Folly Hall – 300+ on 3rd Jan, 520+ on 4th (JMcl), c.250 on 8th and c.300 on 12th Jan.

Birkby – 50 on 3rd Jan, 200 on 4th and 10 feeding on cotoneaster on 25th Feb.



Blackmoorfoot Res – a flock of 30 flew S on 6th Jan.
Kings Mill Lane – 150+ on 9th Jan.
Huddersfield Technical College – c.100 on 12th Jan.
Marsden – 40 on 12th and 30 on 13th Jan, 8 over on 3rd Feb.
Brighouse – c.300 at Lane Head Hotel on 13th Jan.
Springwood – 200 on 13th Jan.
Greenhead – 30 on 14th Jan.
Netherthong – 50 on 16th Jan and 30 the following day.
Millmoor Road – 51 on 30th Jan and 30 in a garden on 6th Feb.
Dewsbury Bus Station – 100 on 6th Feb.
Denby Dale – 10 on 11th Feb with 17 on 17th, 9 on 25th and 60 on 28th Feb and three on 1st March.
Shepley – 20 on 14th Feb.
Paddock – 20 from 1st to 3rd March.
Ring Road – 40 on 5th March.
Bradley Hall Farm – 48 on 8th March and 90 on 20th March.
Deighton – c.100 on 12th March.
Lepton – 70+ on 15th March.
Lindley – 60 on 15th March and 30 on 1st April.
 Up to 15 birds were noted at **Dewsbury**, **Crosland Moor**, **Waterloo** and in **Huddersfield Town Centre**.

A few lingered into April with a max. of 30 at **Lindley** on 1st, at least 67 by ASDA at **Dewsbury** on 12th, 26 on cotoneasters in an **Almondbury** garden on 23rd and 7 – the last of the sightings in this period – at **Brockholes** on 24th.

By contrast birds were very scarce in the latter part of the year. The only reports being in Dec with two at **Shelley** on 5th and 4 at **Ring Road** on 27th and 6 on 29th.

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

Reports came from 29 sites with, unfortunately, no increase in breeding records.

Successful breeding once again occurred at **Oxygrains Beck**, where four young were reared. A nest was located behind a waterfall at **Hill Top Res.** in mid-May, and two adults with young were observed on the river below **Scout Dike Res.** on 20th June.

Birds were noted during the breeding season at **Deer Hill**, **Eastergate**, **Golcar**, on the R. Holme at **Holmfirth**, **Honley**, **Lockwood** and **Thunderbridge**.

One or two birds were noted in suitable habitat at several sites outside the breeding season, with 4 at **Scout Dike** on 18th Sept, 3 at **Langsett** on 11th Oct and 3 in the **Butterley/Blakeley** areas on 19th Dec being the exceptions.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

A very common species with very few records received.

Breeding was only reported from **Almondbury**, **Colnebridge SP** and **Shelley Whins**, but it doubtlessly occurred throughout the area.

The only counts submitted were six singing males at **Bretton Lakes** on 25th March, six singing males were located at **Morton Wood** on 5th April, followed by 10 on 19th, and 11 were in song at **New Mill** on 2nd July.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Once again very little information, for what is considered a nationally declining species, was received.

Although it doubtless occurred elsewhere, successful breeding was reported from only four sites: **Almondbury**, **Emley**, **Jenkinson Wood** and a **Lindley Moor** garden, where two pairs produced three broods, with a fourth brood lost due to hedge cutting. Food carrying was also noted at **Elland GPs** on May 9th.

The only significant counts were up to 8 in a garden during winter at **Shelley Whins**, and 8+ birds were counted at **Bretton Lakes** on 25th March.

(EUROPEAN) **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This species remains much under-reported, with the majority of records coming from gardens.

Successful breeding occurred in gardens at **Fixby**, **Lindley Moor**, **Meltham** and **New Mill**, with observers also reporting success from **Clockface Quarry**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Meal Hill** and **Thunderbridge**.

The only counts of any significance were 6+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 25th March, 7 at **Elland GPs** on 3rd April and 8 singing males were counted at **Morton Wood** on 19th April.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor.

A typical showing, with just the two records.

A female was observed – and photographed – intermittently in a garden at **Oldfield** from 20th to 23rd March (N. Hurt). Slightly more expected was an adult male which frequented

dry stone walls opposite Panna Mill Dam at **Brow Grains Road** from 11th to 16th Sept (DHP, DMP et al).

(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2); 10-40 pairs.

Reports came from only four sites – a situation that can only be described as dire.

In the **Holme Styes** area probably three singing males were on territory from 25th April. A pair was observed food carrying here on 9th June with another pair nearby amongst old buildings, where they were seen feeding young on 12th June. A single was also seen on 26th June.

At Cliffe Wood, **Langsett** a singing male was present on 29th April and a pair was here on 11th May.

A juv, presumably a dispersing bird, was in the observer's garden at **Jackson Bridge** on 25th July – the first record here (HQ).

At **Scout Dike Res.**, where the species is believed only to occur on passage, an ad. male was present on 31st July, with perhaps the same in **Maze Brook** on 6th and 18th Aug. This or a different male was also seen on 3rd and 4th Sept (RJB).

The neighbouring Halifax area also reported a worrying lack of sightings.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs.

Disappointingly, considering this species' increase in the area in the last few years, there were only reports from ten sites.

The first report was of a singing male at **Millmoor Road** on 24th April (DMP) with one here on 4th May also. A male at **Emley Moor** on 1st May was the observer's first record there (SRG). A pair was on territory at **Winscar** on 2nd May, with a male here on 29th June, and a male was in song at nearby **Windleden** on 15th May. Two singing males were at **Royd Edge Clough** during May and a male was on territory at **Eastergate**, although no dates were submitted.

Successful breeding was reported from the **Deer Hill** area where two pairs were present from mid-May. One pair bred near Brow Grains Road where a male was observed food carrying on 9th Aug, three birds were seen 29th Aug and four on 16th Sept.

An estimated five pairs were present in the **Wessenden** area; three pairs at Wessenden Res. and two pairs in the Blakeley/Butterley area. Birds were recorded alarming at the former site, probably indicating the presence of young.

On a negative note, for the first time ever there were no records from the Scammonden/Buckstones area.

Post breeding records involved two at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 21st Aug, one at **Winscar** on 4th Sept and singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th, 17th and 21st Aug, 12th, 29th and 30th Sept and a late bird was in fields to the W on 2nd Oct (MLD, CH).

(COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus*

Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.

In the early part of the year a female was noted in the **Blackmoorfoot** area on 11 dates from 9th Jan to 19th March, with a male and a female on 23rd and 27th Jan and 4th March. The only other early record was female at **Townend** on 27th Feb.

Reports increased from March, with singles at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th, **Scammonden** on 20th, **Wessenden** on 21st and **Harden** on 25th when a male and a female were at nearby **Winscar**. In the **Deer Hill** area, six were found on 19th with three pairs then located on 29th. In April, pairs were at **Booth Dam** on 3rd, **Meltham** on 24th and a male was at **Millmoor** on 29th.

Successful breeding was reported from the **Deer Hill/West Nab/Brow Grains** area, where an estimated six pairs were present, and it is now considered more common than Whinchat. A pair with three fledged young was seen by the approach road to Deer Hill Res. on 30th June, although another observer reported 'many spotty juvs' here during the breeding season.

Further breeding success came from **Buckstones** – a female and 4 young were seen on 26th June; **Millmoor** – a pair and one juv was noted on 22nd July; and **Dean Head** – a pair reportedly reared three young. A pair frequented the favoured breeding area at **Winscar**, with a juv seen here on 26th June and breeding was suspected at **Meltham Moor** where an agitated pair was present on 28th May. Single birds were noted at **Redbrook Clough** and **Wessenden** during the breeding season.

In the autumn at least five were at **Meltham** on 25th Sept and the **Deer Hill** area had at least eight on 9th Oct, with one or two noted on several dates to the year end. In the **Blackmoorfoot/Meltham Cop** area, single birds were noted on 13 dates from 29th Sept to 26th Dec with a max. of three on 13th Oct and a male and a female on 17th and 20th Dec. Three birds were at **Castleshaw** on 25th Sept, whilst October brought three to **Cheesegate Nab** on 1st and singles to **Digley** on 5th and **Crossley's Plantation** and **Helme** on 16th. In Nov, singles were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 5th, **Broadstones** on 6th with a male and a female at Broadstones Lodge on 20th, **Denby Dale** on 13th, **Scammonden** on 14th and a male and a female were at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 26th and **Dovestones** on 27th when a single was at **Tunnel End**. Finally, a single was at **Marsden** on 9th Dec.

(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.

Recorded in the area between 19th March and 29th October, with a similar showing to 2004.

The first birds of the year made a multi-arrival on 19th March – a typical date, with 4 (3males) at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (MLD, CH), three at **Deer Hill Res.** (DMP, SP) two at **Ringstone Edge Res.** (HBC) and singles at **Maythorn Lane** (DMP, SP) and **Brown's Edge Road** (BA). These were followed by 5 (4 males) at **Ingbirchworth** and a male and a female at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 21st, singles at **Dewsbury SF** on 23rd, **Snape Res.** on 24th and **Winscar** on 25th, increasing to 4 on 28th, and 10 (6 males) at **Broadstones Res.** on 28th.

Birds were reported from fifteen sites in April with one to four involved in most cases, exceptions being seven at **Whitley Common** on 9th, six at **Blackmoorfoot** and a party of 25 – the largest number in the area this year - at **Scammonden Res.** late month (HBC).

As passage continued into May one to six birds were recorded in fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot** on 17 dates with high counts of 12+ on 3rd and 4th. Eight birds were at **Snape Res.** on 4th, five at **Bradshaw** on 2nd and four were at **Deer Hill Res.** on 11th. One to two birds were noted on odd dates at **Crosland Hill**, **Ringstone Edge Res.**, **Isle of Skye Quarry**, **Windleden**, **Snailsden**, **Buckstones**, **Elysium**, **Emley Moor**, **Dovestones** and **Winscar**.

Also in this period, single birds considered to be of the 'Greenland' race *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa* were at **Ringstone Edge** on 30th April, **Royd Moor Res.** on 1st, **Harden** on 17th and 18th and **Deer Hill Res.** on 17th May.

The only evidence of breeding came in the form of a juvenile at **Butterley** on 26th Jun; indeed this was the only sighting in the June/July period. It was also reported from **Dean Head Res.**, although no details were submitted.

Fewer were seen the autumn: **Blackmoorfoot** recorded single birds on eight dates in August with three on 20th and two on 30th, one to three on 13 dates in Sept and one on 14th Oct. Four were at **Ringstone Edge** on 21st Aug, three on 14th Sept and a single on 9th and 18th Oct. Single birds were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 17th and 24th Sept and two, one of which showed characters of the 'Greenland' race, were between here and nearby **Scout Dike Res.** from 11th to 22nd Oct. A single was at **Deer Hill** on 6th Sept and a very late individual was also noted here on 28th and 29th Oct (DHP, KW).

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

After a slight improvement in this attractive species' fortunes on 2004, this year saw a reversion with confirmed breeding reported from only a single site, and just one other singing male noted.

The first sighting was a male at **Digley** on 20th March (BA), with two males here on 26th, a single on 22nd April and a male on 10th May. Further spring records were two males at **Issues Road** on 16th April and a male at **Dovestones** on 11th May.

The only evidence of breeding came from the **Blue Lagoon/Wessenden Head Road** area, where two fledged young were seen together on 12th June. Elsewhere during the

breeding season, song was heard briefly at **Buckstones** on 29th May but subsequent visits proved negative, and singles were at **Millmoor** on 8th June and **Winscar** on 26th June.



The remaining records all concerned autumn birds. Singles on 18th and two (male and female) on 19th October were grounded at **Denby Dale** during a big Redwing movement. A single was at **Broadstones Res.** on 24th Oct followed by a male at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 27th, and a late bird was reported from a garden at **Shepley** on 3rd Nov (via DBar).

(COMMON) **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This species appears to have been somewhat under-recorded this year. The only early year count received was of 6 in a **New Mill** garden from Jan to April and 10 + birds at **Bretton Lakes** on 25th March.

During the breeding season, at least three broods were raised in or near the observer's garden at **Lindley Moor**, two broods were raised by two pairs in a garden at **Shelley Whins**, and one or two young were raised in a **New Mill** garden after the first nest had been raided by Magpies in April. It was also reported to have bred successfully in gardens at **Fixby**, after an initial attempt had been predated by Carrion Crows, and **Meal Hill**. It was also reported as a 'common breeder' at **Colnebridge SP**.

An influx was apparent in autumn, with 16 noted at **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th Oct when Redwings were arriving and at least 8 birds in a **Lindley Moor** garden in early Oct increased briefly to 20+ at dusk on 21st. In November, 15 were in Pyracantha bushes in

Huddersfield Town Centre on 15th, a 'significant increase' in numbers was noted at **Colnebridge SP** on 29th and up to 30 moved through **Shelley Whins** with up to 20 remaining to the year end.



FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

In January, 150 were over **Deanhouse** on 4th, 500 at **Ingbirchworth** on 5th with 2000+ here on 14th (JKP), 300 moved W over **Dewsbury SF** on 9th with 500 in fields at **Scout Dike Res.** Also on 9th, c.600 were at **Whitley Common** on 10th and 1000 at nearby **Spicer House Lane** on 17th, 120+ were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13th and 100 were at **Bretton Lakes** on 21st.

Fewer sites recorded birds in February: 150 were at **Yateholme** on 2nd, 100+ at **Oldfield** on 10th, 50 at **Shepley** on 11th, 150+ and 250+ were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 14th and 16th respectively and 120 were at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 19th.

In March, as birds began to move back to breeding areas, they were seen at an increasing number of sites. Sixty were over **Holme Moss** and 160 were at **Winscar** on 9th, a monthly max. of 52 were noted at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th, 120 moved W over **Harden** on 12th with 100 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** the following day when 30+ were at **High Hoyland**, 100 plus 40 moved W over **Boshaw Whams** on 20th, 100 were at **Scout Dike** on 22nd and 23rd with a flock of c.1000 briefly here on 29th, 50+ at **Honley Wood** on 25th and 500 were at **Ingbirchworth** on 29th.

Birds were recorded at just five sites in April, with 30 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 3rd and 200+ at **Brown's Knoll Wood** the following day, 350 were at **Ingbirchworth** on 5th, 200 at **Digley** on 1st and 20 on 22nd and the last of the spring were 90+ at **Scout Dike** from 20th to 23rd (RJB).

The first returning birds, and the only September record, were 7 W at **Kirkheaton** on 30th (DS). In October, after 18 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8th, 10 were at **Ramsden Res.** on 10th with 33 at **Blackmoorfoot** again on 14th, 50 were at **Ringstone Edge** on 15th, c.220 moved W over **Langsett Res.** on 23rd, 19 were at **Crosland Moor** on 25th, 250 flew S at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th with 350 + here on 28th and 47 on 29th, and 20 were at **Denby Delf** on 30th.

In November, 30 were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** and 100 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th, 300 were at **Broadstones** on 13th, a max. of 26 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th, and 20 were at **Deer Hill** on 25th.

In contrast to last year, numbers in December were much more typical, with 78 at **Scout Dike** on 3rd and 16 at **Ingbirchworth** on 5th, a monthly max. of 40+ were at **Blackmoorfoot** from 11th to 12th, 25 were at **Honley Moor** on 14th with 10 at **Wessenden** on 19th, and 50 frequented **Shepley** from 7th to the month end.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing.

Both the number of sites recording birds and the number of singing males were slightly down on 2004. It was reported from forty sites and at least 60 singing males were noted, including 15 in the **Marsden** area, 'several' in the wooded areas at **Winscar** and eight at **Elland GPs**.

Although the majority of records were in the breeding season, evidence of successful breeding was only obtained from **Colnebridge SP** (three pairs present as in 2004), **Jenkinson Wood** and a **New Mill** garden. Four pairs reportedly bred at **Blackmoorfoot** and two in the **Lindley Moor** area, but a nesting attempt at **Blacker Beck** failed.

The only autumn record of note was of three which passed over **Dewsbury SF** on 18th Oct as part of a large Redwing movement.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

In January there was a notable influx around mid-month. Small numbers were present most of the month at **Blackmoorfoot**, with a notable increase here to 90+ from 11th to 13th and 130 on 14th. Elsewhere, 250 were at **Elland GPs**, 25 flew W over **Lindley Moor Road** and 50 were over **Shelley** on 1st, 20+ were at **Salendine Nook** the following day, 22 were at **Oldfield** on 4th with 50 on 14th, 30 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 9th, a 'large number' were with 2000+ Fieldfare at **Ingbirchworth** on 14th, 300 were at **Wareham Wood** on 17th and **Netherthong** recorded 26 on 30th when a large uncounted flock were at **Farnley Tyas**.



Birds were seen in significant numbers at only seven sites in February. One hundred and fifty were at **Brown Knoll's Wood**, 80 at **Royd Moor Res.** and 27 at **Colnebridge SP** on 6th, 75 at **Oldfield** on 10th, 60 at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 19th, 200+ were at **Cawthorne** on 21st and 20 at **Netherthong** on 28th.

The species was generally scarce in March, with the most notable counts being 48 at **Netherthong** on 7th, 38 at **Hullen Edge** on 14th, 50 at **Heyden Bridge** on 19th and 17 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 25th.

There were just three April reports: one at **Brown Knoll's Wood** on 7th, a very lethargic and probably sick individual at **Bretton Lakes** on 27th and a single at **Hagg Wood** on 30th (SRC).

Some impressive counts were made around mid-month in October. The first returning birds (two) were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd – a typical date. On 14th 200 were at

Ringstone Edge Res. and a flock of c.130 flew W over **Scout Dike**, with c.200 grounded here the next day and 1000+ moving S/SE after rain and mist had cleared. Also on 15th, '1000's were heading E then W over **Denby Dale**, 100 were at **Royd Moor Res.** and 60 flew SW at **Fixby**. On 16th 470 flew E/SE over **Scout Dike**, 347 flew S over **Dewsbury SF**, 100 were over **Shelley** and 50 were at **Upper Denby**. On 18th 2,500 moved W at **Ringstone Edge**, 1,150 passed S over **Dewsbury SF**, 3000 flew S over **Denby Dale** (JMcL), 200 were over **Bretton Lakes** and 113 were at **Blackmoorfoot**. Further passage saw counts of 600 SE on 19th and 460 SE on 20th over **Denby Dale**, 110 S over **Dewsbury SF** on 21st and 300 S at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th with another 82 S on 27th. Elsewhere in the month, 20 went E over **Lindley Moor Rd** on 23rd, 50 were at **Shelley Whins** on 26th and 20 were at **Deer Hill** on 29th.

Somewhat expected, there were far fewer birds in November. It was noted at **Blackmoorfoot** on only eight dates with 200+ on 1st by far the highest count. The only other significant counts was 80 at **Ringstone Edge** also on 1st with 30 + here on 8th, 25 at **Scout Dike** on 5th and 552 passing SW at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th.

In December, with the exception of 290 at **Deanhouse** on the 11th, numbers never exceeded double figures, with high counts at **Blackmoorfoot** being 40 on 9th and 33 on 23rd, a max. of 30 at **Honley Moor** on 14th and up to 50 in the **Shepley** area all month.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

Reports were received from 37 sites – a very similar situation to 2004.

Twenty birds in Holly at **Old Lindley** on 27th Feb was the only double figure early year count. Fighting between territorial birds was observed at **Colnebridge SP** in Jan and at **Blacker Beck** and **New Hall Wood** in March.

At least 18 singing males were recorded, including 12 in the **Marsden** area, but proof of breeding was obtained from only two sites. A pair was observed attending a nest with young in a building at **Colnebridge SP** in late May and early June, and an adult and three flying young were at **Fenay Beck** on 4th May. Nesting was also reported from **Emley TX** and **Ossett** but no details of outcomes were received. Pairs were also located at **Deanhouse**, **Netherthong**, **Oldfield** and Upper **Oldfield**. A very aggressive bird was observed defending a feeder at **Meal Hill** in early May, but no young were seen.

Post-breeding counts were well down on 2004. It was a particularly poor year at **Dewsbury SF** with just 7 on 21st Sept., ten were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17th July, 29 at **Shepley** on 4th Aug, 45 at **Shelley** on 5th Aug, 20 at **Ainley Top** on 15th Sept and **Blackmoorfoot** recorded 13 on 16th Aug and 10 on 4th Oct.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs.



A typical showing with reports from only three sites, including the earliest ever recorded in the club area.

A very early individual was at **Elland GPs** on 10th April (HBC). More expected was one reeling at **Horbury Strands** on 8th June (PB) and two reeling at **Scout Dike Res.** on 3rd and 10th July, with a single reeling on 17th and 24th (RJB), giving excellent views.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Recorded from eight sites with birds present between 29th April and 17th Sept. Again, breeding was only confirmed from one site, although at least 10 singing males were noted in the area.

Elland GPs – singles on 29th April (HBC) and 3rd May.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 7th May and 3rd June.

Colnebridge SP – a singing male on 8th May, two singing males on 13th and one male on 2nd July. One was observed feeding young on 30th June, although there was a strong suspicion that two pairs bred.

Scout Dike Res – one on 8th May and single migrants on 29th Aug and 17th Sept (RJB), the latter seen with a tit flock in Maze Brook.

Gunthwaite Dam – a singing male was present on 14th May.

Horbury – three singing males on 10th and 13th May, with six singing males thought to be present on 15th.

Ravensthorpe GPs – a singing male on 17th July.

Ringstone Edge Res – a migrant on 20th Aug.

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

A much better year than usual with records from five sites and one confirmed case of breeding plus indication of another.

The first turned up on 21st May, with two at **Colnebridge SP** (DS) and one, remarkably, in a garden at **Almondbury** (AK). Back at **Colnebridge**, one was observed feeding young on 30th June, with food carrying also noted on 11th July and 21st Aug and a juv. seen on 24th July. A singing male was found in a small phragmites bed at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 29th May. A singing male was present at **Dewsbury SF** on 26th June and at **Elland GPs** up to four birds were present also on this date, with two seen carrying food.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

This species has been doing remarkably well in the area in recent years. Ninety plus singing males is slightly down on 2004 but still indicates a healthy population.

In the early months, wintering birds were reported from just two sites: on 9th Jan males were in a **Fixby** garden (DT) and at **Birkby** (DHP), where a male was seen on 19th Nov 2004.

The first presumed spring migrants were at **Elland GPs** on 19th and 20th March (HBC), **Blacker Beck** on 26th March and a **Meltham** garden on 31st. In April, after singles at **Windy Bank Wood**, **Holmfirth** and **Penistone** on 3rd and a singing male at **Taylor Hill** from 14th, the main arrival took place around 17th. Singles were at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 10th, in the **Longwood Valley** on 11th, at **Golcar** on 12th, **Springwood** on 15th, **Shelley** on 16th, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Marsden** and **Horbury** on 17th and **Dewsbury SF** on 21st.

There were some impressive numbers of singing males recorded in the area, including 19 at **Bretton Lakes** on 26th April, 13 in the **Marsden** area in late May and 9 at **Elland GPs** during late May and early June. Most other sites held one to three birds. Despite the number of singing males, breeding was only proven at two sites with food carrying observed at **Elland GPs** on 27th May and **Blacker Wood** on 7th June. Breeding was also reported from **Shelley** but no details are available.

During August and September, birds were only reported from eight sites: **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had single birds on seven dates with the last on 13th Sept; singles were at **Bretton Lakes** on 4th Aug and at **Scout Dike** on 6th, 7th, 29th Aug and 3rd Sept; a **Shelley** garden recorded one from 7th to 21st Aug; five juvs. were at **Elland GPs** on 14th Aug; a female

was at **Colnebridge SP** from 12th Aug to 5th Sept; one was at Clough Lee, **Marsden** on 28th Aug and two were at **Horbury Wyke** on 4th Sept.

The only October reports were two at **Scammonden Res.** on 11th and a single at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 14th. Particularly noteworthy was the number of records from gardens at the year end: a female was in a **Meltham** garden on 20th Nov; a male was seen in a **Lumb Lane** garden and a female was at **Bretton Lakes** on 23rd Nov; a male took up residence in a **Fixby** garden from 26th Nov to 30th Dec when it was joined by another male; a **Taylor Hill** garden had a male on 8th December and a female on 22nd and 26th; a male was in a **Golcar** garden on 18th Dec and two were in gardens at **Almondbury** in Dec, with a female sadly falling victim to a cat.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

This species appears to be suffering a serious decline in the area. This year saw a further reduction in both the number of sites recording birds – down to 18, and the number of singing males, which had fallen to just 30.

The first to return was a single at **Elland GPs** on the early date of 21st April (HBC). A further three birds were here on 29th, with a singing male at **Bretton Lakes** on 26th increasing to 4 singing males on 29th. Singles were then at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 2nd May followed by singing males at **Colnebridge SP** on 3rd, and **Fenay Bridge** on 4th and **Meal Hill** on 9th.

A maximum of 8 singing males were at **Elland GPs** on 5th May, with up to 6 singing here for the remainder of the month. In May, one to three singing males were recorded at **Blacker Wood, Bradley Park GC, Carr Wood, Denby Delf, Healey House, Horbury Wyke, Jenkinson Wood, Lower Hopton, Marsden, Meltham Hall, Royd Moor Res. and Scout Dike Res.**

The only confirmed breeding came from **Elland GPs** where a pair was feeding young on 10th June. Five juvs. were then noted here on 14th Aug with the last bird of the year here on 28th Aug (HBC).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

A slight improvement on 2004 with birds reported from eight sites, with confirmed breeding at one.

Shelley Whins – passage birds were present on 27th April and 2nd May (SRG).

Millbank Thornhill – a singing male on 2nd May.

Horbury – a singing male on 10th and 15th May with another singing male on 22nd. A pair was observed carrying nesting material on 25th May and feeding young on 9th June (BA, PDB, JRS).

High Hoyland – one singing male on 15th May (PB).

Black Brook – a singing male on 20th May (HBC).

Flockton – a male was on territory throughout the summer (SRG), but there was no indication of breeding.

Upper Denby – one on 8th June (TM).

Scout Dike Res – singles on 20th and 24th July, 6th, 14th, 27th and 29th Aug, with two on 31st July and 16th Aug (RJB, JMcl)

(COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

It was a similar situation to 2004 with records received from 23 sites and at least 50 singing males located. Present in the area between 10th April and 1st Sept.

The first arrival was one at **Thornhill Edge** on the early date of 10th April (JRS). The next did not arrive until 23rd April when one was at **Bretton Lakes**. Singles followed at **Horbury SF** on 23rd, **Bradley Hall Farm** on 24th, **Dewsbury SF** on 25th and three singing males were at **Denby Hall Farm** on 29th.

Counts of singing males included 12 at **Ravensthorpe GPs** and 6 at **Elland Gps** on 29th May, 6 at **Dewsbury SF** on 6th May and 4 at **Horbury Strands** on 15th May, whilst 'many' birds were at **Horbury Wyke** on 2nd May. One to three singing males were located at **Birds Edge**, **Bullcliffe Colliery**, **Crosland Hill**, **Dalton**, **Dalton Bank**, **Dogley NR**, **Edge Moor**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Kirkheaton**, **Lower Hopton**, **Merrydale Clough**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Shelley** and **Waterloo**.

The only evidence of breeding obtained was a report of juveniles seen at **Colnebridge SP** in early Aug. However, a count of 25 birds at **Dewsbury SF** must have included locally reared juvs. Interestingly, a singing male near **Blackmoorfoot** built several 'cock' nests. Apart from one at **Elland GPs** on 14th Aug the only other post-breeding record was of 4 at **Dewsbury SF** on 1st Sept (JH).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Vagrant.

One was found at **Scammonden Res.** among roving tits and Goldcrests in the morning of 11th Oct (JB). Accepted by the YNU, this was only the third record of this Siberian waif in the club area.

Previous records were at Bretton Park on 2nd Nov 1980 and at Shaw Wood, Outlane on 27th Sept 1985.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs.

This species remains in a precarious position in the club area. The only record was a singing male at **Jenkinson Wood** on 21st and 22nd May (BA, AK, DM).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

The only records from the first winter period were singles at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 3rd Feb (CH) and in a **Lockwood** garden from 19th to 26th Feb and on 12th March (S & HC).

What were probably the first spring migrants appeared at **Scout Dike Res.** and **Royd Moor Res.** on 19th March. These were followed by one at **Bradley Hall Farm**, two at **Marsden** and two at **Elland GPs** the next day. Birds were then recorded from a 14 further sites before the month end: singles were at **Harden** on 22nd, **Shelley Whins**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Mellor Wood** and **Gunthwaite** (3) on 23rd, **Royd House Wood** on 24th and **Horbury Wyke**, **Healey House**, and **Windybank Res.** on 25th, when nine were counted at **Bretton Lakes**. Singles were at **Cowcliffe Hill**, **Golcar** and **Farnley** on 28th and **Stockmoor** on 31st.

In the breeding season a total of 37 sites held a minimum of 110 singing males, which represents a significant reduction compared to 2003 and 2004. However, it is thought the species was under-recorded. Maximum counts were 20 at **Bretton Lakes** on 26th April, 6 at **Elland GPs** on 3rd April, at least 6 in the **Jackson Bridge/New Mill** area and at least 5 at **Thornhill Millbank** on 3rd April. Breeding was only reported from **Shelley**, although no details were forthcoming.

In the autumn birds were reported from far fewer sites. This species has the propensity to sing during Aug and Sept, and such birds were at **Blackmoorfoot** on seven dates in Aug and four in Sept, three were at **Scout Dike** from 3rd to 6th Sept and singles at **Horbury Wyke** on 4th Sept, **Crosland Hill GC** on 24th Sept and **Marsh** on 27th Sept. Other records were six on 25th Aug and a single on 5th Sept at **Colnebridge SP**, singles at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 10th Sept, **Tunnel End** on 25th Sept, **Lindley Moor** on 30th Sept and up to three were at **Marsden** from 29th Sept to 5th Oct.

Birds lingering into October were at **Harden** on 5th, **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th, **Marsden** on 9th, **Dewsbury SF** from 9th to 10th, **Scammonden Res.** on 11th, and the last two were at **Scout Dike** on 16th (RJB). There were no reports from the second winter period.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

The first arrivals were slightly earlier than in 2004 with birds appearing during the last days of March – one at **Tunnel End Res.** on 28th (JMP) being the first, followed by singles at **Elland GPs** on 29th and **Scout Dike Res.** on 30th. During the first week of April singles were at **Blacker Beck** and **New Mill** on 2nd, **Bank House Wood**, **Broadstones Lodge**, **Colnebridge**, **Penistone** and **Royd Moor Res.** (2) on 3rd, two were at **Birchcliffe** and one was at **Fenay Bridge** on 4th, followed by singles at **Ingbirchworth** on 5th and **Windybank**, **Meal Hill** and **Snowgate Head** on 7th.

The main arrival took place around mid-month and maximum counts received during April and May included 29 in the **Scout Dike Res.** area on 24th April, 41 in the

Marsden/Hey Green/Netherwood areas in May, 15 at **Elland GPs** on 19th April, 10 at **Bretton Lakes** on 26th April, 6 at **Ingbirchworth** on 25th April and 6 at **Blackmoorfoot** from 18th to 30th April.

A minimum of 185 singing males were recorded in the club area, which represents a 29% decrease compared to 2004 and a 49% decrease to 2003. In spite of this there were no counts during the peak time received from areas which offer much suitable habitat, such as **Royd Moor Res.**, **Langsett Res.**, **Gunthwaite** and the **Little Don Valley**. There also appears to be large tracts of favourable habitat in the extreme SE of the area which receive very little, if any, coverage. Although these localities have not been traditionally well covered it would, therefore, appear that the species is suffering a decline in the club area. One observer (PB) commented that in the NE of the area numbers of the bird have been just exceeded by Chiffchaff and well exceeded by Blackcap.

The only young observed were five at **Scout Dike Res.** on 20th June. It also reportedly bred at **Shelley Whins**, although no detailed were forthcoming, and two pairs were reported breeding at **Colnebridge SP** where distraction display was observed on 7th June.

There were typically far fewer reports during the autumn period. Up to four were present at **Blackmoorfoot** on 12 dates in Sept with the last one on 17th. Other lingering birds in September were two at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 11th, and singles at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17th and in an **Almondbury** garden on 18th. The last record involved a very late bird in a **Fixby** garden on 9th Oct (DT).

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

A very similar situation to last year with records received for 31 sites. The vast majority of reports involved one to three birds, the only exceptions being 10 at **Elland Gps** on 27th March, 10+ at **Scammonden Res.** on 11th Oct, 10+ at **Bretton Lakes** from Oct to Dec and 7 at **Squirell Ditch** on 15th Nov.

Although no details of confirmed breeding were submitted, the species was present during the nesting season at **Shelley Whins**, **Yateholme** and in the **Little Don Valley**, and nest building was observed at **Brown's Knoll Wood** on 3rd April. Singing males were also located at **Dalton** and **Thunderbridge** in late April, **Elland GPs** in May and **Healey House** and **Jenkinson Wood** in June.

One or two were noted occasionally in gardens at **Almondbury**, **Fixby**, **Hagg Wood**, **Lockwood** and **New Mill**.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare visitor.

The only record was one briefly in the observer's garden at **Lindley Moor** on 17th Dec (JED).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

It was another poor year for this species with reports coming from nine sites – the same as in 2004. Although it was present during the breeding season at five of them, there was, worryingly, no confirmed breeding.

Marsden – one on 15th May (SP) was the first of the year, and two were at Hey Green on 12th June.

Harden Moss – one on 18th and 19th May.

Jenkinson Wood – two on 21st May included a singing male, with one in a different area the following day. A pair was noted on 30th and 31st May, being seen by a possible nest hole on the former date.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two were on the south bank from 23rd to 31st May. During June what was probably the same pair built a nest but did not lay eggs and was last seen on 20th June. One bird was observed carrying food on 9th July only, and one, probably a migrant, on 31st Aug.

Bretton Lakes – a singing male was near Cascade Bridge on 23rd May.

Butterley – a singing male was at Ram's Clough on 30th May.

Meal Hill – a single from 12th to 13th Aug.

Wood Nook – a migrant on 28th Aug.

Scout Dike Res – one migrant on 3rd Sept (RJB, MC) was the last of the year.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

Unfortunately no change in fortunes for this species with, once again, reports from just two sites.

A singing male was photographed at **Dovestones** on 11th May (SRC), and a singing male was at **Carr Wood** on 21st and 22nd May (BA et al) – the third consecutive year this site has attracted birds.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Recorded from 44 sites which is a slight increase on last year and it was present during the breeding season at roughly half that number.

The only significant counts in the early months were 14 at **Elland GPs** on 30th Jan, 12 in the **Upper Grimescar Valley** on 8th Feb, 10 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 11th Feb and 30 at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th March.

Nesting details obtained were as follows: In the **Blacker Beck/Horbury Wyke** areas two out of six nests that were found failed, the other 4 were not used; a nest was found at **Ossett** but again was not used; nest building was noted at **Thunderbridge** on 12th March; and birds were observed gathering nest material at **Holmeroyd Wood** on 19th

April and at **Almondbury** on 19th March, when feathers from a Sparrowhawk kill were being taken.

During the breeding season birds were reported from **Bretton Lakes, Deffer Wood, Dogley NR, Elland GPs** (where there were 15 on 3rd May), **Greenhead Park, Healey House, Holmehouse Wood, Ingbirchworth, Lepton Great Wood, Lower Stones Wood, Meal Hill, New Mill, Penny Springs Wood, Royd House Wood** and **Scout Dike Res.**

In the autumn, post-breeding counts which reached double figures were 15 in a **Marsh** garden on 24th July, 18 (including juvs.) at **Holme House Wood** on 2nd July and 27 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18th Sept. Later in the year the only sites to attract birds in such numbers were **Elland GPs**, with 20 on 13th Nov and 16 on 26th Dec, and **Blackmoorfoot** with a max. of 12 on 19th Dec.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This is a very common breeder in our area that is only recorded by a few observers.

The species appears to have enjoyed a particularly successful breeding season this time around, as young were reported from several sites. Young were reared in nest boxes at **New Mill, Golcar, Dalton and Shelley**, while post-breeding flocks that contained juvs. numbered 10 in an **Almondbury** garden, 9+ at **Meal Hill** in the summer and 10+ in a **New Mill** garden. Regular parties of up to 20 – and on one occasion 40 – that moved regularly through the observer's garden at **Lindley Moor** were also testament to this. Post-breeding numbers were also described as 'good' and 'better than 2004' at **Shelley**.

Outside the breeding season the highest counts received were 14 at **Hepworth** on 11th Jan, 20+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 25th March, with 18 on 30th Jan and 28 on 3rd April at **Elland GPs**.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

Again, few observers submit records of a bird which is less common than the previous species but still very numerous and widespread.

Successful breeding was reported from **Colnebridge SP** and from **Lumb Lane, Fixby, New Mill** and **Shelley** (2 pair). A family party of 10 (2 ads. and 8 young) were noted at **Dewsbury SF** on 1st July.

Only **Elland GPs** held birds in any significant number, with 11 on 30th Jan and 6th march and 22 on 3rd April. Eight singing males at **Morton Wood** on 5th April were also noteworthy.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

Recorded from 26 sites; a slight increase on last year. There was very little to report.

Breeding was reported from **Blackmoorfoot**, where fledged young were seen in the south bank wood, and at **Fixby** where ads. and young were seen in the observer's garden on 9th June. Eleven pairs were estimated to be on territory at **Deffer Wood**.

No significant counts were submitted; one to four birds being involved on all dates except 6+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 25th March.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs but decreasing.

This species was recorded from 14 sites, which is one less than 2004. It was present at only two sites during the breeding season, and for the first time in recent years there were no reports of confirmed breeding.

Shelley – one on 11th Jan, 4th May and 4th Oct.

Horbury SF – one on 23rd Jan.

Blacker Beck – calling birds were present on 27th Feb, 13th March (2), 26th March and 2nd April.

Colnebridge SP – a single on 28th Feb.

Dewsbury SF – two on feeders on 13th March.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 17th March, one on 7th Aug and three on 5th Dec.

Elland GPs – singles on 28th March, 30th May, 11th and 30th Dec.

Scout Dike Res – two calling in Maze Brook on 29th March.

Helme – one on 26th Oct.

Denby Delf – a single on 28th Oct.

Royd Moor Res – a single on 13th Nov.

Broadstones Res – one below the dam on 3rd Dec.

Bretton Lakes – two by the old boathouse on 10th Dec.

Shelley Brook – one on 22nd Dec.

(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

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

Reported from 46 sites which is a slight increase on last year, but it appears fewer observers are submitting records. The species seems to be doing very well, though.

The only confirmed breeding records received were from **New Mill**, where young were raised in the observer's garden, and from **Smith Wood** and **Jenkinson Wood** where food carrying was observed on 26th April and 21st May respectively. Elsewhere, pairs were located at **Bankfoot Lane**, **Healey Greave Wood**, **Healey House**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Mellor Wood**, **Sharp Lane** and **Spring Wood** with three pairs at **Woodsome Road**.

Birds were also present during the breeding season at **Almondbury, Blacker Wood, Bretton Lakes, Brown's Knoll Wood, Crimble Clough, Cumberworth and Hagg Wood**. It was also present throughout the year in the **Grimescar Valley**.

Most records involved one to four birds with exceptions of 6+ at **Carr Wood** on 10th Jan, 6 at **Windy Bank Wood** on 24th Jan and up to 12 at the species' stronghold at **Bretton Lakes**.

Records that probably concerned post-breeding dispersal came from **Blackmoorfoot**, with one or two in **Orange Wood** on five dates in Aug, 2nd Oct and by the in-flow on 7th Sept. one or two birds were regular at **Meal Hill** to the year end after the first on 11th Aug.

Birds were regular visitors to gardens at **Fixby, Hagg Wood, Netherthong and New Mill**, and occasionally to ones at **Lumb Lane, Oakes, Penistone and Shelley**.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*
Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

Reported from thirty sites which is consistent with last year. Most sightings occurred from Jan to March with one to three birds involved in the majority of records, exceptions being up to six during the winter months at **Bretton Lakes**.

The only breeding evidence obtained came from **Blackmoorfoot**, where young were fledged in **Orange Wood** in the first week of June. Singing males were located at **Blacker Beck** on 2nd April, **Horbury Wyke** on 13th March and **Jenkinson Wood** on 11th April, with a pair observed courtship feeding here on 26th April. Birds were present during the breeding season at **Grimescar Woods, Blacker Wood and Sharp Lane**.

Individuals occasionally visited members' gardens at **Lockwood, Meal Hill and New Mill**.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*
Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

There were reports from 31 sites with sightings distributed throughout the year. There was a notable increase in records from March and April as birds became more active and wide-ranging and in the autumn as they began to forage for acorns and undertake local or more distant movements.

No details of breeding were received but presumed family parties of 5 frequented a **Penistone** garden in June and July, and one of 6 was at **Meal Hill** on 12th Aug. Birds were seen during the breeding season at **Blackmoorfoot, Elland GPs, Elysium, Holme Styes and Shelley**.

In the early months five at **Elland GPs** on 3rd Jan was the best count, and in April 4 were at **New Mill** on 2nd and 24th, with 10 at **Hall Dike** also on 24th.

Birds became more frequent at several sites in Sept and Oct, including **Blackmoorfoot** where birds were seen daily throughout Sept, Oct and Nov. Movements were also detected at this time with 10 (5+5) S over **Thurlstone** during a v.m.w. on 28th Sept and 4 high over **Shelley** on 9th Oct. Unusually large numbers were noted moving over other sites in Yorkshire during this period.

(COMMON) **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*
Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

Very few records are received for this common and highly successful species.

Breeding was reported from **Shelley Whins** and nest building activities were noted at **Golcar** and **Waterloo** on 8th March. Four pairs were thought to be present in the **Deanhouse/Oldfield** area.

The highest counts submitted were unremarkable, with 15 at **Cromwell Bottom** on 3rd April and 20+ at **Elland GPs**. An interesting incident occurred at **Almondbury** on 9th and 10th Feb when up to 13 were watched fighting with Carrion Crows over a nest site, which the crows won!

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*
Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

A common and widespread species that few observers report.

During the breeding season, birds once again nested in the 18th century cottages at **New Mill**, and six pairs were present in the **Deanhouse/Netherthong** areas.

At **Blackmoorfoot**, counts of birds flying E to roost sites in Feb numbered 540 (270 + 200 + 120) on 10th and 620 (120 + 500) on 28th. Ninety four birds were also down in fields to the W on 20th Aug.

Other records were 350 over **Elland GPs** on 1st Jan, c.150 were thought resident at **Marsden** whilst 120 moved SW over here on 14th and 18th Oct, 150 were present throughout the year at **Thurgory** and 25 flew S over **Dewsbury SF** on 21st Oct.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*
Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs. The commonest species of large passerine.

This year the club undertook a survey of the area's Rookeries, the results of which can be found in the article appended to this report.

Rookeries aside, 250+ were counted at **Penistone** on 24th Jan, 150 were at **Cawthorne** on 5th Sept, 65 circled **Thornhill** on 31st July and 58 moved E over **Dewsbury SF** on 12th Oct. Elsewhere, 40 and 29 were counted at **Oldfield** on 11th and 24th Dec respectively, and 31 (including several young) were at **Meal Hill** on 16th April.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

A highly successful and very common Corvid throughout the area that, once again, is seldom reported.

Breeding pairs were present at Thorpe Lane and Broken Cross in the **Almondbury** area, with three at **Netherthong**, including a pair which attempted to breed in a garden oak tree. In March, nest building was reported at **Bradley, Golcar, Lepton, Rowley Lane** and **Waterloo**.

The only significant counts submitted were for **Cromwell Bottom**, where there were 29 on 3rd April and 26 on 29th May.

A bird with a white rump was noted at **New Mill** on 16th July.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

This huge and impressive Corvid was reported from 22 sites with the majority of records falling in the March and April period.

At one site on 27th March a nest was observed with five newly hatched young (JH).

Dovestones area – two were seen on 11th May (SRG) and at Ravenstones, above Greenfield Res, on 27th Nov four were watched flying closely together in what may have been a stage of display (CDA).

Hayden Bridge/Holme Moss area – at Heyden Bridge one flew NE on 9th March (PB) and singles were here on 13th and from 18th to 20th March (MC). Five were at Holme Moss on 13th March, two on 10th April (MC) and one was at the summit on 13th Sept (JED). At Yateholme there was a single on 16th Feb and this or another mobbed a Goshawk nearby on 19th Feb (DMP), and there were two here on 20th Dec (HQ). Two were at Ramsden Res. on 12th March (MC) and 4 were together over Black Hill on 8th July (PB).

Deer Hill area – a party of 8 on top of Deer Hill on 12th May (KH) were flushed by a runner but returned immediately after he had passed, so were probably on a carcass. A party of four flew high to the SE on an unspecified date (DMP).

Elsewhere, in the **Winscar/Harden** area a single moved W over Harden on 16th April, one went over on 24th April and there was single at nearby Windleden on 15th May (MC), and two were at **Cheesegate Nab** on 4th April (HQ). Also on the uplands one flew S over the observer's house at **Marsden** on 9th Feb (JMP), two flew up the valley at **Wessenden** on 29th March (DMP), five were at **Slaithwaite** on 6th March with one on 27th Oct (DWB) and three were seen from the A6025 at **Dean Head Res.** on 13th March (DT). At **Digley**, two flew W on 13th March and three were in the area on 26th April. In Oct two were at **Buckstones Moss** on 7th (JED), two were at **Brow Grains** on 14th and 18th (TD) and two were seen off by a Peregrine at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 17th (DHP).

At lower altitudes three were over **Hall Dike/Honley Old Wood** on 8th Feb (PB), two headed SW over Margery Wood, **High Hoyland** on 27th April and finally one circled **Bretton Lakes** on 8th Sept (SRG).

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. One of the commonest species.

A very common species, mainly in urban areas but also in rural ones where large feeding flocks occur in late summer, autumn and winter.

In the early months the only counts of any significance were 300 at **Spicer House Lane** on 17th Jan and 100 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 13th Feb.

The only breeding reports received were of three young raised in a **Lindley** garden in May, two young were raised at a house in **New Mill** and 20 juveniles were noted at **Almondbury** in July.

In the latter part of the year the largest flocks were noted in November and undoubtedly contained many continental immigrants: 600 were in fields at **Scout Dike Res.** from 5th to 12th, 300+ were observed going to roost in **Huddersfield Town Centre** on 11th and 1200 were at Orange Wood, **Blackmoorfoot** on 12th. There were also counts of 150+ at **Ingbirchworth** on 11th and 300 at **Broadstones** on 13th. Up to 300 were again in fields at **Scout Dike** in Dec.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Reported from 18 sites, which is a slight increase on 2004. Although numbers have fallen at one site and birds have apparently deserted another, there were reports of an increase in numbers in several other areas. It is still probably under-recorded, however.

Numbers varied throughout the year at different sites. At **Lindley Moor** there were usually up to 10 birds, but these increased to 30 for a few days in Sept. Up to 25 were present during the post-breeding period in a **Shelley** garden, up to 20 were seen daily at a **New Mill** garden, and at **Almondbury** up to 18 were present from Jan to March, 12 during the breeding season and up to 14 at the year end.

A colony of c.50 birds reportedly thrives at the riding stables at **Mill Moor Road**, a 'large colony' also exists at **Denby Hall Farm** and it was reported as 'doing well' in the **Kirkheaton** and **Gawthorpe** areas. There were also 'good numbers' at **Farnley Tyas** on 31st May.

On a negative note several sites in the **Meal Hill** area appear to have been deserted and there has been a downward trend in numbers at **Golcar**.

Successful breeding was reported from **Almondbury**, **Fixby**, **Lindley**, **Netherthong** and **New Mill**. A notable count of 32 at Holly Bank Road, **Lindley** on 3rd July presumably

included juveniles, and there was a notable post-breeding count of 35 at a feeding station at White Rose Avenue, **Dalton** on 14th Sept.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montana*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs.

It is pleasing to report an increase in the number of sites recording this species, with records from 13 localities – slightly up from 2003 and 2004, and unprecedented numbers at one new site. Although no breeding evidence was submitted, birds were present during the nesting season at four sites.

All records are listed:

Jebb Lane – two on 5th Jan, three on 15th May and 4 on 27th June (PB).

Belle Royd Farm – 18 on 9th Jan, 7 on 16th Feb but a max. of only 7 thereafter (RJB). Birds were attracted to feeders later in the year; the chicken run is no longer used.

Stockmoor Common – ‘several’ visited a garden feeder on 9th Feb (SRG).

Shelley – birds were noted in the observer’s garden on 19th Feb (2), 6th March (1), 9th Oct (3) and 16th and 17th Dec (5) (MD, PF). There were also two on 3rd and 8th April and 8th Oct (SRG).

Almondbury – two at Sharpe Lane on 26th Feb (SRG).

Denby Hall Farm – c.100 were counted in an area of game crops on 13th and 27th Feb, c.70 were still present on 8th March reducing to 40 on 13th (BA, MC, DHP, LR). These counts represent the highest numbers in the club area in recent years.

Scout Dike Res – one on 6th March and three over towards Belle Royd Farm on 7th Aug (RJB).

Dewsbury SF – at least three were by the entrance on 5th June (BA, DM).

Bentley Springs – three one at Bentley Grange on 11th May (PB).

Royd Moor Res. – five on 24th July and 4 on 4th Sept at the keeper’s cottage (RJB).

Lepton – birds were reported on a garden feeder on unknown dates (via SRG). In Oct 10 were at Lucy Lane on 13th, two at Thurgory on 27th and 5 at Gawthorpe Lane on 29th with three on 1st Nov (DSi).

Thurstonland – two were by a path between Greenside Road and Smith Wood on an unknown date.

Hall Ings Road – present in Jan, Mar and Nov but no details were given.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Few records were received for this common and widespread finch.

Numbers in the early months were unremarkable, the highest count being just 20 present at **Shelley Whins**.

Singing males were reported from **Almondbury, Jenkinson Wood, Morton Wood, New Mill, Royd Moor Res.** and **Smith Wood**.

In the latter part of the year 69 moved SW on 9th and 17 SW on 11th Oct at **Marsden GC** during a v.m.w., and on the latter date c.100 were grounded here. One hundred moved S

over **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 18th Oct, and the only other significant count was c.30 at **Dick Edge Farm** on 26th Nov.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.



With the exception of a notable influx in April, numbers in the first quarter were generally poor. In the latter part of the year, after the predicted upsurge in records in October, birds became fairly scarce.

In the early months birds were reported from seventeen sites, mostly in single figures although c.100 was present in the **Windybank Wood/Thick Hollins** area on 14th and 24th Jan. The only double figure count was 20 at **Krumlin** on 21st Feb. Sightings increased in March, although numbers were still low. Twelve were at **Dovestones Res.** on 8th, with 60 at **Booth Dam** on 18th and 35 on 20th by far the highest counts of the month.

In April there were some good counts as birds returned to continental breeding areas. Fifty plus were in the **Windybank Wood/Thick Hollins** area from 6th to 15th and an impressive 450 were seen at **Barkisland** on 6th (HBC) – the highest area count since December 2002. In the **Meltham** area birds increased to 70+ on 20th, when up to 30 were seen visiting a bird table and song was also heard.

The first to return was one SW over **Marsden** and two at **Blackmoorfoot** on the typical date of 9th Oct, with birds then noted on a further six dates here, peaking at 14 on 28th. Also in Oct, three were at **Scammonden Res.** on 11th, 6 flew over **Yateholme** on 16th, 10 flew S with Redwings over **Dewsbury SF** and 54 were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 18th and c.30 were in Beeches at Millmoor Road, **Meltham** on 20th. Visible migration watches at **Denby Delf** this month produced 68 SE in 3 flocks on 18th, 7 SE on 19th, 4 W on 20th, 150 SE on 27th (JMcl) and 5 over on 30th.

Birds quickly became scarce thereafter, as the only November records were two on 7th and three on 9th at **Blackmoorfoot**, two over **Scout Dike Res.** on 11th, singles at **Blakeley** on 5th and two at **Bretton Lakes** on 23rd. December sightings were limited to 4 on feeders at **Barkisland** on 4th, a single at **Hall Ings** on 24th and one in a garden at **Netherthong** during the last week of the year.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*
Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

Although this is a common and widespread species, feeding flocks, particularly in autumn have dwindled in recent years, and the likely cause is the lack of stubble fields due to changes in farming practices.

Numbers reported were pretty unexceptional in the early months. At **Almondbury**, where a decline over the last two years can be attributed to the removal of breeding sites, up to 24 were counted in Jan and 15 in March. The only other notable counts were 14 in a **New Mill** garden on 8th Jan and 17 roosting at **Netherthong** on 2nd Feb.

Breeding was only reported from **Shelley Whins**, where a pair raised two or three broods. Eighteen birds at **Almondbury** in May included presumably locally reared juvs. and young were present in 'good numbers' in a **New Mill** garden from 7th May to 30th June. Five young were also noted at **Colnebridge SP** on 23rd June.

After 15 at **New Mill** on 23rd July, numbers increased in autumn. The traditionally good site of **Dewsbury SF** produced birds only at feeders, with a max. of just 12 on 17th Oct. Fifty were feeding on rose hips at the NE corner of **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th Sept and 22 were present at **Almondbury** also in Sept. In Oct, 28 were at **Lindley Moor Road** on 8th, and a v.m.w. at **Denby Delf** accounted for 100+ flying SE between 09.00 and 10.00 hrs. on 18th. At **Ringstone Edge Res.** late year records were 20 on 18th Oct, 25 on 18th Nov and 20 on 20th Dec. The only other late records of any significance were 40 frequenting a garden at **Shelley Whins**, 50 roosting at **Cannon Hall** on 9th Dec and 10 in a **Lockwood** garden on Christmas Day.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Birds were typically scarce in the early months with reports from just five localities: a max. of 5 were at **New Mill** on 9th Jan, 5 were at **Grimescar Valley** on 16th Jan, two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd Jan, 17th and 23rd March, two at **Golcar** on 26th Feb and a good counts of up to 25 in a **Shelley** garden.

Singing males were located at **Healey House, Horbury, Huddersfield** (Sainsbury's car park) **Jenkinson Wood, Royd Moor Res.** and **Smith Wood**. Proof of breeding came from **Shelley** in the form of 'many juveniles' and three young were noted at **Meltham** on 3rd Sept.

Following a flock of 46 feeding on teasels at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th July, post-breeding parties began to form in Aug. **Blackmoorfoot** recorded 20 on 11th and 50+ on 31st, 21 were at **Colnebridge SP** on 4th while 'good numbers' were observed at **Horbury** on 14th. In Sept, 20 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 4th increased to c.80 on 11th but dropped off sharply subsequently, a max. of 45+ were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 12th with 40 at **Deer Hill** on 16th. October brought 121 to **Dewsbury SF** on 12th, 15 at **Scout Dike** on 9th increased to a max. of 70 on 15th before falling to 30 on 22nd, and 13 flew S at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th.

Numbers dropped off dramatically at the year end, the more significant counts being up to 8 at **Blackmoorfoot** regular in Nov and Dec, 15 at **Meal Hill** on 30th Dec, 12 at **Fixby** on 26th Nov, up to 25 again in a **Shelley** garden, and 15 at **Scout Dike** on 16th Nov had fallen to 7 at the year end.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

It was a poor year for this species with flocks being rather small and sparsely distributed, particularly in the autumn.

In the early months, apart from 16 at **Bretton Lakes** on 26th Jan, the only double figure counts received came from **Yatcholme**, where there were 17 on 2nd Feb, c.30 on 15th Feb and 10+ on 6th March.

Birds were present during the breeding season at **Hagg Wood, Thick Hollins, Yatcholme** and in the **Little Don Valley**, where a male was singing on 8th June and a loose flock of 10 were also present. Two juvs. were observed in an **Almondbury** garden on 29th May.

Birds began moving through the area in Sept, with a singleton and 20+ S over **Dalton** on 12th and 28th respectively, and two S over **Dewsbury SF** on 26th. The expected upsurge in records in October mainly involved birds flying over, the only feeding flocks of note were 10 at **Scammonden Res.** on 11th and 10 at **Bretton lakes** on 18th. Visible migration accounted for 25 (17 + 8) S at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th, while **Dewsbury SF** recorded 3, 16 and 4 flying S on 5th, 7th and 10th respectively, whilst SE passage over **Denby Dale** comprised 20 on 17th, a single on 18th and 3 on 19th.

During November, birds were reported from just three sites: c.50 at **Bretton Lakes** on 20th, three at **New Mill** on 5th and a single at **Windy Bank Wood** on 17th. December was the most productive month with 27 at **Yateholme** on 18th, 30 by the canal at **Golcar** on 16th, 20 at **Meal Hill** on 18th and 35 at **Bretton Lakes** on 28th.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs.

Predictably scarce in the early months with double figure counts restricted to just three sites: at **Thurgory Lane** a mere 7 birds on 14th Jan had increased to c.50 on 7th Feb and then c.80 on 17th, 40 were at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 23rd Jan and 30 fed in stubble at **Shepley** from 4th Jan to mid-Feb. Numbers elsewhere were limited to a handful, although 9 were at **Annat Royd Lane** on 24th Jan.

As spring returned an increase in sightings began in late March when 30 were at **Annat Royd Lane** on 29th. In April 6 were at **Broadstones** on 3rd, 6 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 17th, 9 in a **Lockwood** garden on 19th and 4 were at **Swinny Knoll** on 23rd. Further records were 25 at **Upper Oldfield** on 21st and 12 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 25th.

In the breeding season pairs were located at the following sites: **Cupwith** (6), **Jericho Farm**, **Salendine Nook** (2+), **Farnley Tyas**, **Jagger Lane**, **Wood Lane** and **Ringstone Edge Res.** Three or four pairs reportedly bred at **Shelley Whins** but no details were available. Eight birds were also present throughout May at **Snape Res.**

The first post-breeding flocks appeared in July with 50 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17th and 23 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd. Bigger flocks began to form in August, the largest being c.100 feeding on oilseed rape at **Kirkheaton** on 14th and c.100 on wires at **Hoylandswaine** on 30th. Also in Aug 40 were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18th and 19th with c.80 at **Scout Dike**.

During September 55 were at **Upper Oldfield** on 5th, **Blackmoorfoot** recorded 80+ on 7th which had decreased to 25 on 29th, 100+ were at **Scout Dike** on 6th and there was a max. of 35 at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th. In October, apart from c.100 at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th, flock sizes were smaller as birds began to move out of the area. Twenty were at **Ringstone Edge** on 4th, 26 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th, 50 at **Scout Dike** on 14th and 30 at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 16th had dropped to just 9 on 30th.

The only count received for November was 20 at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 13th, and the only site to hold birds in December was **Scout Dike**, where there were an unusually high number of 25 on 17th, with up to 7 remaining to the year end.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs.

This species continues to be very closely monitored in the club area due to its extremely tenuous position as a breeding species in this part of the Pennines. An estimated seven breeding pairs were located, with one successful and three almost certainly successful. Numbers at one site in spring were significantly up on last year, while those in autumn were very similar. All records were restricted to sites in the W of the area.

During the first two months of the year birds were only noted at **Deer Hill**, with up to 8 still present from 2004. On 19th March 20 had appeared here and numbers then increased to 60+ on 27th and an impressive 75 by early April before dropping off significantly by mid-May.

Three birds from the initial flock on 19th March were seen to be colour-ringed: one carried two on its left leg (red and yellow); another carried three (pink on right, black and white on left), and a third carried three (red on right, black and white on left) (DMP). At the time of writing it is not known whether these individuals were the same as those recorded here last year (see Birds in Huddersfield 2004, p. 95 and 96).

Birds were observed at five sites from late-March as birds began to arrive from wintering areas: two were at **Rishworth Moor** on 20th March; one was at **Holme Moss** on 24th March; one at **Cupwith Moor** on 31st March and 7 on 21st April; 4 were at **Ramsden Clough** on 10th April; and fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot** pulled in two on 22nd April and held two from 5th to 8th May.

In the nesting season at **Deer Hill** three pairs almost certainly bred in one area, while a pair fledged young at another. Another nest was predated at the egg stage (DMP). At **Cupwith Moor** three pairs were adjudged to be present in the area on 30th May, with four pairs on 9th July (JHod).

Elsewhere, the **Wessenden Valley** held two on 15th, four on 30th May and a single on 11th July. At **Buckstones** there were three on 29th and 30th May, a single heard on 17th June and 8 were seen on 10th July. Two flew over **Hey Green** on 5th June.

Post-breeding dispersal was first noted in August with a single at **Wessenden** on 1st, with 50+ at Deer Hill the following day. Thirty five were counted at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th, up to 6 from 15th to 19th, 17 on 26th and 48 on 28th dropping to 20 on 31st. In September the **Blackmoorfoot** area again proved what a very important autumn site it is: after 8 on 6th there were 12 from 16th to 18th, 36 on 21st, 43 on 22nd, 30 on 24th, 50 on 25th and 40 on 28th and 29th. Up to 20 were at **Deer Hill** in this period and 'a few' were in with Linnets at **March Haigh** on 25th.

In Oct, birds were still at **Blackmoorfoot**, although numbers were much reduced with 11 counted on 14th and 6 from 15th and 16th – the last record of the year here. Other October reports were 25 feeding by the road side at **Buckstones** on 7th, 10 were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 15th and there were 12 at **Deer Hill** on 29th. The only site to record birds in November was, once again, **Deer Hill** with 18 present from 10 to 13th.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs.

Records were received from 27 sites, although double figure counts were made at just 8 of these, and the majority of sightings occurred in March, Oct and Dec.

Early year records involved a max. of 15 at **Grimescar** on 16th Jan, 30 at **Elland GPs** on 30th Jan, and one or two birds were noted at **Golcar, Marsden and Shelley**.

There was a notable influx in March with 9 at **Langsett** on 7th, 5 at **Dovestones** on 8th, a max. of 11 at **Booth Dam** on 20th and 12+ at **Stoneycliffe Wood** on 27th. One or two were also recorded at **Dewsbury SF** and **Scout Dike Res.** Birds continued to move around in April: singles were reported at **Windybank Wood** on 6th, **Scout Dike** on 3rd, in a **Fixby** garden on 22nd and a party of 42 at **Yatcholme** on 14th was particularly noteworthy.

Reports during May and the breeding season were few: 5 were at **Holme Styes** on 7th May and a single in **Reynard Clough** on 26th June, at least 6 were at **Dovestones** on 11th May plus 3 (inc. a singing male) on 25th July, two at **Windybank Wood** on 27th May and 4 at the car park at **Winscar Res.** on 29th May. Singles probably under going post-breeding dispersal were noted at **Blackmoorfoot** from 5th to 7th July and on 2nd Aug. and one or two were noted at **Crosland Heath** on 4 July dates.

Migration of a southerly heading was observed firstly at **Dewsbury SF** with two over on 20th Sept followed by 5 on 9th Oct, 4 on 10th, a single on 12th and 7 on 18th. South-easterly passage was then observed at **Denby Dale**, with singles over on 17th, 18th, 19th and 4 on 20th. Five birds flew S over the view point at **Royd Moor** on 9th Oct. South-westerly passage over **Marsden GC** in Oct involved 6 on 9th, 12 on 11th, 25+ on 14th and 3 on 18th.

Elsewhere in October, 4 passed S over **Blackmoorfoot** on 14th and one or two were noted on a further three dates, 10+ were at **Scammondens Res.** on 11th, a flock of c.50 fed in birches at **Meltham GC** on 23rd and 6 were at **Colnebridge SP** on 31st.

The only November records concerned two at **Blackmoorfoot** from 7th to 9th and 5 at **Scout Dike** on 19th. Birds were recorded from eight sites in December with a max. of 12+ at **Grimescar** on 21st, 12 and 8 were at **Scout Dike** on 10th and 26th respectively and 4 were at **Elland GPs** on 9th and **Colnebridge SP** on 27th. One to three was also noted on odd dates at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Bradley**, **Fixby** and **Golcar**.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

There were reports from six sites, all sightings occurring from July onwards.

Bretton Lakes – a party of 12 flew over to the W on 18th July and 10 were in trees by the Lower Lake on 28th July (PB).

Windybank Wood – four on 21st July (M&SW).

Scout Dike Res – one was heard calling over the conifer wood on 1st Sept (RJB).

Langsett Res – two flew over the north bank calling on 23rd Oct (RJB) and 6 (4 males) were in woodland to the NW of the res. on 4th Dec (RJB, MC, TM).

Thurstonland – nine (mainly red males) were in pines in a large garden just to the S on 12th Dec (SP).

Yatcholme – c.20 were in conifers in the S side of Riding Wood Res. on 17th Dec (HQ) and one was calling in the same area the next day (BA).

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

A well reported species with records submitted from some 40 sites. The vast majority of sightings involved one to six birds, although there were double figure counts from two sites this year. The species seemed to have enjoyed a particularly good breeding season, too.

In the early months there was an exceptional count of 20, including a bird which sounded like and displayed characters of the 'Northern race' *P p pyrrhula*, at **Dunford Cycle Track** on 3rd Jan (TM). Elsewhere, 7 were at **Bretton Lakes** on 16th Jan, 8 were at **Lower Stones Wood** on 30th Jan with 7 at **Elland GPs** on 24th March.

Breeding success was observed at five sites; at **Blackmoorfoot** a pair fledged 5 young at the east bank; a male and two juvs. were present in a **Lockwood** garden on 26th May; a pair were seen with recently fledged young at **Dogley NR** on 30th May; a pair were noted with two juvs in the observer's garden at **Fixby** on 15th June; and a pair and 4 young were at **Thick Hollins** on 23rd July. One bird was observed carrying nesting material at **Elland GPs** on 29th May. Juveniles were also recorded from gardens at **Penistone** on 28th July (single) and **Shelley** on 26th Aug and 9th Sept (2 and 4 respectively). Birds were present during the breeding season at **Bretton Lakes**, **Cannon Hall**, **Carr Wood**, **Grimescar Valley** (2 pairs) and **Shelley**.

In the latter part of the year one bird among an unspecified number at **Denby Delf** on 14th showed characters of one of the northern or eastern races (TM), with 9+ counted here on 16th Nov. The other high counts were a max. of 8 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 18th Nov, 7 at **Fixby** on 11th Dec and 12 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 5th and 17th Dec, with 7 still present on 26th Dec.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare to scarce visitor. Former breeder.

Bretton Lakes offers the best chance of connecting with this shy species. The other two reports, both excellent October sightings, are the first away from here since 2002.

Bretton Lakes – two were at the N side of the Upper Lake on 14th Jan (PB) and at least two birds were seen near the inlet of the Lower Lake on 4th, 7th and 12th Feb (SRC, JW, GP).

Dewsbury SF – on 18th Oct two dropped down from a flock of Redwings and circled for 2 mins. before flying S (JH).

Lindley – one flew NW at 08.45 hrs. on 27th Oct (JED).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs.

Recorded from 30+ sites with at least 30 singing males located, which, although slightly up on last year, is still low. On a more positive note, several good winter flocks were attracted to stubble fields.

In January, 20 were at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 23rd, 50 fed in stubble at **Shepley** on 26th and 'large numbers' were present at **Farnley Tyas** on 30th. At **Royd Moor Res.** in Feb, 46 on 5th had increased to c.60 on 16th but numbers tailed off shortly afterwards. Also noteworthy were 13 at **Ingbirchworth** on 13th Jan, 10+ at **Thurstonland** on 17th Feb, 20+ at **Castle Hill** on 6th March and 8 at **Denby Hall Farm** on 8th March. Ten at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 10th April shared the same bush.

Birds were present at 17 sites during the breeding season, the max. number of singing males at a site were three each at **Bradley Hall Farm, Horbury** and **Ravensthorpe GPs**. One to two were on territory at remaining sites.

Flocks began to form in Oct with 30 at **Upper Denby** on 16th, 50 down in stubble at **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th dropping to 26 on 16th, and 10 were at **Gawthorpe Lane** on 16th. The only count received for November was 14 at Belle Royd Farm, **Royd Moor** on 23rd Nov. In December, a set-aside field at **Kirkheaton** produced 70 on 22nd which increased to 90 on 24th before falling to 60 on 29th. Also in Dec, 40 were at **Thurgory** on 24th, 40 were in the vicinity of **Shepley** from 7th to the year end and 20 fed in stubble at **Upper Dearne Wood** on 20th.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.



Records were received from 29 sites, and at least 49 singing males were reported, which is markedly lower than 2004. This species favours sites in the Calder Valley, with the Ingbirchworth group of waters and upland areas to the W also harbouring populations.

Evidence of breeding came in the form of three fledged young being fed at **Dewsbury SF** on 1st July. Young were seen at **Deer Hill**, although no details were forthcoming, and a pair nested at Edge Moor, **Blackmoorfoot**, but the outcome was unknown.

Counts of singing males included 8 in the **Horbury** area, 4 at **Elland GPs** and three at **Scout Dike Res.** and **Wessenden Res.** One or two males were also reported from another 18 sites. In the **Deer Hill** area the species was described as 'doing well' with 'many singing males present'.

Outside the breeding season the vast majority of records involved one to three birds, although 8 were counted at **Dewsbury SF** on 23rd March, 6 were **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 13th Oct and at **Elland GPs** on 30th Dec, and there was an isolated and particularly high count of 20 at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 23rd Jan (DHP).

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys*

A male was at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd and 3rd April and at **Royd Moor Res.** from 11th to 13th Sept and 9th Oct (RJB).

FIRST AND LAST DATES OF SUMMER & WINTER MIGRANTS 2005

SUMMER	FIRST	LOCALITY	LAST	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	18/3	Dewsbury SF	15/9	Dewsbury SF
Common Sandpiper	10/4	Butterley Res.	12/10	Dewsbury SF
Common Tern	27/4	Dewsbury SF	18/10	Blackmoorfoot Res.
Cuckoo	23/4	Harden	22/7	Deer Hill
Swift	22/4	Holme	21/9	Honley
Sand Martin	7/3	Colnebridge SP	24/9	Blackmoorfoot Res.
Swallow	17/3	Honley	15/10	Meltham
House Martin	20/3	Scout Dike Res.	9/10	Millbank
Tree Pipit	16/4	Scout Dike	2/9	Ringstone Edge Res.
Yellow Wagtail	17/4	Dewsbury SF	9/10	Dewsbury SF
Common Redstart	25/4	Holme Styes	3/9	Scout Dike
Whinchat	27/4	Millmoor Rd	2/10	Blackmoorfoot Res.
Northern Wheatear	19/3	Various sites	29/10	Deer Hill
Ring Ouzel	20/3	Digley Res.	3/11	Shepley
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	Elland GPs	24/7	Scout Dike
Sedge Warbler	29/4	Elland GPs	17/9	Scout Dike
Reed Warbler	21/5	Almondbury Colnebridge SP	21/8	Colnebridge SP
Lesser Whitethroat	27/4	Shelley	16/8	Scout Dike
Common Whitethroat	10/4	Thornhill Millbank	1/9	Dewsbury SF
Garden Warbler	21/4	Elland GPs	28/8	Elland Gps
Blackcap	19/3	Elland GPs	14/10	Ringstone Edge
Wood Warbler	21/5	Jenkinson Wood		No autumn records
Chiffchaff	19/3	Royd Moor Res. Scout Dike	16/10	Scout Dike
Willow Warbler	28/3	Tunnel End Res.	9/10	Fixby
Spotted Flycatcher	15/5	Marsden	3/9	Scout Dike
Pied Flycatcher	11/5	Carr Wood		No autumn records

WINTER	LAST	LOCALITY	FIRST	LOCALITY
Pink-footed Goose	22/3	Dewsbury SF	16/9	Almondbury Ringstone Edge
Goldeneye	17/5	Scout Dike	15/9	Ingbirchworth Res.
Waxwing	24/4	Brockholes		Very few late year records
Fieldfare	23/4	Scout Dike	30/9	Kirkheaton
Redwing	30/4	Hagg Wood	3/10	Blackmoorfoot Res.
Brambling	20/4	Meltham	9/10	Blackmoorfoot Res. Marsden

Denotes earliest ever record.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

(with apologies for any omissions)

C. D. Abell	M. Dunford	G. D. Pearson
B. Armitage	D. Freeman	D. H. Pennington
M. J. Armitage	P. Foster	T. Piggott
D. Bailey	S. Frost	J. M. Pinder
D. Barrans	J. Garbutt	D. M. Pogson
J. Beaumont	S. R. Graham	S. Pogson
P. D. Bell	S. Gray	D. Proctor
R. J. Boland	J. Hamilton (JH)	H. Quarterman
P. N. Bradbury	W. D. Harris	M. & W. Rayner
P. Bray	the late P. Harrison	M. Robinson
D. W. Brierley	D. P. Hodson	M. Saxelby
D. Butterfield	J. Hodson (J Hod)	G. B. Silver
N. Carter	R. M. Hodson	P. Smith
S. & H. Chippendale	R. D. & S. E. Holloway	J. R. Smithson
C. Clarke	C. Home	D. Sykes
K. Clarkson	K. Horne	D. Tattersley
S. Coghlan	N. Hurt	R. Taylor
F. Cole	D. S. & V. A. Ives	C. C. Thomas
S. & M. Collinson	A. King	J. Thorpe
S. R. Cook	S. Knell	M. J. Wainman
J. R. Cookson	J. Laycock	the late A. J. Wainscoat
J. C. Crebbin	J. McLoughlin	P. Wainscoat
M. Cunningham	the late D. Manchester	J. Walker
J. E. Dale	T. Melling	M. & S. Walker
J. M. Dale	D. Moran	L. Walton
A. Dean	J. M. Newman	M. & L. Watts
A. Deerman	D. M. Owen	M. Whitwam
M. L. Denton	J. K. Palliser	K. Wright
T. Duckworth	N. E. Parker	

Organisations:

Barnsley Bird Study Group

Birdguides

Bird Line NorthEast (BLNE)

Greater Manchester Ornithological Society (GMOS)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

In Focus, Denby Dale

RSPB Denby Dale Office

CENSUS OF ROOKERIES IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA 2005

The most recent survey of Rooks *Corvus frugilegus* in the Club area indicated that rookeries are well distributed in the north and east (Armitage et al, 2000). Although this work plots the species' distribution, it was not intended to produce a figure of the number of nests or rookeries in the area. In an effort to address this problem, and obtain baseline information on the number of nests and rookeries, observers were asked to count the number of nests in the rookeries of their choice.

METHODS

The aim of the survey was to obtain an accurate figure of the nests in each rookery. So as to obtain the maximum count, observers were asked to carry out the survey just before leaf-burst in mid- to late April. Observers were also asked to report negative results for rookeries that were no longer extant, and also any newly formed (previously unknown) rookeries that they located. A rookery was defined as any active Rook nest or group of nests separated by 100 metres or more from the next nearest nest or group (Sage & Vernon, 1978). This consistent definition allows the position and sizes of rookeries to be compared between years.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Complete surveys of rookeries in the Club area (the 10 km squares SE00, SE01, SE10, SE11, SE20 and SE21) were undertaken in 1945, 1973, 1975 and 1983. Data from these surveys, with the exception of that from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) national census in 1975, are, unfortunately, no longer available. Even though results from the 1983 survey were published (Laidlaw, 1984), the paper contains a number of numerical inconsistencies which make the data unworkable. Unfortunately, the data cannot be revisited as it was never computerised and was probably transported to South America when the organiser, Howard Laidlaw, emigrated.

RESULTS

As stated above, the only data available for comparison with the present survey is that obtained during the BTO national census of 1975. It is now known that during this survey a small amount of duplication in the Club area came about due to rookeries being designated different names by different observers. Allowing for these duplications, the figures can be corrected to 4,143 nests in 75 rookeries. During the present survey, a total of 2,450 nests were located in 106 rookeries. Table 1 shows the number of rookeries and nests in each 10 km square during both these surveys.

10 km square	Number of rookeries		Number of nests	
	1975	2005	1975	2005
SE00	0	0	0	0
SE01	21	27	975	504
SE10	9	18	340	221
SE11	14	18	1,257	527
SE20	17	22	837	734
SE21	14	21	734	464
	75	106	4,143	2,450

Table 1. The total number of rookeries and nests reported in each 10 km square during 1975 and 2005.

From these figures, it can be calculated that over this 30 year period there had been a decrease of 40.9% in the total number of nests but the number of rookeries had increased by 41.3%. This has obviously led to a large reduction in the average size of rookeries (Table 2), a feature that first became apparent in the late 1950s (Sage & Vernon, 1978). This fragmentation can best be seen by comparing the number of rookeries within selected range sizes (Table 3). The two largest rookeries in the Club area during 2005 were at Scissett (Church/Busker Lane) which held 100 nests and Shepley with 94.

Year	Number of rookeries	Number of nests	Average rookery size
1975	75	4,143	55.2
2005	106	2,450	23.1

Table 2. The average rookery size during 1975 and 2005.

Rookery size (nests)	1975	2005
1 - 25	34	73
26 - 50	13	23
51 - 75	11	8
76 - 100	4	2
101 - 200	10	0
201 - 257	3	0
	75	106

Table 3. The number of rookeries in selected ranges during 1975 and 2005.

From the 75 rookeries located in 1975, only 48 (64%) were extant in 2005. A comparison of nests present during these years reveals that over time there has been a decrease of 56.4%. Of these 48, only 8 (16.6%) had shown an increase; these, along with the percentage increase, are indicated in Table 4.

Rookery	Nests in 1975	Nests in 2005	% increase
Norton Mills	15	44	193
Krumlin	15	33	120
Tanyard Beck	16	35	119
Hill Top, Slaithwaite	28	51	82
New Mill (village)	11	18	64
Cawthorne (Tivy Dale)	33	47	42
Thurgoland (Rookery Way)	43	57	33
Barkisland Mill	15	16	7

Table 4. The eight rookeries which had increased during the 30 year period.

The other 40 rookeries, with the exception of that at Oxspring (Roughbitchworth Lane) which had remained constant at 50 nests, had shown decreases. Some of these had decreased by more than 60% and Table 5 shows those with the largest decrease.

Rookery	Nests in 1975	Nests in 2005	% decrease
Kirkburton (Church)	29	1	96
Scissett (baths)	154	10	93
Longwood	24	2	92
Heathfield	69	8	88
Honley (Station Road)	222	64	71
Berry Brow (flats)	211	62	70
Old Lindley	129	41	68

Table 5. Rookeries which had decreased the most during the 30 year period.

In total, 38 rookeries were first reported in 2005, but only 10 (26.3%) held 20 or more nests, and only four of these exceeded 35 nests. The largest, which contained 69 nests, was at St. Saviours Church, Thurlstone. Unfortunately, due to a lack of previous records, it is unknown when these rookeries first became established.

Of the 27 rookeries which became extinct during the 30 year period, five (18.5%) originally held 39 or more nests (39, 51, 70, 75 and 162), the others were smaller, having between 5 and 22.

DISCUSSION

A national census carried out by the BTO in 1996, although using a different methodology to the Club survey, indicated an increase of 40% between 1975 and 1996 (Marchant & Gregory, 1999). Although the reasons for this increase were unknown, it was speculated that in some areas this may have been caused by additional foraging opportunities provided by outdoor piggeries and landfill sites, increased roadside carrion, and higher stocking rates of grassland. As was to be expected with a national survey, results from different regions were not uniform and fluctuated widely. In two nearby areas, Doncaster and Greater Manchester, the corresponding figures were +19% and -33% respectively.

The decrease in the local breeding population of 40.9% over 30 years cannot easily be explained and several causal factors may have contributed. The 33% decrease in Rooks in Greater Manchester (adjacent to that of the Club) was attributed to urbanization, with land taken for housing reducing the area available for feeding (Smith, 1997). It is perhaps unlikely that this is the major causal factor in the Club area, but at some rookeries i.e. in Morley, trees have been removed from the three localities which held rookeries. It is also possible that the removal of a number of nesting trees to build flats at Berry Brow may have eventually caused fragmentation. Although the flats were constructed prior to the survey in 1975 (about 1970), the rookery was then more extensive and the two rookeries which now exist (Berry Brow flats and Armitage Bridge Church) were contiguous. Over time the flats appear to have created a natural divide and, by definition, created two rookeries. Even if the 2005 figures for these rookeries are added together, however, there were only 106 nests compared to 211 in 1975.

Persecution by farmers and gamekeepers, which is frequent and widespread in the British Isles, has not been reported locally. Laidlaw (1984), however, makes reference to this occurring at one rookery in the area, but no record of the location exists on the Club record cards.

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Thanks to the above named people, the Club can now be proud that the number of Rook nests, along with the number of rookeries and their location, is no longer an unknown quantity.

Brian Armitage and Donald Sykes are to be thanked for making available counts of rookeries they had accumulated over the years and also for passing constructive comments on an earlier draft of this paper. All information from this survey, along with that from 1975 and any counts in the interim, is housed on computer with Brian Armitage, Michael Wainman and the author.

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M.L. Denton

WHITE TAILED EAGLE (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) - A NEW SPECIES FOR THE BARNSELY AND HUDDERSFIELD AREAS

The following account was written by Wakefield birders Jonathan Holliday and Robert Brown, who saw the White-tailed Eagle at Langsett Reservoir, an area covered by both Barnsley and Huddersfield clubs. This account was previously in Yorkshire Birding Volume 14 No.1 pp 5-6 and is reproduced here by kind permission of Yorkshire Birding and the authors.

Sunday 27th February 2005 had been rather birdless as along with Paul Herrieven we worked several sites in South Yorkshire including Old Moor, the highlights of which were two Long-eared Owls and a Waxwing there. News of a Bald Eagle in North Yorkshire caused a brief moment of interest before it was found to be sporting jesses and occupying the hard shoulder of the A1! The re-appearance of the White-tailed Eagle in neighbouring Lincolnshire was met with rather more interest so we made plans to leave but news came through that it had disappeared again. Nobody even noted the westerly direction indicated on the pager.

After lunch we decided to head west to Langsett to maybe catch up with a raptor or possibly some Crossbills. We arrived at 1pm and walked steadily down through the woods to the stream feeding the southern edge of the reservoir where we decided to wait a while. Things were very quiet and thoughts of a pint and the football on telly might be a better option than continuing our efforts. All this changed dramatically at 2.05pm as JHo noted an obviously very large bird drifting in over the pines on the east side of the stream. The others quickly got onto the bird which with binoculars was clearly an eagle! It continued in a straight glide across the reservoir and out of sight behind the trees to the west. We were pretty sure the bird was probably a White-tailed Eagle and panic set in as we raced up the path to try and get back on the bird. Thankfully it re-appeared almost immediately and this time we were able to 'scope the bird as it circled several times, soaring above the moor before heading off rather purposefully west along the valley and out of sight.

With better views the bird was clearly an immature White-tailed Eagle, presumably the bird JHo had travelled to Norfolk to see just a few weeks earlier. Its huge size, broad winged, rather short tailed appearance and distinctive arched wing shape were all apparent and even the heavy looking beak and head and the rather mottled underparts were visible with the 'scope, along with a faint paler bar seeming to be formed by the underwing coverts. We did not notice any real hint of a paler area to the 'armpit', a feature often noted for the species at this age but something JHo had not noticed on seeing the bird in Norfolk.

As the bird drifted out of sight we headed uphill to try and gain a vantage point whilst breathlessly phoning out the news, but despite much searching and effort by ourselves and others there were no further sightings. This record really does show that for all the planning and science you can apply to birding, luck still plays its part and long may it continue!

Jonathan Holliday & Robert Brown (Wakefield)

The following species account is taken from Barnsley Area Bird Report 2005 page 31 and is reproduced by kind permission of Barnsley Bird Study Group:

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

Vagrant.

A juvenile bird flew west over **Langsett Reservoir** on 27th February (JHo, RB). It was first seen at 14.05 from the southern arm of the reservoir from Thickwoods Brook as it drifted west over Thickwoods then continued gliding west over the reservoir. It then circled several times, soaring above Hingcliff Hill before finally heading west over the Little Don Valley.

This wandering individual was previously seen in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Shropshire and Derbyshire in January. It was also seen in Lincolnshire in February and on the 27th, the same date as the sighting at Langsett it was seen over Kirkby-on-Bain GP, south of Horncastle, c.100km ESE. In March it was seen over Potteric Carr, South Yorkshire and again in Lincolnshire.

CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES IN THE CLASSIFIED LIST
 (Use O.S. Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Ainley Top	116193	Brown's Edge	195058
Almondbury	170155	Buckstones	010140
Annat Royd Lane	211053	Bullcliff Farm	290156
Appleyards, Golcar	101152	Bullcliff Wood	292152
Armitage Bridge	130135	Bunny Wood, Golcar	095173
Ashway Gap	023043	Butterley Res.	050103
Aspley	151163	Butternab Wood	122138
Baitings Res.	006188	Cannon Hall	275085
Bank Wood, Emley	263138	Carlecotes	178034
Banks Hall	282066	Carr Wood	180133
Bare Bones Road	144043	Cartworth Moor	138060
Bargate	096147	Castle Dam, Penistone	255022
Barkisland	055197	Castle Hill	152141
Bartin	091072	Cawthorne	285080
Beaumont Park	130147	Cawthorne Dike	295089
Belle Royd Farm	228048	Cheesegate Nab	175065
Berry Brow	141138	Chew Hills	023030
Big Valley	130136	Chew Valley	025025
Bilberry Res.	102070	Choppards	142064
Binn Edge	053105	Cinderhills	147075
Bird's Edge	202077	Clayton West	260110
Bird's Nest Lane	187066	Clayton West S.F.	266118
Birkby	140183	Cliff, Holmfirth	145082
Birks Moss	056078	Cliff Wood, Langsett	215002
Black Brook	060177	Clock Face Quarry	044173
Black Hill	078047	Clough Lee	046116
Black Moss	040085	Clough Wood	175114
Blacker Beck	297161	Cockley Hill	188179
Blacker Pit	299164	Colnebridge S.P.	175207
Blacker Wood	240111	Colne Valley	070140
Blackley Tip	102195	Cooper Bridge	166206
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127	Coweliffe	139187
Blakeley Res.	054096	Coxley Bank	275168
Booth Dam Quarry	018161	Coxley Valley	271165
Boothroyd Wood	183118	Cranberry	247008
Booth Wood Res.	026163	Crimble	085145
Boshaw Whams	151057	Crosland Heath GC	110142
Bradley	165205	Crosland Hill	115145
Bradley Park GC	157207	Crosland Moor	120150
Bradshaw	052144	Crossley's Plantation	125050
Bretton Lakes	280127	Crow Edge	188046
Broadstones Lodge	200065	Cubley	245023
Broadstones Res.	195065	Cupwith Res.	038141

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Brookhouse Bridge	198007	Dalton	163162
Brownhill Res.	114050	Dean Clough	080067
Deanhead Res.	038152	Greenfield Res.	030054
Dean Wood	119134	Greenfield Road	103080
Dearme Dike Lane	195075	Green Gate Road	113080
Dearme Head	185076	Greetland	085215
Deer Hill Res.	070115	Grimescar Valley	130190
Deffer Wood	260090	Gunthwaite Dam	246062
Deighton	167191	Hade Edge	146053
Denby Dale	225084	Hades Green Clough	141052
Dewsbury SF	260198	Haigh	294120
Digley Bottom	115068	Haigh Clough	023127
Digley Res.	107070	Hall Bower	145140
Dogley NR.	187137	Hall Dike	115128
Dovestones Res.	018040	Hall Ings Lane	162115
Drop Clough	048133	Harden	153037
Dunford Bridge	158024	Harden Clough	144039
Eastergate, Marsden	029121	Harden Edge	158038
Edge Hill	235016	Harden Moss	100083
Edge Moor	104125	Harden Res.	150037
Elland GPs	125222	Hard Hill	056111
Ellentree Brow	140044	Hartcliff Hill	221017
Elysium Fields	133055	Hazlehead	195028
Emley Moor	225135	Healey Greave Wood	198116
Emley Tx	223130	Healey House	115124
Farnley Tyas	166128	Healey Mills	268193
Farnley Wood	164134	Helme	101118
Featherbed Moss	044067	Hepworth	164066
Fenay Beck	183152	Heyden Moor	092024
Fixby	139196	Hey Green	032122
Flight Hill	153042	Highburton	193133
Flockton	245151	High Hoyland	273102
Flouch Inn	198016	High Wood	290106
Folly Hall	142159	Hill Top Res.	074141
Ford Inn	114084	Hinchliffe Mill	127072
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring	276027	Hingcliffe Common	194001
Fox Clough	136057	Holmbridge	120068
Fox Clough, Langsett	190006	Holme	108060
Fox House Moss	165042	Holme Moor West	062114
Fullshaw	210012	Holme Styes	136054
Fulstone	175095	Holme Styes Res.	141055
Garside Hey	032133	Holme Woods	105045
Gawthorpe Green	193168	Holmfirth	143082
Gilbert Hill	210007	Holt Head	080123
Gledholt	133170	Honley	138118
Golcar	096160	Honley Moor	116115

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Golcar Tip	104156	Horbury Strands	288177
Grain's Moss	125025	Horbury Wyke	297172
Grange Moor	220160	Horn Lane	204060
Great Dovestone Rocks	025038	Houses Hill	199169
Hoylandswaine	265047	Marsh	125171
Huddersfield	145165	Mathewman Wood	182098
Hullen Edge	100208	Maythorn	196057
Hullock Bank	172075	McAlpine Stadium	155176
Ingbirchworth Res.	215060	Meal Hill	168070
Isle of Skye quarry	088079	Mellor Wood	158144
Issues Clough	082053	Meltham Cop	093120
Issues Road	095061	Meltham Moor	080093
Jackson Bridge	165075	Meltham SF	112115
Jebb Lane	280112	Middlestown	267172
Jenkinson Wood	184116	Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Jubilee Quarries	103128	Millhouse Green	218032
Kaye Lane	160147	Millmoor, Meltham	088107
King's Mill Lane	150161	Milnsbridge	113158
Kirkburton	198128	Molly Carr Wood	160137
Kirkheaton	185185	Morton Wood	158067
Kirkcroyds	156091	Myers Wood	188125
Krumlin	056183	Mytholm Bridge	154102
Langsett	212005	Netherthong	139097
Langsett Banks	205003	Netherton, Wakefield	283170
Langsett Res.	210001	Nether End	124081
Law	158047	Nether Moor	117133
Law Slack Ponds	156047	Netherwood	054127
Lepton	193157	Nettleton Hill	094170
Lepton Great Wood	195145	New Hall Wood	270150
Lindley	120182	New House Wood	210082
Lindley Moor	095185	New Mill	164088
Linthwaite	095145	Nont Sarah's	048152
Liphill Brook	129078	Nopper Road	107135
Litherop Lane	273123	Oakes	120174
Little Black Moss Res.	032087	Oldfield	136103
Little Don Valley	195005	Orange Wood	102123
Lockwood	135152	Ossett	280200
Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150	Outlane	085180
Longwood	108167	Ox Lee	168055
Lower Cumberworth	223095	Oxygrains Beck	003159
Lower Hopton	202191	Paddock	125161
Lower Maythorn	187056	Park Mill	258118
Lower Stones Wood	187106	Paul Lane	184203
Lower Windleden Res.	157017	Penistone	245033
Lowfields, Elland	117219	Penny Spring Wood	160155
Lumb Lane	160140	Pole Moor	067158

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Magdale Dam	135124	Potato Lane	089122
Magdalen Clough	090082	Pule Hill	033104
March Haigh Res.	015130	Ramsden Res.	115055
Margery Wood	275096	Ravensthorpe	222202
Marsden	045115	Ravensthorpe GPs	233202
Marsden Clough	094072	Redbrook Res.	027098
Reynard Clough	136050	Swinny Knoll	125097
Riding Wood Res.	117050	Taylor Hill	135145
Ringstone Edge Res.	050182	Thornton Lodge	135161
Ripponden	040197	Thorpes	235095
Rishworth	032182	Thongsbridge	151097
Roughbirchworth	264016	Thunderbridge	188115
Round Wood	157101	Thurgory	191158
Royd Edge	095097	Thurlestone Moor	175020
Royd House Wood	162133	Thurstonland	165104
Royd Moor Res.	222048	Tinker Hill	163048
Ryburn Res.	020188	Totties	157082
Salendine Nook	105178	Townhead	166028
Salters Brook	137002	T. P. Wood	132166
Sand Ridge Moss	158032	Tunnel End Res.	039120
Sands GPs.	217196	Tup Stones	096018
Sands House	116145	Underbank	144076
Scammonden	050160	Upper Clough	095095
Scissett	248104	Upper Cumberworth	210087
Scout Dike Res.	233049	Upper Denby	238072
Shelley	204113	Upper Greetland	075212
Shelley Woodhouse	218110	Upper Longendale	095005
Shepley	193098	Upper Stones Wood	185104
Shore Head	148166	Upper Windleden Res.	152012
Silkstone	290059	Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Silkstone SF	295065	Waring Bridge	065131
Skelmanthorpe	233105	Waterloo	177166
Slaithwaite	080140	Way Stones Edge	004142
Slaithwaite Moor	040143	Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Smith Wood	179115	Wessenden Valley	055088
Snafe Res.	117088	West Nab	077088
Snailsden Moor	135035	West Slaithwaite	060132
Snailsden Res.	135040	West Wood, Honley	151123
Snittle Road	149050	Wetshaw Edge	147032
Snowgate Head	179085	Whitegate Lane	128055
South Crosland	115126	Whitley Common	192056
Sparth Res.	055125	Whitley Willows	196166
Spicer House Lane	205055	Wholestone Moor	077167
Spring Wood	130124	Will's o' Nats's	090121
Square Wood Res.	217078	Wilshaw	118100
Squirrel Ditch	152154	Windle Edge	152017

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Stainland	077194	Windleden Edge	142010
Standedge	016098	Windmill Lane	195072
Stocksmoor Common	275152	Windybank Wood	112104
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158	Winscar Res.	150025
Storthes Hall Moor	173128	Wolfstones	124092
Storthes Hall Woods	183118	Woodhead Res.	095002
Stubbin Clough	124072	Wood Nook	122106
Swinden Plantation	190002	Woodsome Lees	186134
Woodsome Road	185146	Yateholme	115050
Wood Top	046113	Yeoman Hey	033050
Wooldale	155090		

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB
LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION OR ACCOUNT

Divers - all	Osprey	Hoopoe
Red-necked Grebe	Hobby	Wryneck
Black-necked Grebe	Avocet	Woodlark
Slavonian Grebe	Dotterel	Shorelark
Fulmar	Little Stint	Rock Pipit
Shearwaters and Petrels -all	Curlew Sandpiper	Water Pipit
Gannet	Purple Sandpiper	Nightingale
Shag	Wood Sandpiper	Bluethroat
Bittern	Phalaropes - all	Black Redstart
White-fronted Goose	Skuas - all	Yellow-browed Warbler
Brent Goose	Mediterranean Gull	Firecrest
Garganey	Yellow-legged Gull	Marsh Tit
Red-crested Pochard	Iceland Gull	Shrikes – all
Eider	Glaucous Gull	Hooded Crow
Long-tailed Duck	Terns - all except Common	Raven (lowlands)
Velvet Scoter	Auks – all	Lapland Bunting
Harriers - all	Barn Owl	Snow Bunting
Goshawk		

Reports of the above species, in addition to all British Birds Rarities and YNU species (see next page), must be supported by a description or account and should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation. For some of the more frequently occurring species an account of the occurrence will be sufficient.

Inexperienced observers may like to contact one of the Records Sub-committee at the time of the sighting to obtain help if they are confronted with a "mystery" bird:

Brian Armitage Tel. 01484 305054
 Russ Boland Tel. 01226 281827
 Mick Cunningham Tel. 01484 680409
 John Dale Tel. 01484 652453

Details may also be requested of un-seasonal records and well-defined races.

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION
LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION

Cory's Shearwater	Roseate Tern
Great Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull
Balearic Shearwater	Black Guillemot
Storm Petrel	Bee-eater
Leach's Petrel	Short-toed Lark
Little Egret	Richard's Pipit
Purple Heron	Tawny Pipit
Bean Goose (including race)	Cetti's Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Savi's Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Aquatic Warbler
Surf Scoter	Marsh Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Icterine Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Melodious Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Dartford Warbler
Golden Eagle	Barred Warbler
Spotted Crake	Pallas's Warbler
Corncrake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Common Crane	Woodchat Shrike
Kentish Plover	Serin
Temminck's Stint	Common Rosefinch
Pectoral Sandpiper	Cirl Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Little Bunting

Plus all *British Birds* Rarities and all Escapes

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2007

The following is a list of the 264 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 2007. Ten additional distinct races that have also been recorded are shown unnumbered and highlighted below the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species. For those species and races that have been recorded only once or twice, the year(s) in which the birds appeared are also listed.

A new addition to the Huddersfield List in 2007 is Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* (Dewsbury Sewage Farm, 12th September 2007).

There were major changes to the taxonomic order in 2005, 2006 and 2007, which now follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), not the Voous order of earlier years. The BOU expects all reports to adopt this new order.

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

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

The following have been 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 *Sternula albifrons*.

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

The *Sylvia* warbler sequence has been re-arranged and now becomes Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* and Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

The Tits (genus *Parus*) have been split into smaller genera and their order re-arranged. New scientific names are applied to the following: Blue Tit becomes *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Coal Tit *Periparus ater*, Willow Tit *Poecile montana* and Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*.

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

You may wish to use the sheets to record your own year and lifetime lists for the Club area.

The Huddersfield List is also available as a separate publication.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2007

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	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>			
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	1996		
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>			
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>			
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>			
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>			
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		
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>			
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>			
29	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>			
30	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			
31	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>			

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2007

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Life	Year
				√	√
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>			
39	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>			
40	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			
41	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			
42	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>			
43	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>			
44	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			
45	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			
46	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>			
47	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>			
48	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			
49	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			
50	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>			
51	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>			
52	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>			
53	Gannet	<i>Morus bassana</i>			
54	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			
55	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			
56	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			
57	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			
58	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1989		
59	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			
60	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>			
61	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			
62	Honey-buzzard	<i>Peris aptivorus</i>			
63	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			
64	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005		
65	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2007

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Life	Year
				√	√
66	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			
67	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			
68	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>			
69	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			
70	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			
71	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>			
72	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982		
73	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			
74	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			
75	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1983, 1994		
76	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			
77	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			
78	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			
79	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			
80	Spotted Crane	<i>Porzana porzana</i>			
81	Baillon's Crane	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874		
82	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>			
83	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			
84	Coot	<i>Fulca atra</i>			
85	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			
86	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			
87	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005		
88	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedinenus</i>			
89	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			
90	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			
91	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>			
92	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>			
93	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			
94	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			
95	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>			
96	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			
97	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			
98	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>			
99	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2007

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Life	Year
				√	√
100	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2007		
101	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			
102	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>			
103	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			
104	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>			
105	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			
106	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>			
107	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			
108	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>			
109	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			
110	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			
111	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			
112	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			
113	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			
114	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989		
115	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			
116	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	1983, 1990		
117	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			
118	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			
119	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			
120	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			
121	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			
122	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			
123	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978		
124	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985		
125	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>			
126	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>			
127	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			
128	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988		
129	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992		
130	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>			
131	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>			
132	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			
133	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>			

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2007

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Life	Year
				√	√
134	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>			
135	Common Gull	<i>Larus canis</i>			
136	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>			
137	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>			
138	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>			
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>			
139	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			
140	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachimans</i>	2002		
141	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>			
142	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>			
143	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>			
144	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>			
145	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			
146	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998		
147	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			
148	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			
149	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			
150	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964		
151	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>			
152	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>			
153	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>			
154	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	1888		
155	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)			
156	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			
157	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			
158	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			
159	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			
160	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			
161	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>			
162	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			
163	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			
164	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>			
165	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>			

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2007

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				√	√
166	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>			
167	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			
168	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>			
169	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			
170	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968		
171	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			
172	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			
173	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			
174	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			
175	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>			
176	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947		
177	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			
178	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000		
179	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			
180	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			
181	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			
182	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989		
183	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			
184	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			
185	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>			
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>			
186	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>			
187	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>			
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	1990		
188	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			
189	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>			
190	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>			
191	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			
192	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			
193	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			
194	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			
195	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			

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196	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			
197	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			
198	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			
199	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>			
200	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>			
201	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>			
202	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			
203	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			
204	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			
205	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>			
206	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			
207	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>			
208	Sedge Warbler	<i>Aerocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			
209	Reed Warbler	<i>Aerocephalus scirpaceus</i>			
210	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			
211	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			
212	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			
213	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			
214	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977		
215	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>			
216	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>			
217	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000		
218	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			
219	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			
220	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			
221	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			
222	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			
223	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			
224	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			
225	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			
226	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			
227	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>			

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228	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			
229	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			
230	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			
231	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			
232	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>			
233	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			
234	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			
235	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			
236	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			
237	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>			
238	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>			
239	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			
240	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			
241	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	1859		
242	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			
243	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			
244	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			
245	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>			
246	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			
247	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			
248	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>			
249	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			
250	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>			
251	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>			
252	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>			
253	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			
254	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983		
255	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			
256	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			
257	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarinus lapponicus</i>			
258	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>			
259	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			
260	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			
261	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999		

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262	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			
263	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998		
264	Corn Bunting	<i>Miharia calandra</i>			

CLUB OFFICIALS 2007–2008

PRESIDENT

Michael Rayner
7 Hanson Lane, Lockwood, Huddersfield, HD4 5HL
Tel. 01484 428400
email: m.rayner1@ntlworld.com

RECORDER

Brian Armitage
106 Forest Road, Dalton, Huddersfield, HD5 8ET
Tel. 01484 305054
email: brian.armitage@ntlworld.com

HON. TREASURER

Mike Wainman
2 Bankfield Park Avenue, Taylor Hill, Huddersfield, HD4 7QY
Tel. 01484 469232
email: m.wainman@ntlworld.com

HON. SECRETARY

Chris Abell
57 Butterley Lane, New Mill, Huddersfield, HD9 7EZ
Tel. 01484 681499
email: cdabell@googlemail.com

INDOOR MEETINGS ORGANISER

John Walker
68 Brecon Avenue, Lindley, Huddersfield, HD3 3QF
Tel. 01484 310875
email: j.walker@forrestburlinson.co.uk

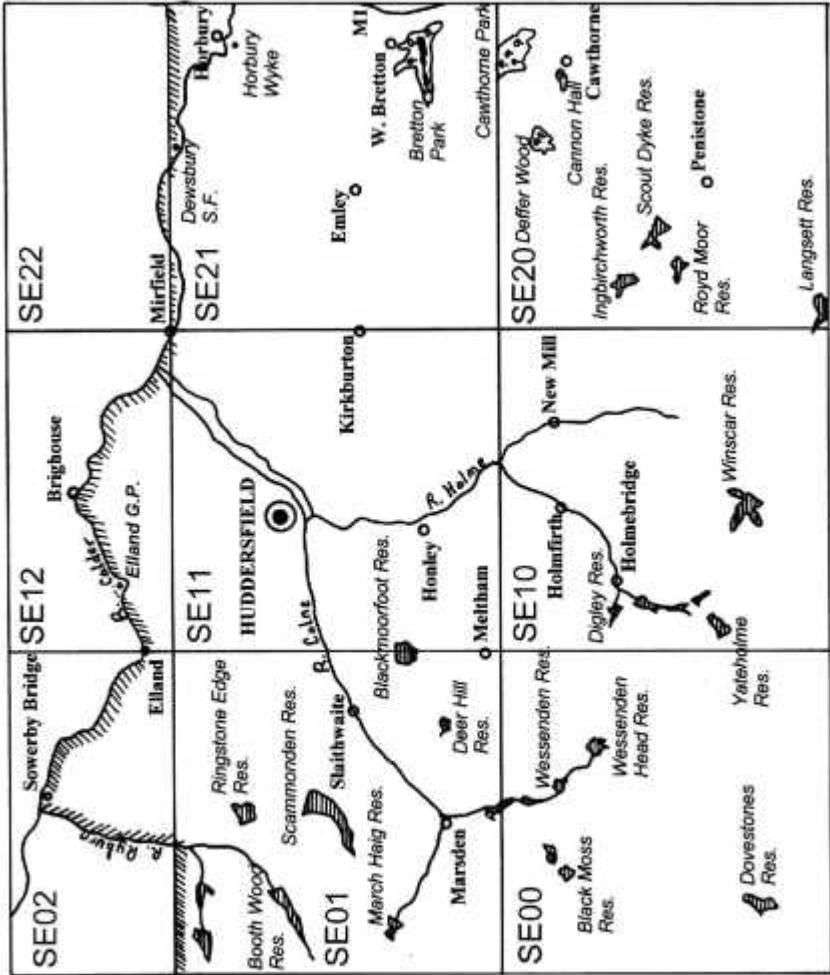
CONSERVATION LIAISON OFFICER

Mike Denton
77 Hawthorne Terrace, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, HD4 5RP
Tel. 01484 646990
email: dentonatheta@aol.com

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Pat Foster
15 Westerley Drive, Shelley, Huddersfield, HD8 8HW
Tel. 01484 609125
email: pat@shelley15.eclipse.co.uk

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club: recording area





Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296

INTERESTED IN BIRDS ?

DID YOU KNOW ...

- **The Huddersfield area**
 - **has nationally important breeding habitat for some of Britain's most endangered birds.**
 - **attracts rare and scarce birds every year.**
 - **offers interesting birding all year round, if you know where to look.**
- **Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, a registered charity, has been studying the birds of the area since 1966.**
- **Through recording and surveys, the Club helps conserve these important habitats and birds.**
- **"Birds in Huddersfield", published annually, shows all the latest local trends in bird populations and what birds have been seen where and when.**
- **Sales help fund the charity's work.**

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk