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HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

# Birds in Huddersfield

## 1978



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ANNUAL REPORT

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## HUDDERSFIELD BIRD REPORT 1978

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

### CONTENTS

Page 1	Vice-president's Report
Page 2	T W Frost
Page 3	Notes on the Classified List
Page 4	Introduction to the Classified List
Pages 6 - 46	Classified List 1978
Page 47	Past Records
Page 48	Contributors
Pages 49 - 50	"Yellow Robins"
Pages 51 - 59	Ringling Report
Page 59	"British Birds" Special Offer Subscription
Page 60	Club Officials for 1979

The Cover Illustration depicts a Merlin with Dunlin Prey

## THE VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORT FOR 1978

At the end of the year, our Secretary, Brian Armitage, announced his wish to retire from the post and I take this opportunity of thanking him for providing us with two seasons of excellent meetings, not the least of which was an entertaining evening spent examining bird specimens from the Tolson Museum collection. We also learned something of the problems of establishing and running a reserve from Steve Warburton of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust and the work of an RSPB Investigations Officer from Peter Newbery.

Our evening meetings were again held at Ravensknowle and we thank Mr Aubrook and his staff for their continued assistance. The hide at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir was visited on 347 days during the year and the ringing activities continued. We look forward to continuing help from the Yorkshire Water Authority which is under pressure to open-up their reservoir surrounds to the general public. Once again, many members have visited Bretton Park, thereby taking advantage of the special permits issued by the Reserve Management Committee.

The strength of the falconry interests in the Huddersfield area was brought home to many members as a result of the attempted theft of young Merlins from a site during July. It is realised by many members that one cannot be over-cautious regarding the revelation of information on Schedule I species, particularly birds of prey, even though many others outside our club may already possess some knowledge. Species listed under Schedule I of the Protection of Birds Acts (1954-67) are afforded special protection, even from disturbance, at all times. The only wise policy when dealing with strangers is to remain quiet.

Donald Haigh again organised an excellent series of field outings which require adequate support if they are to continue being successful. Tom Cantwell has done an excellent job as Treasurer and I hope that members will continue to make his task easy and pleasant.

Finally, I thank all other committee members for their help, particularly on the night of the public film-show at Venn Street, in aid of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust, and thank club members, old and new, for their continued support.

John E Dale

## PRODUCTION OF THE REPORT

Our Secretary for 1979, Derick Watson, has given considerable assistance with the production of this report and is responsible for the new and more attractive layout, as well as having contributed all the illustrations

## TOM FROST

With profound sorrow, members learned of the death, in March, of our President, Tom Frost, after enduring a long and painful illness with courage and fortitude.

This was his second period in office and the active nature of our club is in no small way due to his efforts. Always first on the scene with help and encouragement whenever anyone needed it, Tom was particularly concerned with assisting younger and less experienced members to develop their interest and knowledge. He and Penny were mainstays of Club outings and Tom's quiet cheerfulness will be sadly missed by those who enjoyed his company.

A man of varied and considerable achievements, Tom Frost's professional skills as a leading dentist in the town were greatly appreciated by the many people whom he helped in this capacity over the years. The esteem in which he was held nationally among his colleagues is demonstrated by the fact that he was elected to high office in several professional institutions.

Tom welcomed the challenge presented by new fields of endeavour. His pioneer work in the development of hypnotism for dentists led him to write the first British textbook on the subject. He also gained recognition as a film-maker and his award-winning film about Huddersfield is now in the possession of the Borough.

In recent years he was an active member of the Wildlife Recording Society and many of us will recall with pleasure, not only the excellence of his tapes of wild-bird songs, but also the enthusiasm and wit, tempered by modesty, with which he introduced the results of his efforts to us at Club Evenings.

In addition to these achievements, Tom was a world-authority on Sheffield Plate, a subject on which he lectured widely in this country and the USA. He was the author of a standard reference book and a valuers' guide on the subject. An ardent and discriminating collector of Sheffield Plate, his books were illustrated with examples from his own fine collection.

Having recently removed to Almondbury, Tom and Penny expended much time and effort creating one of the most attractive bird-gardens in the district. The imaginative sympathy which Tom displayed when he shared the pleasure of this with his friends was typical of the man. Many of us are grateful to Tom and Penny for happy hours spent at their home enjoying splendid views of Great Spotted Woodpeckers and free-flying Parakeets.

The occasional articles on birds which Tom wrote for publication are another, albeit little-known, facet of his activities which he dearly hoped to develop after his planned retirement.

Those of us who were privileged to know him share a deep sense of personal loss, whilst birdwatching as a whole in Huddersfield has been impoverished by the death of a man whose kindness and modesty were endearing and whose enthusiasm was so infectious.

## NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

A total of 175 species were observed during the year, including two which were new to the area. These were Ruddy Shelduck, which was probably not of wild origin, and Wilson's Phalarope, which, unfortunately, was only seen by a few observers. Other species, in 1978, which have been seen on no more than four previous occasions were Slavonian Grebe, Shag, White Stork, White-fronted Goose, Ruddy Duck, Stone Curlew, Purple Sandpiper and Arctic Skua.

Wader passage was heavier than in 1977 and some species were seen more frequently than in any previous year.

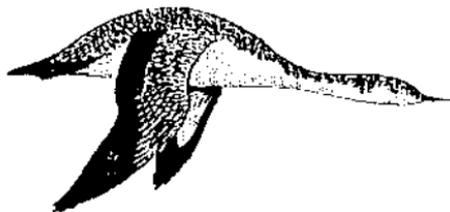
Although Lesser Spotted Woodpecker probably breeds somewhere in the area annually, it has rarely been proven and it was gratifying to have adequate proof of a pair at Hey Wood. After several successful years, Stonechats have disappeared again, although they continue to occur as passage and winter visitors. The appearance of two Black Redstarts in the town centre lines-up with the expansion of this species in Sheffield and Hull in recent years.

Finch flocks of both resident and visiting species were much reduced and it will be of interest to compare records in our area with those elsewhere in Yorkshire.

Stephen Hey kindly summarised all the records from the Blackmoorfoot log and Paul Bray, Michael Denton and Donald Sykes once again assisted by giving their views on the few 'difficult' records received.

The list follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of Professor Dr K H Voous (1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species) which has been adopted by "British Birds" magazine, the British Trust for Ornithology and the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union for their publications from 1978.

John E Dale  
Recorder



RED-THROATED DIVER

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST FOR 1978

The area under consideration consists of Ordnance Survey ten kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 11, 20, 21, along with parts of SE 02 and 12, south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder.

As in our last three Annual Reports, the status of each species occurring within the area has been indicated by one or more of the following classifications:-

Resident Breeder  
Migrant Breeder  
Partial Migrant  
Winter Visitor  
Passage Visitor

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

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

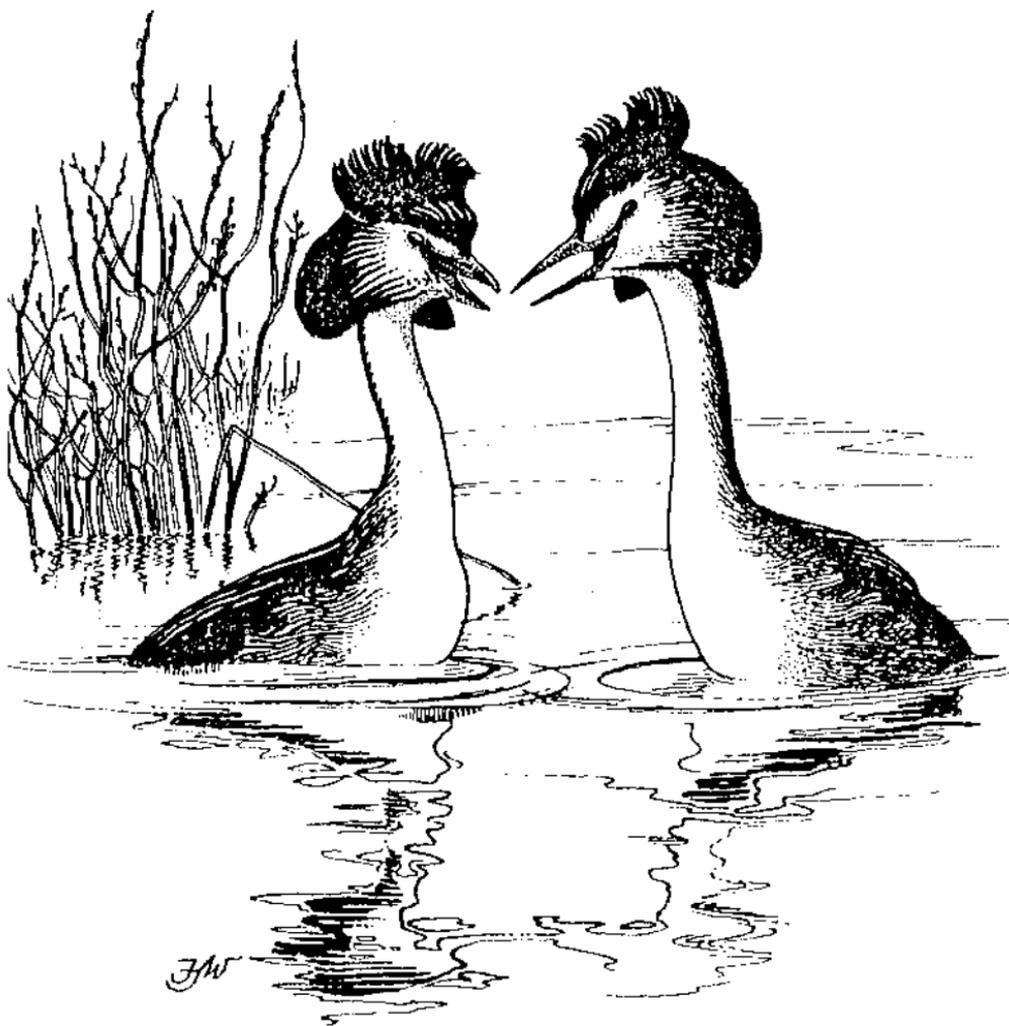
The passage and winter visitors have each been allocated a category stating their degree of frequency of occurrence. This does not, however, include the passage visitors which are also migrant breeders in the area, because of the obvious impossibility of separating the passage birds from local breeders, and numbers cannot be estimated. For passage visitors, the category indicates the number seen during the year, whereas for winter visitors, an estimate has been made of the maximum number present in the area on one day during the year.

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

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

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

Many of the more common breeding species have been listed without further comment than an indication of their status. For further details of these and their habitat preferences readers should refer to the 1975 Report.



Great Crested Grebes displaying

CLASSIFIED LIST 1978

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Rare visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: 1 on 16th October (PB)

Eighth record for the area

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: 1 from 1st to 11th February (CB, JED, et al)

Sixth record for the area

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Resident breeder (1), uncommon passage and winter visitor

Bretton Park: Present all year with maximum of 8 adults on 4th January

2 pairs bred

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: Present on at least 50 dates from 2nd March

to 30th December. Usually 1 or 2, but 5 on 9th October

Royd Moor Reservoir: 1 pair from 23rd April to 3rd October. Single,

striped juveniles in early July and late September

Scout Dike Reservoir: Isolated records in January and March after which

3 pairs bred, rearing at least 8 young. Maximum of 17 on 24th August

and 1st September and 4 still present on 17th December

Singles at other waters as follows: Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (7th to 9th

September), Gunthwaite Dam (up to 5th March and from 22nd April to

7th September on 6 dates), Elland G.P. (30th December) and Ringstone

Edge Reservoir (30th November)

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1), uncommon passage visitor

Bretton Park: 1 to 2 up to early March, when an influx occurred which

peaked at 18 from 26th to 30th March, then down to 12 by 11th April.

2 pairs reared 3 young. 2 present to at least 17th December

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: 1 on 14th February, then 2 or more from 4th March

to 26th November, with maximum of 10 on 31st May and 1 remained to

10th December. 3 pairs were building in late April. One pair abandoned

when water-level fell and another pair had nest and eggs destroyed

in early June. A flying juvenile was present with an adult on 16th July.

Scout Dike Reservoir: First 2 on 2nd March and the last, a juvenile,

on 7th September. Maximum of 13 adults on 14th June. 3 pairs reared

9 young.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: 1-2 on 22 dates from 27th February to 8th December.

Elsewhere singles, unless otherwise stated, at the following waters:-

Elland G.P. (1st to 12th January, 10th to 11th March, 30th April to 2nd May, 19th July), Broadstones Reservoir (12th March), Scammonden Dam (27th March).

Royd Moor Reservoir (2 on 16th April, singles on 30th May, 29th July, 1st October) and Ringstone Edge Reservoir (23rd May, 20th July, 4 on 26th July and 1 on 7th October)

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Rare visitor

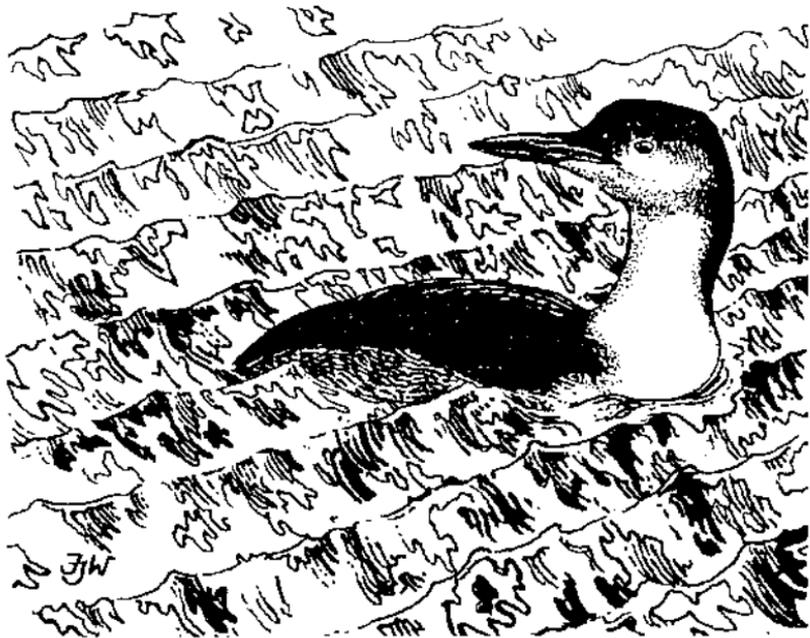
Royd Moor Reservoir: 1 on 1st October (JL.PDB)

Third record for the area.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: 1 from 12th to 22nd August (PDB.M.D. et al)



GREAT NORTHERN DIVER IN WINTER PLUMAGE

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Scarce - uncommon passage and winter visitor

For the third successive year, an increased number of sightings which, from 1959 to 1975 had been at the average of only just above 2 per year. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: 1 roosted on the north overflow from 14th to 21st January. Singles on 4th and 23rd May, 9th July, 14th, 17th and 27th September and 21st October.

Grosland Hill: Singles flying N on 19th January and E on 9th September.

Scammonden Dam: 1 on 18th January.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: 1 on 19th June.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Rare visitor

Elland G.P.: 1 on 20th January (JW)

Third record for the area

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Uncommon - common passage and winter visitor. Has attempted breeding. 1978 showed a return to the increased number of sightings which have been typical since 1974, after a moderate year in 1977. Improved observer coverage is undoubtedly affecting the figures.

Sightings at over 30 localities, the most regular being Gunthwaite Dam (singles on 118 days, but 3 on 10th September and 30th October);

Ingbirchworth Reservoir (at least 61 days with maxima of 6 on 29th June

and 7 on 10th August); Royd Moor Reservoir (9 on 29th July and 7 on 4th

August); Scout Dike Reservoir; Bretton Park (over 30 days, with up to

4 in August) and Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (17 bird-days) where 6 unidentified "herons" flew west on 11th July.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare visitor

One at Greenfield on 7th April eventually flew E over Chew Valley (MC)

Second record for the area.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Resident breeder (1)

Present throughout the year at Elland G.P. (1-2); Birds Edge (a pair);

Denby Dale (1-3); Gunthwaite Dam (1-2); near Holmfirth (a pair); Cannon Hall;

Bretton Park (1-3); and at Scout Dike (2 on 1st March only).

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

Uncommon winter visitor

Scammonden Dam 1 on 10th March

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 5 on 9th November

Additional records for 1977

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 17 on 1st January

Langsett Reservoir 6 on 5th and 6th November

WHOOFER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Uncommon winter visitor

Scout Reservoir 2 on 1st March

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Passage visitor, uncommon-common

Skins of this species and unidentified 'grey' geese (marked \*) mostly flying westwards as follows:-

January - Langsett 38 (E) on 2nd\*, 28 and 32 on 7th

Cawthorne 34 on 3rd; Mount 28 on 5th; Blackmoorfoot 16 and 53 on 7th\*; Dewsbury S.F. 55 on 7th; Bretton Park 3 and 54 on 8th.

Yateholme 65 on 8th\*

February - Cooper Bridge 25 on 11th.

April - Blackmoorfoot 1 on 17th.

November - Ringstone Edge 70 on 11th.

December - Winscar 73 on 16th\*; Lindley Moor 75 on 18th.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Rare visitor

Bretton Park One from 10th November to 17th December.

Second record for the area.

N.B. The origin of this and other records of single and sometimes two geese of this species and also Pink-footed, Grey-lag and Barnacle Geese must be suspect due to the large number of releases in Northern England at present. They are however published to maintain a complete record.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Uncommon passage visitor

Bretton Park. One from 1st to 8th January.

A skein of about 170 SW over Lowerhouses on 13th December.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (1) and partial migrant.

Bretton Park Flock maxima of 129 on 29th January and 165 on 31st December.

At least 42 goslings on 31st May.

Cannon Hall Up to 6 including a wary bird on 26th February carrying a B.T.O. ring and a yellow ring.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 2 on 13th May; 1 on 5th, 2 on 10th and 7 on 13th June, and 1 at Elland G.P. on 4th May.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor.

One at Bretton Park on 14th June.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare visitor.

One male at Bretton Park on 22nd July (R.L.) First record for the area.

Probably of escape origin as introduced birds have bred in the County.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon-common.

Continues to occur with increasing frequency. A record number of 23 sightings involving 75 birds in 1977 has been exceeded with probably 38 separate records involving at least 156 birds in 1978.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 on 14th and 15th January; 4 on 1st and 22 on 4th February, 5 on 7th, 1 on 19th and 21st and 7 on 25th March; 2 on 16th April; 3 on 10th May; 2 on 8th July; 1 on 19th, 2 on 26th and 29th and 7 on 27th August; 5 on 17th, 1 on 18th and 2 on 27th September; 8 on 21st and 4 on 29th November and 11 on 29th December. Booth Dam 7 on 20th January and 1 on 5th February.

Bailings Reservoir 7 on 18th March.

Kingstone Edge Reservoir 3 on 16th April; 2 on 28th and 3 on 29th August; 1 on 1st and 2 from 2nd to 15th and 3 on 16th September.

Bretton Park 7 on 16th April and 1 on 21st December.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 4 on 24th January; 2 on 8th July; 7 on 25th August; 15 on 12th September and 1 on 5th November.

Broadstones Reservoir 3 flying S. on 15th May.

Beer Hill Reservoir 2 on 8th July.

Royd Moor Reservoir 6 on 26th August.

Scout Dike Reservoir 3 on 30th December.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 3 dates 4th January to 12th March (1, 9 and 10) and regular from 21st August to 18th December with maxima of 60 on 6th September, 15 on 30th November and 22 on 9th December.

Bretton Park December only with 4 on 4th plus 27 late in the day then 7 from 6th to 21st and 1 on 30th.

Langsett Reservoir 2 on 21st February.

Deer Hill Reservoir 6 on 19th March and 8 on 6th September.

Broadstones Reservoir 9 on 7th September.

Gunthwaite Dam During September 6 on 7th, 26 on 20th and 3 on 21st.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir. 2 on 3rd, 6 on 8th and 2 on 25th September. 2 on 1st, 28th and 29th October.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 7 on 28th August; 3 on 7th and 7 on 20th September; 1 - 5 from 6th to 12th November and 4 on 26th; 6 - 8 from 5th to 7th December then 16 from 9th to 11th with up to 8 to 17th and 6 on 25th.

Royd Moor Reservoir 2 on 3rd October; 2 on 12th and 7 on 26th November and 10 on 17th and 6 on 25th December.

GADWELL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Bretton Park 1 on 13th and 24th September; 1 on 14th and 2 on 22nd and 28th October and 1 on 5th and 19th November.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 5 on 6th December.

TEAL *Anas crecca*.

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

Single pairs with young at Black Moss in June and Rishworth Moor in July

Occurred at 15 waters and 7 of them frequently which had maxima as follows:- Bretton Park 13 on 2nd January; Ringstone Edge Reservoir 38 on 29th August and 24 on 8th October; Gunthwaite Dam 15 and Deer Hill Reservoir 18 on 6th September; Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 54 and Ingbirchworth Reservoir 37 on 7th September; and Royd Moor Reservoir 13 and Scammonden Dam 17 on 26th December.

MALLARD *Anas platyhynchos*

Resident breeder (2-3) and common winter visitor.

Maximum counts:- Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 81 on 21st January and 84 on 6th and 26th December; Bretton Park 192 on 19th February and 220 on 9th December; Royd Moor Reservoir 73 on 15th November; Langsett Reservoir 166 on 12th November; Ingbirchworth Reservoir 71 on 2nd and Dovestones Reservoir 100 on 24th December.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Elland G.P. 1 from 7th January to 15th March and 1 on 15th April.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 1 on 18th March and 3 on 3rd September.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 1 on 29th July.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 13 on 6th; 1 on 7th; 5 on 19th and 4 on 21st September; 1 on 1st, 3rd, 8th and 6 on 12th October.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 2 on 31st March; 7 on 26th July; 3 on 8th; 1 on 10th; 3 on 12th and 7 on 19th August and 1 on 11th October.

Bretton Park 1 on 28th and 30th March; 3 on 16th April; singles on 20th August, 13th September and 15th October, and 1 on 12th and 2 on 25th and 26th November and 6th December.

Gunthwaite Dam 1 on 2nd and 2 on 9th and 12th April, 1 on 29th and 31st July; 1 on 1st, 7th, 8th and 11th August.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 2 on 9th April; 7 on 19th August and 2 on 9th and 20th September.

Scout Dike Reservoir 1 on 18th June.

Royd Moor Reservoir 7 on 19th August

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*.

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Small numbers to 12th March and from 2nd July, with a maximum of 36 on 26th July.

Bretton Park Regular up to 22nd April and from 19th July with low maxima of 25 on 1st January and 20 on 22nd November.

Elland G.P. Winter flock remained to 4th March and built up from 27th October and had maxima of 46 on 18th January and 49 on 30th December.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir From 10th February to 28th April with a maximum of 30 on 3rd March. From 11th to 28th July and 22nd September to the year end with a maximum of 39 on 19th November.

Scout Dike Reservoir 1 to 4 January and March with 28 on 21st February, 5 on 22nd July and 34 on 15th November.

Smaller numbers on 7 other waters mostly on 1 or 2 pairs only.

17 at Cupwith Reservoir on 4th March was unusual for this locality.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder (1), common passage and winter visitor.

Broods of 7 and 8 young at Bretton Park during August, and a nest with 8 eggs at Black Moss on 9th June. Pairs at 4 other localities. Peak numbers were comparatively low and the following waters had maxima of over 20 on one or more dates:-

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 22 on 5th January and 48 on 11th August.

Bretton Park 53 on 1st January; 31 on 22nd April; 32 on 11th October and 25 on 17th December.

Deer Hill Reservoir 23 on 12th July.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 45 on 15th July and 39 on 6th August.

Royd Moor Reservoir 29 on 9th September and 20 on 1st and 3rd October

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 22 on 9th September

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce-uncommon passage and winter visitor.

More records than in any previous year.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir An immature male on 57 days between 19th January and 9th April, and 3 other singles later on 25th and 26th July, 10th, 11th and 16th August respectively.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Singles on 5th February and 21st and 23rd September.

Scout Dike Reservoir 1 on 4th March, and 3 on 28th October and 4th November.

Baitings Reservoir 2 on 19th August.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 1 on 1st and 2 on 9th September and 1 from 27th November to 16th December.

Broadstones Reservoir 2 on 23rd October.

Elland C.P. 1 from 10th to 29th December.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Deer Hill Reservoir 1 on 31st April.

Elland C.P. 1 from 5th to 8th May.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Singles on 8th and 19th July

Ringstone Edge Reservoir and Black Moss

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 3 on 8th, 1 on 9th and 16th August and 2 on 2nd October.

GOLDENBEE *Bucephala clangula*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Present up to 28th April (1) and from 18th October (6). Maxima of 11 on 10th March and 10 on 5th November.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Present up to 17th May (1) and from 20th October (1) with a maxima of 8 on 7th April.

1 - 4 at 15 other waters both early and late in the year with 6 at Deer Hill Reservoir on 12th November.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Scarce visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 'redhead' on 25th July (M.L.D.) and 2 on 3rd October (P.B.)

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 2 overhead on 26th November were either of this species or the next (C.E.A.)

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Scarce-uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 5 on 6th and 2 on 14th March.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 on 28th April; 1 on 1st and 8 on 17th October, and singles on 5th, 9th and 26th November.

Scammonden Dam 1 from 10th to 16th December.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Rare visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 female on 18th August (M.L.D. et al)

Bretton Park 1 male and 1 female on 13th September (R.L., R.J.W.)  
Second and third records for the area.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare winter and passage visitor.

Singles on moors west of Winscar on 7th January and on 9th, 10th, 17th and 26th December and on Slaithwaite Moor on 10th and 16th December. (P.B., J.E.D. et al).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare visitor

Sightings at several localities during the winter months

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (1)

A further increase in the total number of sightings. At least 3 pairs bred one of which reared 2 young. Pairs probably bred at 4 other sites. Outside the breeding season individuals were noted at every well watched locality.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2)

Observed in all types of habitat throughout the area including Huddersfield town centre

Breeding proved for only 6 pairs of which 3 pairs reared 5, 4 and 3 young respectively. Almost certainly bred at 12 other sites.



Hobby

MERLIN *Falco Columbarius*

Resident breeder (1)

Of 4 pairs which bred 2 pairs each reared 2 young, a third pair failed, and the results at the fourth site are not known. Sightings at 12 localities outside the breeding season including 30 bird days at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir between 30th July and 25th November.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Rare visitor.

One flying over Bentley Spring Woods on 21st May (J.E. & S.M.D.) Seventh record for the area

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Rare visitor.

One flying S.W. at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th June (P.D.B.). At least the fifth record of this species in that locality in recent years, and possibly all may be of falconers' birds.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3)

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix*

Rare visitor.

Rumours of sightings that could not be confirmed were reported for the third time in four years.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1)

Positive evidence of breeding of this species near Inghirchworth in 1976 has been received from a reliable local farmer.

In the New Hall and Midgley districts 5 on 15th January, 8 on 5th and 4 on 21st February. At Netherton, near Horbury 2 on 12th March and at Horbury 1 on 17th May. Near High Hoyland 9 on 14th January, 4 on 25th February, 1 on 5th March and on 25th May. In the Inghirchworth area 1 on 22nd April, 2 on 12th November, 3 on 9th December and singles on 3 other days.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2)

An increased number of reports from over 20 different sites. Breeding proved in the Gunthwaite and Bretton areas. The largest covey was one of 15 near Emley on 15th January. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir up to 9 fed on the W. bank between 24th October and 5th November.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (2)

Because of the largely artificial status of this species little purpose is served in publishing records, but it is likely that the introduced population is considerably higher than indicated above.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce-uncommon winter visitor.

Bretton Park Singles on 4 days in January; 4 in March; 3 in April to 11th; 1 in October; 4 in November with 2 on 5th and 24th, and 1 in December with 2 on 3rd.

Elland G.P. 1 on 14th January, 3 on 14th October and 1 on several days to the year end.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (3)

COOT *Fulica atra*

Resident breeder (2) and common winter visitor.

Bretton Park Winter maxima were lower than usual with 64 on 12th February and 42 on 6th December. Several pairs bred but full details not yet available. This species is the subject of a special study by Richard Lumb who is carrying out his research at Bretton Park.

Logbitchworth Reservoir Present all the year. 8 young reared from 3 broods.

Also bred at Scout Dike Reservoir (2 pairs) and at Royd Moor Reservoir (1 pair) 1 - 4 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir throughout the year. Gunthwaite Dam had 1 regularly and 4 on 12th March. 50 were on riverside grassland at Cannon Hall on 18th February. Elland G.P. had 2 up to 14th April and up to 7 from 29th October.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Uncommon passage visitor.

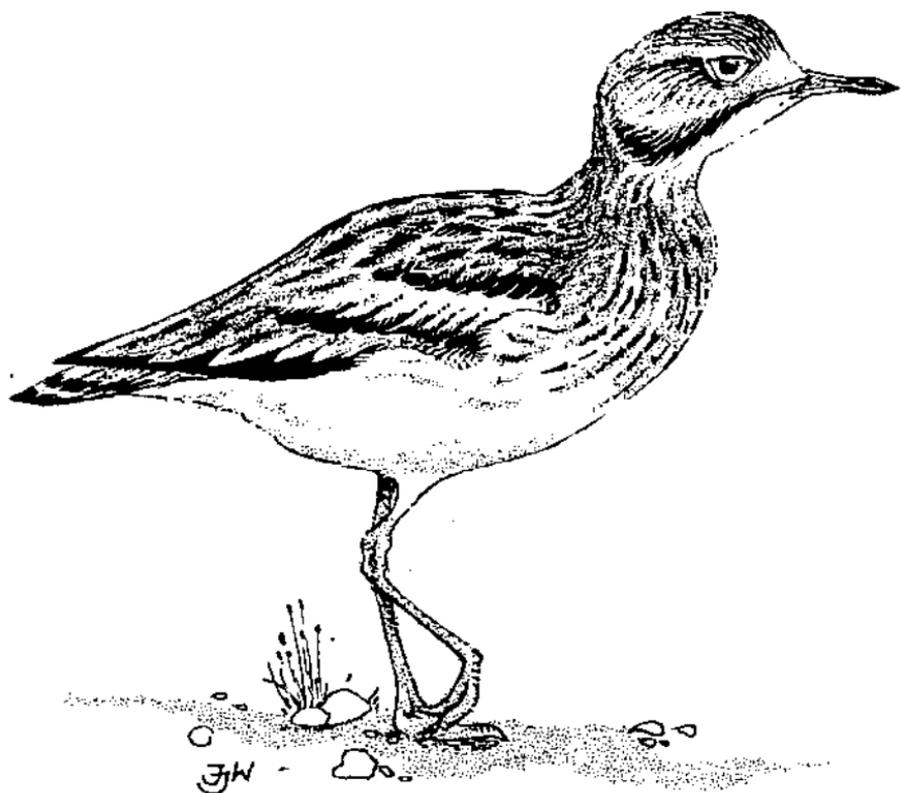
Blackmoorfoot Reservoir More records than in any previous year.

1 on 22nd May; 1 on 16th and 19th, 2 on 21st and 24th July; 3 on 8th, 2 on 9th and 13th, 1 on 15th and 2 on 24th August; 3 on 2nd, 1 on 13th and 2 on 16th September; singles on 1st October and on 25th and 26th November.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 1 on 23rd May and 34 on 28th August.

Scammonden Dam 2 on 27th August.

Ossett 1 flying E. on 13th September.



Stone-curlew

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Rare visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 7th August for 3½ hours (J.E.D. et al)

First record for the reservoir and fourth for the area.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer and passage visitor that has bred occasionally.

One pair first seen on 18th June laid 4 eggs but had abandoned the nest by 8th July. A third adult was present with the breeding pair for about a week.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 2 on 5th, 8th, 9th; 1 on 10th and 2 on 31st July.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiacula*

Uncommon passage visitor.

Deer Hill Reservoir 1 on 11th and 2 on 17th July and 1 on 14th and 3 on 16th August.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 2 on 26th and 3 on 13th July; singles on 1st, 6th, 8th, 9th and 13th August and 6 on 11th, 2 on 13th, 13 on 22nd, 2 on 27th and 10 on 28th August; 3 on 9th September and 1 on 1st October.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir Singles on 23rd and 25th July and on 3rd, 13th and 22nd August.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Migrant breeder (2 - 3) and common numerous passage and winter visitor.

The flock at New Hall had a maximum of 750 on 5th February and 400 'Northern' birds were near Flockton on 1st May.

At Ringstone Edge a flock of 'Northern' birds had peaks of 750 on 27th March and 650 on 22nd April.

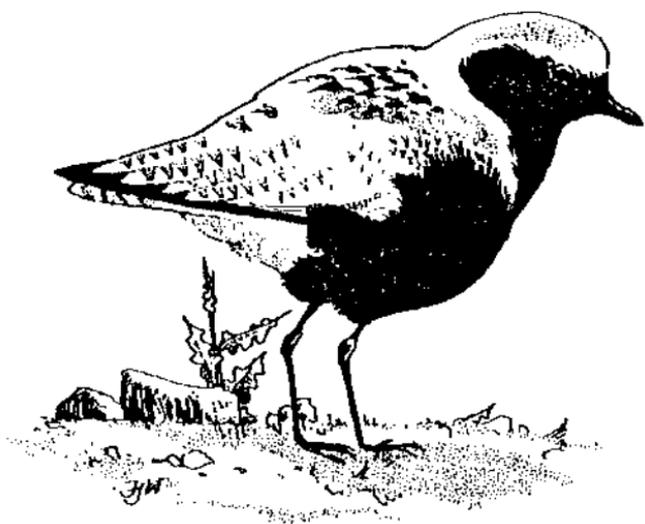
Bred at Rishworth Moor, Slaithwaite Moor, Wessenden Head Moss, Meltham Moor and Withens Moor.

The late summer build up was less marked than in 1977 - no flock of more than 250 being noted. Approaching autumn and winter numbers increased with 400 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st September, 300 at Broadstones on 9th September and 28th November, 400 at New Hall on 22nd October and 693 on 10th December; 400 at Ringstone Edge on 22nd October and at Grange Moor on 25th November.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Singles on 5th, 14th and 28th August; 1 on 17th and 2 on 29th September and 1 on 18th October.



Leucistic Grey Plover  
(Blackmoorfoot Reservoir)

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Resident/migrant breeder (3) and numerous passage and winter visitor. Largest early flocks were of 400 near Bretton on 1st January and 500 at New Hall on 25th February. Summer flock of 400 at Ringstone Edge on 28th July and 400 at Ingbirchworth and 500 at Royd Moor on 29th July. Up to 1,500 at Ingbirchworth during August; 1,000 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st, 500 at Ringstone Edge on 4th September. By December flocks were much reduced, with 200 at Grange Moor on 10th, and no more than 100 each at New Hall, Ingbirchworth, Cawthorne and Ringstone Edge.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 on 1st, 9 and 2 separately on 17th and 1 on 27th August and 1 on 28th September.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 1 on 28th August.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Scarce passage visitor.

Deer Hill Reservoir 1 on 29th April; 1 on 18th and 2 on 19th July, and from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 3 on 4th and 1 on 14th August.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 3 on 19th July; 1 on 1st and 2nd, 3 on 4th, 1 on 14th, 2 on 22nd and 1 on 28th August and 2 on 29th and 1 on 30th September.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 from 5th to 8th and 2 from 9th to 11th, 1 on 15th, 2 on 16th and 1 on 17th September.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 7 on 7th September for 25 minutes (R.J.W.) and 3 separately on 29th September (P.D.B.)

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 12 on 30th September (P.D.B., S.H.)

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

Rare passage visitor.

One at Deer Hill Reservoir on 2nd September (I.P.)

Fourth record for the area.

DUNLIN *Calidris Alpina*

Migrant breeder (2), uncommon passage and winter visitor.

The first singles were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 28th March and 16th April with a more general arrival in late April. Late records included 3 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir and 2 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 12th November, and 1 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 8th December. On 25th November which was the first cold day and marked the commencement of a severe winter, a westerly movement was noted over the area. During that day 164 passed over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, and parties of 7 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir and 15 at Cawthorne were flying west.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor.

More records than in any previous year.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 2 on 19th July; during August 2 on 8th 1 on 19th, 2 on 20th, then singles to 26th, 4 on 27th, 6 on 28th 5 on 29th and 1 on 31st; during September 1 on 3rd and 4th, 3 on 12th, 1 on 16th, 17th and 26th.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 1 on 25th July.

Deer Hill Reservoir 1 on 30th August.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Singles on 23rd and from 26th to 29th and on 31st August and on 21st October.

Whitley Common 1 landed briefly on 21st October before flying NW.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Eiland G.P. 1 to 2 from 7th January to 7th April and 1 on 26th November.

Dewsbury S.F. 1 on 7th January.

Gunthwaite 1 on 19th February

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Singles on 17th February and 23rd December.

Scout Dike Reservoir 1 on 5th March

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 1 on 4th November.

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*

Resident breeder (3), common passage and winter visitor.

Maxima during the autumn at regular feeding sites were as follows:-

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 109 on 12th October and 88 on 18th November.

Scout Dike Reservoir 56 on 21st October

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 45 on 29th October.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 82 on 2nd November

Royd Moor Reservoir 32 on 5th November.

WOODBEGG *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2) and uncommon winter visitor.

An increased number of observations of roding birds in more localities than usual suggests that more than 20 pairs may breed in the area.

Localities included Stocks Moor, Bullcliffe, Bretton Park, West Bretton, Cawthorne, Gunthwaite, Thunderbridge, Yatcholme and Fulshaw.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir On 19th July 3 came in at 15.35 hrs. and eventually left to SW at 18.10 hrs. and 5 flew W at 17.30 hrs. (R.J.W., J.B.)

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 2 on 29th July (D.J.S.)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Scarce passage visitor.

More records than in any previous year.

Dear Hill Reservoir 15 flew SW on 15th July.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Singles on 22nd, 27th and 30th July; 2 on 22nd and 1 on 28th and 29th August; 7 on 7th, 2 on 8th and 1 on 29th September and 1 on 25th November.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 1 on 26th July and 2 on 14th October.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce-uncommon passage visitor.

More records than in any previous year.

Langsett Reservoir 1 on 3rd May

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Singles on 10th and 17th May; 28th and 30th July; and in August on 12th, 15th and 16th. On 20th August 12 flew S and 1 W and 22nd 19 arrived at 12.27 hrs. then flew S at 13.14 hrs. and on 26th parties of 11 and 8 flew N and NE. 2 on 5th September.

Cupwith Reservoir 1 on 15th May and 1 on 6th August.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir. 1 on 29th July.

Dalton 1 heard overhead on 21st August.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (2) and common passage visitor.

First 1 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th February then 5 at Black Moss on 4th March after which from 4 to 11 at six localities between 5th and 11th. A flock of 26 remained near Inghirchworth from 18th March to 8th April. More than usual remained in lowland area during May and June. There were 2 at Bretton and 2 at Cawthorne and 4 near Gunthwaite

More than usual remained in lowland areas during May and June.

There were 2 at Bretton and 2 at Cawthorne and 4 near Gunthwaite.

Bred in moorland localities as usual with at least 6 pairs west of Winscar. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 18 on 27th August was the maximum and the last 1 occurred on 25th September.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 3 on 18th and 1 on 30th July; 1 on 20th August and 1 flying NE, calling, on 10th December (M.L.D.)

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 2 on 26th August and 1 on 11th September

Scout Dike Reservoir 4 flew NW on 7th September.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Migrant breeder (2) and uncommon passage visitor.

Wintered in the Horbury Wyke area with up to 6 from January to March and 1 to 2 during December. Returned to breeding area between 11th March and early April.

3 at Blackmoorfoot on 11th December and 1 over Bretton Park on 23rd.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage visitor.

Elland G.P. 1 on 27th May and 1 on 19th August.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 to 3 on 18 days between 15th July and 29th September.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 1 to 4 on 34 days between 29th July and 15th September, and a maximum of 5 on 27th August.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir Singles on 29th July and 12th and 13th August.

Deer Hill Reservoir 1 on 9th, 5 on 18th and 2 on 20th August.

Scout Dike Reservoir 1 on 10th September

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Royd Moor Reservoir Singles on 23rd April and 10th August.

Scout Dike Reservoir Singles on 22nd July and 9th September.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 to 2 on 11 days between 27th July to 9th September.

Deer Hill Reservoir 1 to 4 on 10 days between 28th July and 20th August, the maximum of 4 on 11th August.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Singles on 29th July and 10th and 24th August.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir. 1 on 5th August.

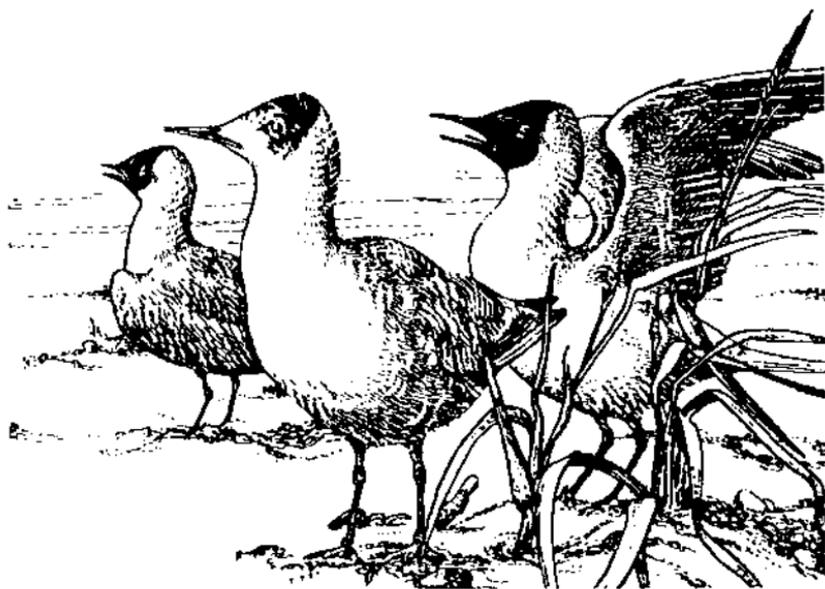
Dewsbury S.F. 1 on 8th October.

Bretton Park 1 on 11th November.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2) and uncommon passage visitor.

First 1 at Bretton Park on 8th April and next at Wessenden Head Reservoir on 21st. Last 1 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 9th October, where there were 11 on 18th and 28th July.



Black-headed Gulls

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Scarce passage visitor.

Scammonden Dam 1 on 16th May

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 7 on 27th, 3 on 30th and 1 on 31st July,  
2 on 26th August; 3 on 7th September, and 7th October 9 circled  
the reservoir before flying E.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir Singles on 3rd and 6th August and 10th  
September.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor*

Rare visitor.

One on the River Calder near Ossett on 26th and 27th September  
(B.Ladley, D.Senior, A.Frudd)

First record for the area.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Rare visitor.

One light phase adult appeared briefly at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir  
at 12.30 hrs. on 5th September (P.D.B.)

Third record for the area.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir On 22nd April 12 adults remained for 10  
minutes before flying NE (M.L.D.). 1 immature on 10th May (M.L.D.)  
and single adults on 7th August (T.C.)

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 1 immature on 2nd August (D.I.C.)

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Resident breeder (3) and numerous passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Roost maxima of 3,500 on 7th January and  
4,500 on 16th December.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir 1,600 roosting on 22nd February

At Black Moss over 150 were sitting in late June, and a total of  
162 young were ringed by early July.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Numerous winter and passage visitor.

Highest roost counts at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir were again rather  
lower than during the mid-seventies with 700 on 5th February and 600  
on 16th December.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Non-breeders occur from May to July.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir For the third successive year roost numbers were moderate with maxima of 110 on 18th March, 260 on 14th August and 254 on 18th October. Individuals showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race *L.F. fuscus* occurred on 7th April, 3rd May, 18th September, 6th and 18th October and 3rd and 4th November.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Numerous winter and passage visitor.

The numbers roosting at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir have been much reduced since the winter of 1976-77, and this year's maxima were 300 on 7th January and 160 on 16th December.

155 roosted at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 7th January.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Scarce winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 adult on 24th January (M.L.D., G.M.Y.)

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 adult on 13th, 18th and 19th January (P.D.B., M.L.D., G.M.Y., T.C.); a first winter bird on 28th January (G.M.Y.) and different single adults on 29th January (J.E.D.) and 30th January (P.B.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Roost maxima of 160 on 7th January and 90 on 16th December.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir Roost maxima of 124 on 7th January and 80 on 28th December.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 on 20th January and 1 on 15th March.

On 11th September during a NW gale at least 6, possibly 7, immatures arrived and remained with the roosting gulls.

1 adult on 29th October.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 1 adult flew N on 27th March.

Elland G.P. 1 adult on 24th December and 1 immature on 26th.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

Uncommon passage visitor.

As in 1977 this was a moderate year for these species.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir The following were not specifically identified  
1 on 28th April; 2 on 29th July; 4 on 1st August; 9 on 6th, 1 on  
7th, 2 on 9th, 3 on 16th and 3 on 30th September and singles on 1st  
and 28th October. Common Terns identified were 1 on 13th May; 1 on  
8th and 2 on 11th August, and Arctic Terns identified were 2 on 4th and  
10 on 19th August and 2 on 9th September.

Bretton Park 1 on 29th April.

Eiland G.P. 2 on 2nd May (Common T.) and 1 on 8th July.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 11 (of which at least 3 Arctic T.) on 6th  
May.

Scout Dike Reservoir 1 on 9th August (Common T.)

Broadstones Reservoir 2 on 7th September (Common T.)

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage visitor.

A better than average year for this species.

Scout Dike Reservoir 2 on 29th July and on 7th September.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 4 on 30th July, 1 on 6th and 2 on 11th  
September and 5 on 11th and 3 on 12th October.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir 2 on 11th May and on 20th August

Ringstone Edge Reservoir Singles on 22nd August and from 9th to  
11th September and 2 on 12th.

Additional record for 1977 Gunthwaite 2 on 15th May.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3) and common winter visitor.

A flock of about 100 to the W of Ingbirchworth on 26th November  
was the only one reported of over 20 birds.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

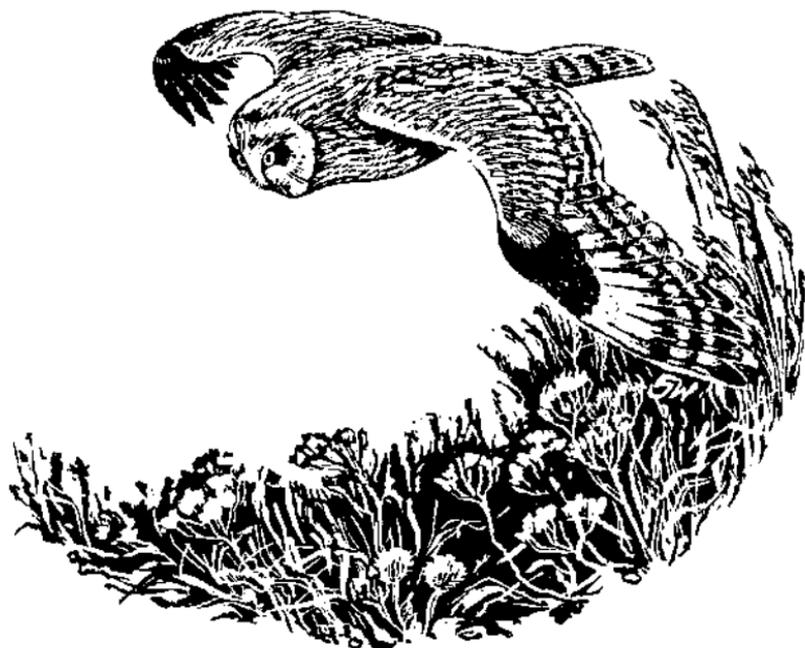
Resident breeder (4) and numerous winter visitor.

The largest flock noted was one of 600 at Cawthorne on 21st October,  
and with fewer flocks and no large movements reported it appears to  
have been less numerous outside the breeding season than in recent  
years.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3)

The largest flocks were of 70 at Scout Dike on 5th March, apparently  
going to roost in trees, and of 47 near Horbury on 13th December.



Short-eared Owl

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Migrant breeder (1 to 2).

First 2 at Bretton Park on 7th May and last 1 at Whitley Common on 23rd September. Singing males during June and July at Horbury (1), Coxley (1), Bretton area (5), Hoyland Bank (1), Deffer Wood (1), Gunthwaite (1) and Ingbirchworth (1).

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (2)

First 1 at Bretton Park on 23rd April and singles at Coxley and Digley on 26th.

Last 1 an immature at Blackmoorfoot, on 8th August.

Fairly well distributed with records from 16 localities, and at least 5 at Digley in late May.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Resident breeder (1)

Singles at Lepton on 30th August; Grange Moor on 15th November and at Shepley from 16th to 24th December. Two known breeding sites were not occupied, but others were unexamined.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding proved near Blackmoorfoot and Digley, and pairs present at Cawthorne, Deer Hill, Scammonden and Flockton, and singles noted at 17 other localities.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2)

Obviously very much under-recorded having been reported from only 11 localities.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

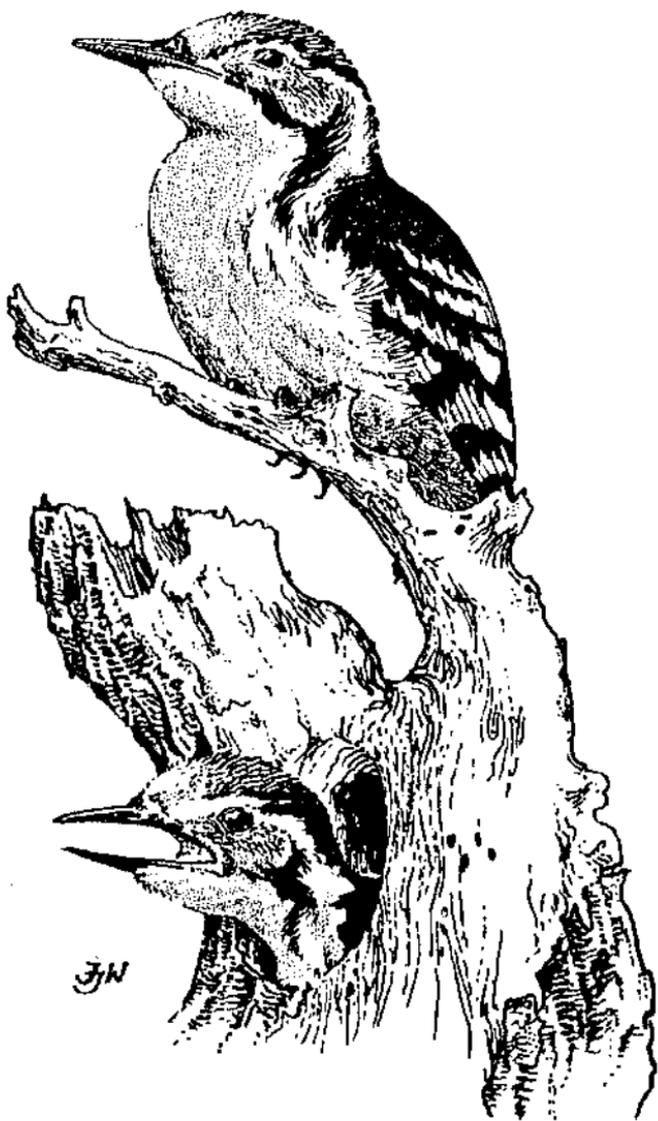
Resident breeder (1)

At two of the breeding sites 3 and 2 young respectively were reared. At a third site singles were heard during February and March, but the area was not thoroughly investigated.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage and winter visitor.

A pair again reared young in the south of the area, and in the north adults were seen carrying food during late June. Outside the breeding season singles were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th March, 28th October and 4th November; at Pole Moor on 25th September and at March Haigh on 10th December. One was found dead on Slaithwaite Moor on 23rd October.



Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers

SWIFT *Apus apus*

Migrant breeder (3).

First 1 at Sparth Reservoir on 6th May then 10 at Bretton Park and others at Kirkheaton and Honley on 7th May. At least 450 over Deer Hill Reservoir on 2nd July. Latest records were at Horbury 13th September, and 2 at Cumberworth 1st October.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Resident breeder (1)

The total number of sightings reported was in excess of any previous year.

At Bretton Park a pair reared 2 young, and on the River Holme another pair was present. Along the River Calder 1 to 2 were seen regularly at 3 localities. Singles were seen at 3 localities along the River Colne and also at Lockwood, Cawthorne, Scout Dike and Ingbirchworth.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Rare visitor.

One in trees by Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 27th May (F.J.W.)

Fifth record for the area.

Two records, not referred to in the 1975 Report have recently come to light - one in 1847 and one near Devestones in 1975.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (2).

Present throughout the year at Bretton Park. Juveniles near Elland and at Digley in July and August. Singles at 11 other localities mainly from March to September.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*.

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs at Grimescar Wood, Bretton Park, Hagg Wood, Brockholes and Deffer Wood and singles at 7 other localities during the breeding season.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*.

Resident breeder (1)

Breeding was proved in Hey Wood for the first time a pair being present from March to June when the young were heard in the nest hole (D.H.)

At Bretton Park a male and a female on several dates from 28th February to 22nd April, and 2 on 28th October. A male and female in Grimescar Wood on 13th February and a male on 18th. One heard in Elland Park Wood on 16th April.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Resident breeder (4) and partial migrant.

Regular westerly movement of small numbers at Blackmoorfoot between early October and early November with maximum of 25 on 21st October. A flock of 40 at Ingbirchworth during early December.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder (2) and uncommon passage visitor.

1 flew in from S at Bretton Park on 1st April then flew NE.

Main arrival from 22nd April with 3 at Gunthwaite and 5 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.

7 pairs by the River Calder at Elland during May and June but no evidence at other breeding sites. Last 3 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th September and 2 at Dewsbury S.F. on 30th.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4) and numerous passage visitor.

First singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 20th April, at Digley Reservoir on 21st, with others at Gunthwaite, Bentley Spring and Brockholes on 22nd, and Ingbirchworth, Royd Moor Reservoir and Bretton Park on 23rd. 400 at Bretton Park on 30th April. Over 2,000 Swallows and House Martins over Inchbirchworth Reservoir on 11th and 12th May. A pair reared a brood in the lounge of an occupied house at Netherthong. Adults were feeding 2 juveniles at Digley as late as 2nd October. At least 750 roosted at Lees Mill on 3rd September. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 2 flew S on 22nd October and 2 at New Mill on 27th were the last.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Migrant breeder (3) and common passage visitor.

First 2 at Brockholes on 22nd April, 1 at Ingbirchworth on 23rd and 30 at Bretton Park by 30th. 2 pairs bred at a new site at Crosland Moor.

A flock of up to 1,000 House Martins and Swallows over Shepley on 5th September. Last 6 at Bretton Park on 11th October.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (3)

First arrivals on 23rd April of singles at Deffer Wood and Royd Moor and 6 at Bretton Park. 14 singing in the Coxley area on 3rd May.

Last 1 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th September.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Resident Breeder (4 to 5) and partial migrant.

Pre-breeding season Flock at Digley grew from 30 on 15th March to about 100 by 9th April. 40 at Ingbirchworth on 6th September. 200 moved W over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th October.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare visitor.

Singles at Dewsbury S.F. on 8th April (M.B.) and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th October (P.B.)

WATER PIPIT *A. s. spinolotta*

Rare visitor

Elland C.P. 1 on 1st and 25th January (D.J.S., R.J.W.) First seen 6th November 1977

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1 on 5th November (P.B., M.F.D.)

Fifth record for the area.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder (2)

First 4 at Bretton Park on 23rd April. 1 pair bred at Morbury and 1 pair at Deer Hill. Adults were carrying food at Bretton Park on 14th June and Will's o' Nats on 2nd July. Up to 12 by Longwood Brook in early June.

Last 1 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th September.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

Occurred in 9 localities outside the breeding season for which the only records were from Bretton Park (2 pairs), River Colne at Milnsbridge (1 pair) and Booth Dean (1 male).

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Resident breeder (3 to 4) and partial migrant.

20 flew W at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th October during a movement of passerines.

WHITE WAGTAIL *M.a. alba*

1 at Bretton on 1st May.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare-uncommon winter visitor

At Lepton 1 from 1st to 7th and 2 on 20th and 21st January.

1 at Elland on 9th December.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*.

Resident breeder (2)

From a slight decline in the total number of records received, and the absence from some sites a possible decline in the area is indicated. Present at several sites along the River Holme and must have bred near Hagg Wood where an immature was seen on 9th July. Other records were mainly of singles at Hall Dike, Dean Wood, Digley, Marsden, Ringstone Edge and Winscar.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident Breeder (5)

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5)

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5)

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage visitor

A singing male first heard on 12th June (J.H.D., H.C.L.) near Huddersfield town centre, and then heard daily to 15th and less regularly to 26th - was seen with a second bird on 14th (H.C.L.)  
1 seen on 6th July (J.E.D.)  
Singles at Deer Hill on 29th July and at Ossett on 20th November.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder (2)

First at T.P. Wood on 25th April then 2 at Digley on 29th.  
Pairs bred at Booth Wood, Wessenden, Meltham Mills, Hey Clough, Digley and Holmbridge and probably at Bretton Park. Last 1 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th September.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2)

First 1 at Elland G.P. on 28th April where there were 4 on 4th May on which date 11 were at Deer Hill. Pairs bred at Scammonden (3) Booth Dean (1), Deer Hill (1), Broadstones (2), Ingbirchworth (1), Royd Moor (1), Scout Dike (2), Digley (1) and Wessenden (1).

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Resident breeder (1) and uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. For the first year since 1973 there was no indication of breeding. 1 to 2 at 7 localities early in the year particularly at Elland G.P. which had a maximum of 4. Last at Scammonden on 17th March where the first 2 of autumn appeared on 30th September. 2 at Elland G.P. from 11th November, 1 at Broadstones on 25th November and at least 2 in the Ingbirchworth area during the last week of December.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder (2 to 3)

A male at Digley on 11th March was the earliest ever in the area. Next were singles at Grange Moor on 26th, Haigh and Digley on 30th and 9 at Lindley Moor on 1st April. Over 20 at Deer Hill on 12th and 15th August and at Digley on 19th and 20th August. Last 2 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 8th October. Evidence of breeding was limited to 6 localities and suggests that its local population is less than 100 pairs.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder (2)

1 male at Digley on 16th March, but no spring build up here with 4 as the April maximum. Bred at Digley and Wessenden and present at March Haigh, Scammonden, Rishworth Moor and Ramsden Clough in the breeding season. Latest noted were 4 at Digley on 23rd July.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5) and numerous winter visitor. Edgerton roost had only 150 during January and February.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Much more numerous than usual during the early months when flocks of 100 to 300 were at 16 localities and larger flocks were as follows:- Blackmoorfoot 300 on 7th January, Ringstone Edge 550 going to roost on 10th and 13th March and over 300 on 27th April, Outlane Moor over 400 on 2nd April; Dewsbury S.F. 340 on 15th April, and in the Ingbirchworth area over 500 on 11th March, 400 on 28th March, and 300 on 26th April with 200 still there on 7th May. Other late records - 50 at Gunthwaite on 6th May and 1 at Digley on 9th May. First of autumn at Digley 50 on 19th October and over 50 flying W at Cawthorne on 21st. Movements W and S over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 7 days from 21st October to 8th November totalled 462. Autumn flocks of over 100 at 5 localities and larger flocks of 300 at Gunthwaite on 25th November and 400 at Morhury on 29th. Over Cawthorne on 25th November 300 flew W in 1 hour. Numbers much reduced in the area by late December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Resident breeder (4)

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Few flocks were noted early in the year and none exceeded 100. The Edgerton roost numbered 400 on 7th and 8th January but was deserted during a cold spell on 18th and 19th February, but reached 50 by 15th March.

150 roosted at Bretton Park on 4th March. Last at Gunthwaite on 9th April.

First 4 at Horbury on 1st October with small numbers elsewhere during the next 3 weeks until a more general arrival from 21st October to early November. Numbers were generally quite low and the only flocks of 100 were at Gunthwaite on 25th November, and Coxley and Horbury on 29th.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3)

Parties of over 20 at Digley on 23rd July; at Whitley Common on 17th August and at Deer Hill on 6th September.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Migrant breeder - sporadic.

Singing males at Bank Wood on 7th and 14th May and near Deighton on 9th, 15th and 16th May.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1).

First 1 at Bretton Park on 1st May, and last 1 at Lees Mill on 20th August.

Bred in the Elland G.P. and Horbury/Horbury Wyke areas with respective maxima of 5 and 6 singing males during late May.

Singing males at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 7th May, at Haigh on 14th June, and at Scout Dike Reservoir on 18th June. Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 10th May (singing) and 3rd August (caught and ringed).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1)

Singing males at 2 sites in Bretton Park from 7th May to 2nd June and 1 nearby at Bentley Spring on 17th May. 1 male at Deighton from 9th to 11th May only. In the Horbury Bridge area a male was singing regularly from 13th May (with a second on 24th), and an adult was feeding young on 17th July. At Bradley Hall in suitable breeding habitat 1 singing male on 14th May and 4th June. 1 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th August after a small 'fall' of migrants in this area.

WHITETHROAT *Syl via communis*

Migrant breeder (2).

First 2 males and 1 female at Bretton Park on 7th May, and last 1 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th September. A total of 37 singing males were in the Horbury - Bretton - Cawthorne area during late May (mainly D.Pc). A similar area held about 25 during late May, 1977.

This probably indicates a further recovery, but records from further west were a little sparse.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*.

Migrant breeder (2).

First 1 at Bretton Park on 30th April, then 3 on 7th May, and last 1 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th August. 23 singing males counted in the Horbury - Bretton - Cawthorne - Deffer area during late May. Few records further west.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3)

A female was at a Waterloo bird table on 18th February.

Bretton Park had the first numbers of spring arrivals with 2 on 23rd April and 7 by 26th. Last at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 7th October. Late passage migrants and/or birds over wintering included 1 at Gunthwaite on 21st October, and at Bretton Park a male on 22nd, 24th, and 26th November, and a female on 9th December.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Migrant breeder (1)

Singing males (all singles) at Bretton Park on 28th April, 15th May and 6th June; at Grimescar Wood from 7th to 12th May; at Beaumont Park and at Deffer Wood on 14th May and at Digley on 4th June. Near Meltham Mills after a singing male had occurred on 11th June a nest was found with young and the adults were feeding a juvenile on 24th June.

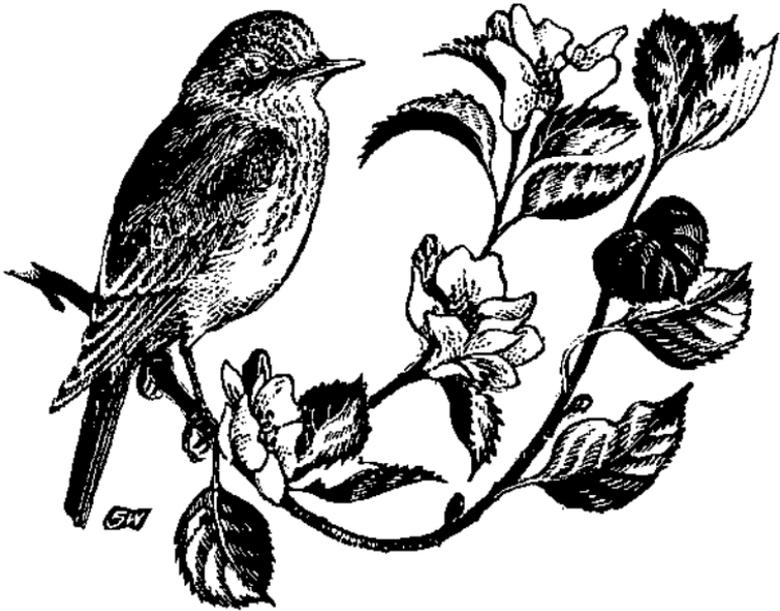
CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder (2)

First was 1 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th March and next 2 singing males at Bretton Park on 28th.

An unidentified phylloscopus warbler in Windy Bank Wood on 11th March. Singing males in the Horbury - Bretton - Cawthorne - Deffer area totalled 33 in late May and early June.

Further west singing males were near Elland at Beaumont Park and at Denby Dale.



Spotted Flycatcher

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4)

1 at Elland G.P. on 13th April and 2 in Bank Wood on 16th with a more general arrival from 21st to 26th April. 57 singing in the Coxley Valley on 3rd May. 303 were caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir including 24 on 15th July. Last 1 a juvenile singing in a Fenay Lane garden on 1st and 2nd October.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3) and common passage visitor

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder (3)

First singles at Elland G.P. on 4th May and at Brockholes, Fartown and Bretton Park on 6th May, and last 2 at Bretton Park on 20th September.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Rare passage visitor

A male at Bretton Park from 26th April to 2nd May.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (2)

Evidence of breeding including family parties from 14 localities. 22 at Bretton Park on 20th September and 29 in 3 parties in Deffer Wood on 21st October.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

Rare visitor.

The recorder suspects that he has rather too easily accepted some of the submitted records in past years. Full descriptions will be required in future. 1 on 25th November in Bretton Park was considered from calls to be of this species (S.H.)

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

Resident breeder (2 to 3)

From the number of records received its breeding status is probably in the lower category. Breeding proof in 7 localities area possibly involving up to 20 pairs, but doubtless under-recorded.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

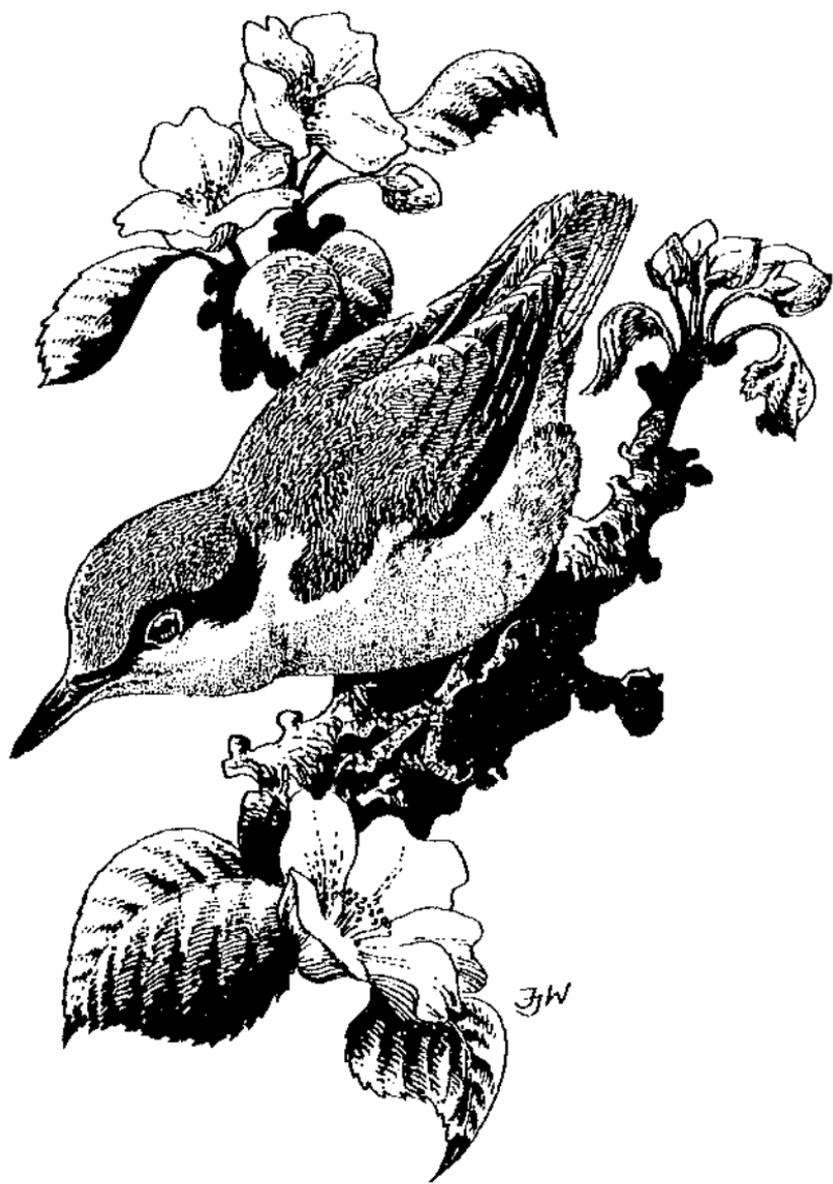
Resident breeder (3)

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5)

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4 to 5)



Nuthatch

NUTCRACKER *Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder (1)

At Bretton Park present throughout the year with at least 1 pair nesting and from the evidence of family parties seen during August possibly a second pair bred. 2 near Wood Bottom, Mirfield during September and 1 at Hopton Mills on 31st December.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3)

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius exubitor*

Scarce winter visitor.

Bretton Park 1 seen on 9 days up to 26th March and 1 on 21st December (many observers)

Horbury and Horbury Wyke 1 seen on 7 days from 9th February to 5th March. As this bird and the one at Bretton were both seen in their respective areas on 14th and 25th February it seems certain that 2 individuals were involved. (D.P., P.B.)

Low Common, nr. Ingbirchworth 1 on 5th March (T.W. and P.M.F.)

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2 to 3)

HAWK *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4)

55 roostings in T.P. Woods on 23rd January and 70 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th January and 67 on 18th November and 50 at Ingbirchworth on 10th April.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4)

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5)

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (2)

1 pair nested on a pylon near Meltham.

14 feeding together in fields near Ingbirchworth during September. Records of such feeding parties would be welcomed as it is suspected that they are more frequent than present records indicate, especially early in the year.

HOODED CROW *C. c. cornix*

1 shot near High Hoyland during January.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (5) and numerous winter visitor.

In the Ingbirchworth and Whitley Common area a feeding flock numbering 8,000 to 12,000 was seen almost daily between 11th and 27th March.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5)

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder (4)

A flock of over 200 in meadowland near Deffer Wood on 2nd January. A regular feeding party in a Fenay Lane garden had a maximum of 82 on 12th February. The only flocks noted later in the year were 80 at Blackmoorfoot on 17th August, and over 50 at Bretton Park on 31st December. At Broad Oak Farm, Gunthwaite 5 pairs bred in the hollow wooden pillars of a dutch barn.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (4 to 5) and numerous passage and winter visitor. No flocks of any significant size were noted either early or late in the year, the largest being one of 60 near High Hoyland on 1st January. At Blackmoor foot Reservoir from 8th October to 5th November movements which were mainly westerly, but some southerly, occurred on 8 days during the early mornings. 900 were counted during this period with maxima of 200 on 12th October, 210 on 21st; 192 on 29th and 112 on 5th November.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common winter visitor.

Apart from a flock of 50 to 100 which fed in stubble at Thurgoland from 9th to 19th January and 30 near Langsett on 2nd and 7th January, only small numbers (1 to 4) at 5 localities. Last on 23rd April. 2 at Deffer Wood and singles at Bretton Park and near Scout Dike Reservoir.

The autumn was one of the poorest ever for this species.

1 at Digley on 12th and 2 at Holmbridge on 30th October, singles at Bretton Park on 8th and 12th November and 24th December and at Elland C.P. on 16th December. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir westerly movement totalled 93 between 12th October and 5th November, of which 38 passed on the last day.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4)

Roosts and flocks were smaller than usual. 150 roosted at Bretton Park from January to March, and 100 at Blackmoorfoot during January. Flocks of 100 near Ingbirchworth on 28th March and Horbury on 4th October, and 250 at Dewsbury S.F. on 28th September.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident breeder (2 to 3)

As with other finch species feeding flocks were smaller than usual with only 2 of 20 to 30 early in the year and 3 of 10 to 30 during the autumn. An exception was a flock at Royd Moor which built up from 30 during September to about 100 on 3rd October.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Scarce to uncommon winter visitor.

A flock of over 60 fed on alders near the motorway at Ossett during January. At Bretton Park on 7 days in January with a maximum of 50 on 21st; on 3 days in February with 15 on 21st and 16 on 1st March and 1 on 28th. 10 at Elland G.P. on 12th March.

A pair in Swinden Plantation on 16th April.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 4 flew W on 12th October, 2 were present on 29th and 6 flew S on 3rd November. At Bretton Park 2 to 6 from 4th to 26th November and 14 on 21st December.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Resident breeder (4) and partial migrant.

Largest spring flocks were of 150 near Horbury on 17th March, and 100 near Ingbirchworth on 28th. Over 100 near Horbury on 8th October on which day 46 flew S over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Resident and partial migrant breeder (3)

First noted were a flock of 150 on Whitley Common on 12th March. A few had returned to Scammonden by 19th March. Bred in the usual sites such as Rishworth Moor, Booth Dean, Scammonden, March Haigh and Deer Hill. The autumn flocks in these areas were small - 60 at Deer Hill on 3rd August and 50 at Ringstone Edge on 30th September being the largest. 100 were in the Whitley Common and Broadstones area during September, and 1 at Ringstone Edge on 29th October.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flamma*

Resident breeder (3) and uncommon to common winter visitor. Early flocks of 40 on waste ground in Milnsbridge on 4th March and at Elland G.P. on 14th April. Later 60 near Horbury on 8th October, at least 80 in Butternab Wood on 26th November, up to 40 in Hagg Wood on 3rd December and 100 near Netherton in early December.

NEALY REDPOLL *C. f. flamma*

Individuals showing characteristics of this variety at Elland G.P. on 8th, 14th, and 15th January, 12th and 26th March and 14th April; at Bretton Park 2 on 25th January; at Milnsbridge on 4th March and at Horbury 4 on 29th November and 1 on 13th December.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Rare to uncommon passage visitor.  
6 on 2nd and 8 on 9th July in Deffer Wood (J.E.D.)

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (3)  
Numerous in Bretton during December with at least 15 on 30th and 31st.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce to uncommon winter visitor.  
1 near Gopwith Reservoir on 15th January (J.B.) and 10 at Fixby Gate brought down in fog on 22nd February (J.M.D.).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3)  
Flocks of 25 to 40 early in the year at Elland G.P., Windy Bank Wood, Cawthorne and Bretton Park where there were nearly 100 on 12th February. On 31st December 41 at Cawthorne and over 30 at Bretton Park.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident breeder (3)  
More than usual at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during the autumn months when 31 were caught and ringed. A flock of over 25 at Elland G.P. on 30th December.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

Resident breeder (2)

Singing males in the Ingbirchworth area (3) and on Outlane Moor (1) during the summer. The only other sightings were from meadowland surrounding Bretton Park and 1 at Dewsbury S.F. on 1st October. No reports (negative or otherwise) from Stainland, Crosland Moor, Hall Dike, Netherthong or Farnley Tyas areas.

ESCAPES

It is considered worth recording that QUAKER PARAKEETS *Mysicopsitta monachus*, originally bred in captivity in Almondbury have been allowed to fly free and have built large nests in at least two sites in Almondbury.

There are believed to be up to 40 involved and parties of 7 to 15 have been reported from Moldgreen, Dalton, Waterloo and Almondbury. They still return to their 'home' for feeding and roosting, but have fed in gardens in the districts mentioned.

1977 Additions

OSPREY, *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare visitor

1 over Langsett Reservoir and the Upper Little Don Valley on 20th November (I. Francis)

Sixth record for the area.

MONTAGUS HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Rare visitor.

1 during the summer

Third record for the area.

The following species have also been recorded in the area since 1945 but did not appear in 1978.

Black-throated Diver, <i>Gavia arctica</i>	Grey Phalarope, <i>Phalaropus</i>
Red-necked Grebe, <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	<i>fulvicarius</i>
Fulmar, <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Mediterranean Gull, <i>Larus</i>
Manx Shearwater, <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	<i>melanocephalus</i>
Storm Petrel, <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	Sandwich Tern, <i>Sandvicensis</i>
Leach's Petrel, <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Little Tern, <i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Gannet, <i>Sula bassana</i>	Guillemot, <i>Uria aalge</i>
Spoonbill, <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Little Auk, <i>Alle alle</i>
Brent Goose, <i>Branta bernicla</i>	Puffin, <i>Fratercula arctica</i>
Mandarin, <i>Aix galericulata</i>	Nightjar, <i>Caprimulgus</i>
Garganey, <i>Anas querquedula</i>	<i>europaeus</i>
Ferruginous Duck, <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Roller, <i>Coracias garrulus</i>
Long-tailed Duck, <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Hoopoe, <i>Upupa epops</i>
Velvet Scoter, <i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Woodlark, <i>Lullula arborea</i>
Smew, <i>Mergus albellus</i>	Reed Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus</i>
Marsh Harrier, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	<i>scirpaceus</i>
Montagu's Harrier, <i>Circus pygargus</i>	Pallas's Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus</i>
Rough-legged Buzzard, <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	<i>proregulus</i>
Osprey, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Firecrest, <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Black Grouse, <i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	Red-backed Shrike, <i>Lanus</i>
Quail, <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	<i>collurio</i>
Spotted Crake, <i>Porzana porzana</i>	Hawfinch, <i>Coccothraustes</i>
Corncrake, <i>Crex crex</i>	<i>Coccothraustes</i>
Dotterel, <i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	Lapland Bunting, <i>Calcarius</i>
Buff-breasted Sandpiper, <i>Tryngites</i>	<i>lapponicus</i>
<i>subruficollis</i>	

Also quite definite, although for some reason not submitted to the British Birds Rarities Committee -  
Red-footed Falcon, *Falco vespertinus*

The following species were recorded in the area before 1945 but not subsequently -

Bittern, <i>Botaurus stellaria</i>	Pallas's Sandgrouse, <i>Syrhaptes</i>
Black Stork, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	<i>paradoxus</i>
Honey Buzzard, <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Eagle Owl, <i>Bubo bubo</i>
Red Kite, <i>Milvus milvus</i>	Alpine Swift, <i>Apus melba</i>
Baillons Crake, <i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Nightingale, <i>Luscinia</i>
Temminck's Stint, <i>Calidris temminckii</i>	<i>magarharhyuchus</i>
Dowitcher sp., <i>Limnodromus</i> sp.	Woodchat Shrike, <i>Lanius senator</i>
Razorbill, <i>Alca torda</i>	Rose-coloured Starling, <i>Sterna</i>
	<i>roseus</i>
	Nutcracker, <i>Nucifraga</i>
	<i>caryocatactes</i>
	Girl Bunting, <i>Emberiza cirius</i>

Contributors to the 1978 Report (with apologies for any omissions)

C.E. Andrassey	B.Hart
B.Armitage	S.Hey
J.S.Armitage	D.S. & V.Ives
M.Barnett	H.C.Laidlaw
J.Beaumont	N.Leece
J.W.Bell	R.Lumb
P.D.Bell	J.Lunn
D.Bentley	D.Manchester
C.Bittcliffe	S.McCormack
G.Blenkin	K.A.Norcliffe
P.Bray	I.Pogson
J.L.Bradbrooke	D.Proster
T.Cantwell	B.Peuistone
G.Carr	G.B.Silver
H.Charnock	P.Smith
D.I.Crawshaw	D.Southall
J.Dale	D.J.Sutcliffe
J.E. & S.H.Dale	D.Sykes
J.M. & M.S.Dale	J.Thornton
M.L.Denton	R.H.Walker
C.Disbrey	F.J. & B.Watson
T.Duckworth	J.Wilcock
T.W. & P.M.Frost	G.E.Wilkinson
C.M.Fuller	B.W.Woodcock
D.Hall	G.M.Yates
P.Harrison	

and a number of others who visited the hide at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.

Members are urged to continue to cover their own favourite area as well as the more striking habitats, and requested to submit any records that they feel to be of value to help us to maintain the increased coverage of recent years.

John E. Dale.

## "YELLOW ROBIN"

Anybody who visited the hide at Blackmoorfoot during the late summer/autumn of the three years 1976-78 must have wondered at the entries of "Yellow Robin". The following is an account of the histories of those three birds.

The first indication of anything strange in the Robin world came on 8th July, 1976 when P. Bray saw the first of the so-called Robins. The bird was trapped on 14th July when the following description was taken:-

General head and body very pale orange-yellow faintly barred similar to a normal juvenile Robin. Rump very orange in colour. Primaries yellowish-white, secondaries light orange-yellow. Primary coverts light orange-yellow, greater coverts slightly darker than primary coverts and have orange tips. The median and lesser coverts were mainly orange throughout. The tail being orange-yellow throughout. Bill and legs yellowish-flesh, eyes dark.

This bird was seen up to 9th August 1976, and different birds with identical plumage were seen on 3rd and 4th September 1977 (caught on 3rd) and on six dates between 10th June and 9th July 1978 (caught on 9th July). All three birds were in their first year of life due to the inside of the upper mandible being a yellowish colour and the tail feathers being very pointed.

### MOULT

Save from a few exceptions juvenile passerines only moult their body feathers (i.e. not remiges and rectrices) in their first year. Both the 1976 and 1978 birds had just started to moult their body feathers when caught, but unfortunately the feathers had not protruded far enough for any change in colour to be determined.

### WHERE ARE THESE BIRDS NOW?

Even if the body feathers had moulted into normal Robin plumage the wings and tail would still have maintained their original colour and therefore they would be still very easy to see. Although all the birds were ringed no recoveries have been reported, but considering the unusual plumage this must make them very susceptible to predators. The only answer to the above question therefore is that we do not know. The only thing we can say is that they are not at Blackmoorfoot, unless they are in a part-digested state.

### XANTHOCHROISM

An excess of yellow pigmentation is called xanthochroism, the three Robins at Blackmoorfoot were thus exhibiting this condition. A letter to Bryan Sage confirmed this phenomenon, and he also commented on the fact that the above is the only record that he has for Robins. Will 1979 bring forth yet another "Yellow Robin"? We await with baited breath.

H.L. Denton

## RINGING REPORT

A total of 2,786 were ringed during 1978 with 46 species being represented. The Coot ringed at Blackmoorfoot was the only new ringing species for the area. Although the Edgerton roost was visited fairly regularly during the January - March period repeated bad weather during the October - December period resulted in only one visit, and consequently numbers for this area were below average. Blackmoorfoot was visited whenever possible, this resulting in some very good totals for individual species, notably Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Greenfinch and Reed Bunting.

During the year, 212 pulli were ringed, these were:-

Kestrel (4 Wessenden), Merlin (2 moorland locality), Black-headed Gull (152 Black Moss), Duncock (3 Blackmoorfoot), Blackbird (4 Crossland Moor, 4 Blackmoorfoot), Song Thrush (8 Blackmoorfoot), Mistle Thrush (9 Blackmoorfoot), Blue Tit ( 5 Waterloo), Great Tit (6 T.P. Wood) and Linnet (5 Blackmoorfoot).

## RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used:-

Age:        1. pulli    (nestling or chick)  
             2. full grown, year of hatching quite unknown  
             3. hatched during calendar year of ringing  
             4. hatched before calendar year of ringing, but  
                exact year unknown  
             5. hatched during previous calendar year.  
             6. hatched before previous calendar year, but  
                exact year unknown

Sex:        M: Male  
             F: Female

Manner of  
recovery:   V: caught or trapped and released with ring  
              X: found dead or dying  
              +: shot or killed by man

Date of  
recovery:

Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets. All recoveries of 5 Kms or more are published. The recovery Twite KA49300 was received too late for inclusion in the 1977 report.

Huddersfield Birds Recovered Elsewhere

SNIPE

CC80209	?	24.12.71	Blackmoorfoot, Nr. Huddersfield, 53°37' N 1°52'W
	V	30.11.77	Blackmoorfoot
	X	18.2.78	Cawood, Selby, (Yorks) 53°50'N 1°07'W 55 Kms E.N.E.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

ED59051	1	10.6.75	Black Moss, Marsden, 53°34'N 1°56'W
	X	25.1.78	Crawshaw Booth, Rossendale (Lancs) 53°43'N 2°17'W 28 Kms N.W.
EH10485	1	24.6.76	Black Moss
	X	28.4.78	Waterhead Reservoir Oldham (Lancs) 53°31'N 2°05'W 8 Kms S.W.
EH17629	1	20.6.77	Black Moss
	X	5.11.78	Oldham (Lancs) Ca. 53°32'N 2°06'W. Ca. 10 kms W.
EH17691	1	24.6.77	Black Moss
	X	5.8.78	Gunthorpe Bridge, Nottingham. 52°59'N 0°59'W. 90 Kms S.E.
EH17698	1	26.6.77	Black Moss
	X	20.5.78	Castle Shaw Reservoir (Yorks) 53°37'N 2°00'W 6 Kms N.W.

EH21116	I	26.6.77	Black Moss
	X	mid.7.78	Grassmoor, Chesterfield, (Derby) 53°12'N 1°24'W 56 Kms S.E.
<u>SWALLOW</u> KV48290	3J	19.8.78	Blackmoorfoot
	V	27.8.78	Ringstead G.P. Kettering (Northants) 52°22'N 0°34'W 155 Kms S.E.
<u>PIED WACTAIL</u> KN74120	3J	20.7.77	Blackmoorfoot
	+	7.11.78	Frechas (Tras os Montes) Portugal 41°14'N 7°10'W.
KN74338	3	12.8.77	Blackmoorfoot.
	V.F.	11.3.78	Stalybridge (Cheshire) 53°29' N 2°06'W. 21 Kms S.W.
<u>SONG THRUSH</u>	3	27.9.74	Blackmoorfoot
	X	12.7.78	Mytholmroyd (Yorks) 53°43'N. 1°59'W. 15 Kms N.N.W.
<u>REDWING</u> XA38407	6	22.1.77	Edgerton, Huddersfield 53°40'N 1°48'W.
	X	27.2.78	Oosteinde, Berkhout (Noord Holland) Netherlands 52°39'N. 5°00' E.
<u>BLUE TIT</u> KN74686	5	3.3.78	Blackmoorfoot
	V	30.9.78	Claphorrough, Retford (Notts) 53°20'N. 0°53'W. 68Kms S.E.

GREENFINCH  
BRO7791

	6 M	5.3.73	Blackmoorfoot
	V	30.11.78	Glossop (Derbys) 53°27'N 1°57'W 23 Kms S
BH36916	5 F	8.2.76	Edgerton
	X	28.2.78	Cudworth, Barnsley (Yorks) 53°33'N 1°25'W 26 Kms E.S.E.
BS48645	6 F	3.4.76	Blackmoorfoot
	X	8.8.78	Stourport on Severn (Wores) 52°21'N 2°16'W 155 Kms S.S.W.
BS48672	5 F	11.4.76	Blackmoorfoot
	V	9.1.78	Madeley, Telford (Salop) 52°39'N 2°28'W 115 Kms S.S.W.
BS48723	3 F	5.9.76	Blackmoorfoot
	V	26.2.78	Walcot, Wellington (Salop) 52°42'N 2°35'W 115 Kms S.S.W.
	V	28.4.78	Blackmoorfoot 115 Kms N.N.E.
NC18977	5 F	2.4.77	Blackmoorfoot
	V	3.4.77	Blackmoorfoot
	V	18.3.78	Hopwood, Middleton (Lancs) 53°34'N 2°11'W 25 Kms W.
NC91127	2 F	11.12.77.	Blackmoorfoot
	X	Ca. 3.6.78	Charwelton (Northants) 52°12'N 1°13'W 160 Kms S

<u>TWITE</u> KA49300	3	25.7.76	Blackmoorfoot
	V	27.11.77	Zwin, Knokke (West Vlaanderen) Belgium 51°27'N 3°22'E

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA.

<u>GREENFINCH.</u> BR07797	5 M	5.3.73	Blackmoorfoot
	X	3.3.78	Salandine Nook, Huddersfield 53°40'N 1°50'W 5 Kms N
NC18702	6 F	8.1.77	Longwoodwood Edge, Huddersfield 53°39'N 1°50'W
	V	14.1.78	Blackmoorfoot 5 Kms S
NC18781	6 M	23.1.77	Edgerton
	V	30.3.78	Blackmoorfoot 6 Kms S.S.W.
<u>DUNNOCK</u> KN74473	3	2.10.77	Blackmoorfoot
	X	4.3.78	Edgerton 6 Kms N.N.E.

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD

<u>SWALLOW</u> KVO3218	1	17.7.78	Higher Red Lees, Burnley (Lancs) 53°47'N 2°12'W
	V	24.8.78	Blackmoorfoot 33 Kms E.S.E.
A062316	3 J	3.8.78	Walcot, Wellington (Salop) 52°42' N 2°35'W
	V	19.8.78	Blackmoorfoot 115 Kms N.N.E.

GREENFINCH  
NG36355

3 F 28.8.77 Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester  
(Lancs)  
53°26'N 2°18'W

V 10.3.78 Blackmoorfoot  
35 Kms N.E.

BULLFINCH

3 J 23.7.78 Worsborough Reservoir  
Barnsley (Yorks)  
53°31'N 1°29'W

V F 29.10.78 Blackmoorfoot  
26 Kms W.N.W.

BIRDS RINGED IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA 1978

Sparrowhawk	2	Redwing	99
Kestrel	4	Mistle Thrush	12
Nerlin	2	Sedge Warbler	1
Moorhen	2	Garden Warbler	3
Goat	1	Blackcap	11
Soipe	1	Chiffchaff	1
Black-headed Gull	162	Willow Warbler	103
Tawny Owl	1	Goldcrest	27
Swallow	350	Long-tailed Tit	17
House Martin	24	Willow Tit	2
Tree Pipit	1	Coal Tit	4
Meadow Pipit	10	Blue Tit	189
Yellow Wagtail	1	Great Tit	60
Pied Wagtail	2	Treecreeper	2
Wren	38	Starling	41
Duncock	66	Tree Sparrow	239
Robin	85	Chaffinch	17
Redstart	2	Greenfinch	710
Whinchat	1	Goldfinch	5
Wheatear	2	Linnet	11
Blackbird	206	Redpoll	17
Fieldfare	1	Bullfinch	10
Song Thrush	29	Reed Bunting	32

Total: 2,786

Totals for individual areas include 2,352 at Blackmoorfoot and 226 at Edgerton.

## LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

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

Large numbers of retraps are also handled many years after ringing, these being tabulated below.

The top lines show the approximate period which had elapsed between ringing and either retrap (Table 1) or death (Table 2). The figures show the number of individuals either retrapped or found dead at their place of ringing.

TABLE 1 - RETRAPS

	<u>1 Yr</u>	<u>2 yrs</u>	<u>3 yrs</u>	<u>4 yrs</u>	<u>5 yrs</u>	<u>6 yrs</u>	<u>7 yrs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Swallow	1			1				2
Duncock	6	3				1		10
Robin	6	5		2	2		1	16
Blackbird	7	5	1	3		3		19
Mistle Thrush		1						1
Willow Warbler	3	2						5
Blue Tit	10	12	1	1	1			25
Great Tit	4	3						7
Starling	1							1
House Sparrow			1					1
Tree Sparrow			1					1
Greenfinch	31	13	5		1			50
Linnet		1						1
Bullfinch	4							4
								<u>144</u>

TABLE 2 - RECOVERIES

Swallow	1							1
Duncock	1							1
Robin	1							1
Blackbird	2	6		2	3	3	1	17
Blue Tit					1			1
Starling				1				1
Tree Sparrow		1						<u>1</u>
								23

M. L. Denton

## ECTOPARASITES

The 1978 batch of Hippoboscidae sent to Mr. H. Beaumont of Rotherham do not call for special mention, except the two CRATERINA HIRUNDINIS (STENEPTERYX HIRUNDINIS of old lists) taken from Swallows at Blackmoorfoot on 24th and 30th August.

Only eighteen birds were found to be affected with flies showing a marked decline on past years, and it is possible that the cool, wet summer had an effect on their numbers.

The only new species last recorded was an ORNITHOMYA FRINGILLINA taken from a Long-tailed Tit at Blackmoorfoot on 7th October.

## EXTREME DATES

The only record that does not fall within the dates set out in the 1976 report concerns an ORNITHOMYA CHLOROPUS taken from a Tree Sparrow at Blackmoorfoot on 25th June.

N.L. Denton

## BRITISH BIRDS

"British Birds" is a readable, informative, monthly magazine catering for serious ornithologists in the British Isles. It covers every aspect of ornithology, particularly behaviour and breeding biology, identification, conservation problems with additional notes, news, reviews and letters and recent reports of observations of recent movements and arrivals. It is well illustrated by photographs and drawings and has a very experienced editorial board.

Our club is able to present a special offer in the form of a reduced subscription to "British Birds". The present subscription rate is £12.00 per annum, but a reduction to £7.50 is offered to club members.

Details and Subscription Order Forms have been distributed to members at recent club meetings and are available from the Hon. Secretary, Derick Watson.

CLUB OFFICIALS FOR 1979

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PRESIDENT	T W FROST 142 Fenay Lane Almondbury Huddersfield      Tel: Hudds 26541
HON SECRETARY	F J WATSON The Old Farm Cottage Greenhead Farm Church Lane Shepley              Tel: Kirkburton 3801
HON TREASURER	T CANTWELL 22 Thornfield Road Lockwood Huddersfield      Tel: Hudds 31595
RECORDER and VICE-PRESIDENT	J E DALE 158 Lindley Moor Road Lindley Moor Huddersfield      Tel: Hudds 652453
FIELD MEETINGS ORGANISER	D HAIGH 35 Birchington Avenue Birchencliffe Huddersfield      Tel: Elland 4670
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	B ARMITAGE P D BELL M L DENTON D MANCHESTER (Librarian) D SYKES