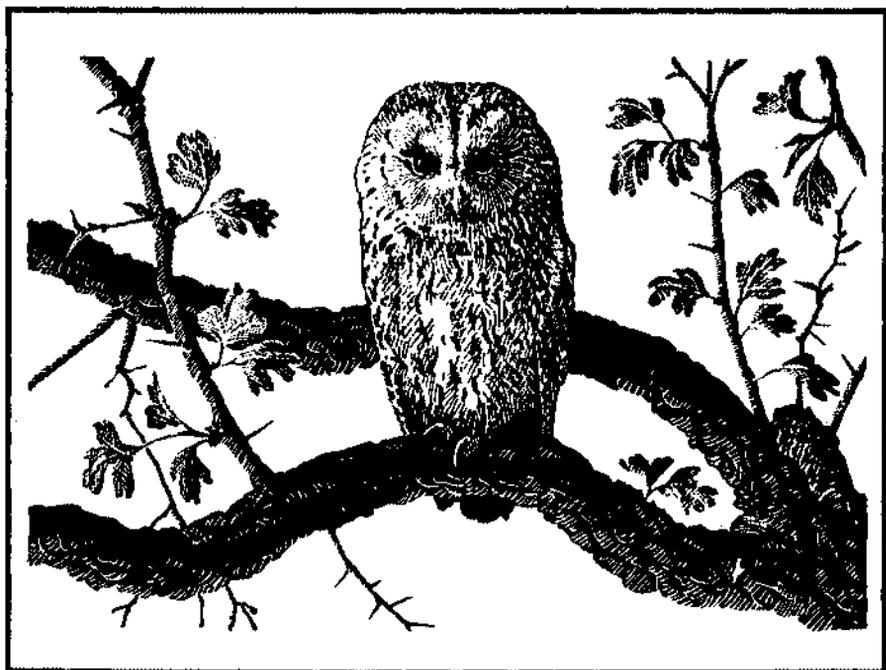


Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

# Birds in Huddersfield 1994



ANNUAL REPORT

# BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD

## Report of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1994 was an eventful year for the Club. The A.G.M. in February voted to alter the Financial Year which ran from January to December and has been in force since the formation of the Club in 1966, so that it now runs from July to June. This is to coincide with the programme of indoor and outdoor meetings and will make the general running of the Club much easier.

The year also saw us lose the services of two Committee Members. Our Secretary, Dave Williamson left us to take up a position in America, initially for a two year period, so we may see him return. Stephen Hey, our Recorder, also resigned. I should like to pay tribute to both Dave and Stephen for the hard work they have put in on the Clubs' behalf. Fortunately we had two volunteers very quickly, David Barrans agreed to be the Recorder and David Butterfield agreed to take on the responsibilities of Secretary as well as Field Meeting Organiser, or until a replacement could be found.

We have had a very entertaining and varied series of indoor meetings. Countries covered include Thailand, South Africa, India and America for birds, Waders of the World, Badgers in Leicestershire, Wildlife in Northumberland, Dragonflies and Damselflies and Owl Diets. I must also mention Guy Huntingdon who brought along a lot of equipment to give us a fascinating demonstration of high speed flash. A note about the field meetings will be found later in this report, and I should also like to offer my thanks to David Butterfield for keeping the trips going in spite of a falling off in attendance. Although I have singled out one or two committee members, it must be said that all our committee deserve praise and thanks for their individual contributions.

Finally a thank you to the members for attending the meetings and outings and helping to keep this club in such a healthy position in these times.

Donald Haigh

May 1995

## INTRODUCTION

### NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

The status of each species occurring within the area has been noted beneath the species name.

For the breeding species an estimate of breeding abundance has been made as follows :-

Breeding abundance	1	1 - 20 pairs per year
"	"	21 - 100 pairs per year
"	"	101 - 500 pairs per year
"	"	501 - 2500 pairs per year
"	"	2501 or more pairs per year

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 locations for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1981) have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication may lead to harmful disturbance.

### Acknowledgements

To each of the observers who spend much of their time in their own favourite localities and thus build up a comprehensive picture. To those who travel a little further afield within the Bird Club area. To the staff of the RSPB Office in Denby Dale. To Peter Griffin from In Focus (Denby Dale). To the organisations who have sent in reports :-

Greater Manchester Bird Club (GMBC)  
Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)  
Shepley Bird & Wildlife Group (SBWG)  
Barnsley Bird Study Group (BBSG)

Finally, to John Dale for answering my many queries over the telephone and offering his very sound advice on some of the awkward species and related reports, and to Mike Denton who has kindly agreed to spend a considerable amount of his time reading through this report in its many different forms and offering his suggestions whereby the report may be enhanced. For the twelfth year in succession, Mike has also submitted a comprehensive summary of all records from ~~Blackmoorfoot~~ and he is to be thanked wholeheartedly for his efforts.

David Barrans July 1995

This list follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of Professor Dr K H Voos (1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species) with the addition of *Larus cachinnans*

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
Widespread resident breeder (1)

Found on most of the suitable waters prior to the breeding season. Reports received indicate breeding must have taken place. Recorded during all months, waters of particular note being:-

Gunthwaite with maximum of 4, including 1 immature bird.

Ingbirchworth Maximum of 4 and certainly bred at this site.

Scout Dike Maximum of 16 on 14th Aug (SH) with at least 4 juveniles present. Other areas recording this species were:-

Elland CP, Blackmoorfoot, Deanhead Res., Bilberry Res, Bretton CP.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*  
Resident breeder (1)

Appears to be surviving well in our area. Bred at:-

Scout Dike with at least 3 young from 2 pairs, Bretton CP, and Ingbirchworth, and I suspect other waters may also have proved successful.

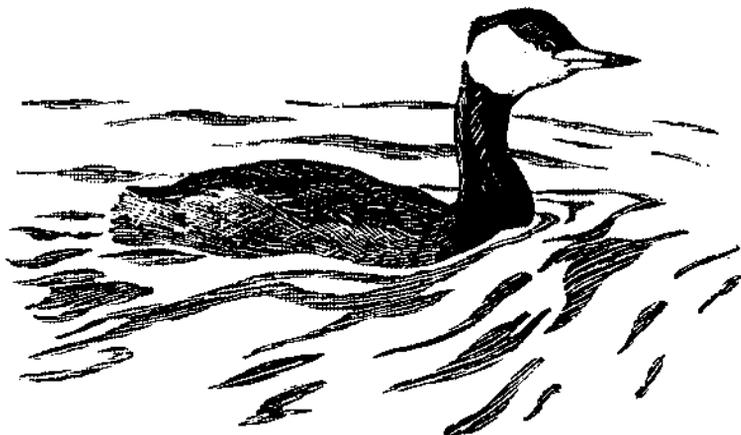
Normally only present in small numbers during the winter months, this year being unusual, with large gatherings reported in February, there being a maximum of 30 birds at Elland CP on the 16th (GC).

The highest number ever recorded for our area was at Blackmoorfoot from 22nd to 26th June when there were 43 birds present (MLD).

Unfortunately suffers from fluctuating water levels, either left high and dry or washed out by vibrant wave action as was the case with a pair at Blackmoorfoot.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*  
Rare visitor

On the 8th May there was a bird in full breeding plumage at Ringstone Edge. This was seen by several of our members, unfortunately it did not stay for a great length of time in order to get word round to many who would have been interested. (JED, MSH, MLD, BA, HBC et al).



**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Uncommon and passage winter visitor

There have been a number of sightings from several localities, with no set pattern emerging. Most sightings have been of single birds.

Blackmoorfoot On March 7th five flew north-east, one was present on 27th March, one flew west on 10th July, an immature was present on 6th September and on 3rd and 24th of October there were two and three respectively (MLD).

Broadstones On Mar 7th a bird located showed many of the characteristics of the race *sinensis* and flew west at 1400hrs (SH, PG).

Elland G.P. Between 9th and 23rd October a single bird was present (SH, JKP) and another was seen on 21st December (HBC).

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*  
Rare visitor

Elland G.P. A single bird was present at Cromwell Lake from 18th until 21st Feb (SH TM) and two birds were seen flying west on each of 19th and 20th Feb (HBC).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
Resident breeder (2)

Many records of single birds from twenty different locations throughout the area. Garden ponds being frequented and on two occasions singles were reported flying over Huddersfield town centre (MLD). At the usual locations: Inghirchworth, Scammonden, Royd Moor and Blackmoorfoot 1 or 2 birds were generally to be seen (especially during the summer months) but in July Blackmoorfoot had daily reports with a maximum of 5 on 22nd, 6 on the 23rd and 24th, and 5 again from 25th to 31st (MLD et al). There has been no report of the breeding success at Bretton but 10 birds were present during Feb (JED) and 10 in July (SH).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*  
Resident, occasional breeder (1)

Up to 8 birds were present on the River Calder near Dewsbury S.F. during the first half of the year (SH). At Elland G.P. a male was regularly seen in the company of a hybrid (Whooper x Mute) from January until August (JED, SH). Other reports were of single birds at Cannon Hall, Denby Dale and Scissett Mill Pond. The only breeding reported was at Horbury Wyke where a pair raised 6 young (SH).



Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*  
Scarce winter visitor

The only report from the early part of the year was of 6 adults at Wincor on 1st March.(JM). At the end of the year Blackmoorfoot produced 6 adults on 6th Nov and 3 adults on the 7th (MLD).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*  
Scarce winter visitor

Three adults were present at Roshaw Whams from 22nd Jan to 11th Feb (BA, RD, SEH, SH). At Elland G.P., the unusually high number of 105 were seen flying north on 21st March (JB).

During the second winter period all records came from Blackmoorfoot with 3 adults present on 28th Oct (PB), 2 adults on 15th Nov and 14 adults arrived at 1510hrs on 24th Dec (MLD).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*  
 Uncommon to common passage visitor

31st Jan stands out as a day when a great deal of movement was taking place. It also indicates the importance of noting the time, direction of flight and exact location in order to eliminate the possibility of over-recording. Those marked \* were reported as grey geese but were most likely of this species. Four figure grid references all relate to the 1:25000 SE Ordnance Survey sheets.

Date	Time	Number	Direction	Observed over	G.R.	Observer
31 Jan	1100	270	W	Hade Edge	1405	(SH)
	1130	200+	NNW	Elland Golf Club	0920	(BW)*
	1145	170	W	Yateholme	1104	(SH)
	1145	670	W	Crossley's Plantation	1205	(BA)
	1230	120	W	Browns Edge Rd	1905	(BA)
	1230	c50	W	Almondbury	1614	(HRF)
	1240	c50	W	Lindley Moor	1119	(SMD)
	1250	79	W	Colne Valley	0612	(JKP)*

Clearly, some of these could have been the same birds, but I feel justified in estimating that on this particular day there were well over 1000 birds which passed over the area.

Other records tabulated in a similar way are:

01 Jan	??	7	N	Penistone	2304	(NP)
11 "	??	150	W	Almondbury	1614	(DSI)
11 "	1110	650	W	Blackmoorfoot	0912	(DMO)*
16 "	1630	110	W	Blackmoorfoot	0912	(PB, MLD)
29 "	1200	c35	NNW	Meltham	0911	(SH)*
01 Feb	??	12	E	Colne Valley	0612	(JKP)*
02 "	1615	120	W	Blackmoorfoot	0912	(MLD)
02 "	0840	c60	E	Hade Edge	1405	(GB)*
03 "	??	10	W	Golcar	1016	(JKP)*
05 "	??	57	NW	Newsome	1414	(TM)
05 "	??	80	NW	Outlane	1018	(SMD)
05 "	1005	c80	NW	Quarmby	1116	(SH, JED)
11 "	0925	150	W	Blackmoorfoot	0912	(MLD)
17 "	??	150	W	Bradley Park G.C.	1520	(DWB)
27 "	0840	66	W	Blackmoorfoot	0912	(MLD)
27 "	1430	12	E	Blackmoorfoot	0912	(MLD)*

During the latter part of the year:

28 Oct	1715	15	W	Blackmoorfoot	0912	(MLD)
06 Nov	0820	283	E	Blackmoorfoot	0912	(MLD)
18 "	??	11	NW	Thurstonland	1610	(SH)
21 "	??	c85	S	Thurstonland	1610	(SH)
22 "	??	c90	W	Thurstonland	1610	(SH)
22 "	??	200	?	Hade Edge	1405	(SH)*
27 "	1535	1	NE	Blackmoorfoot	0912	(MLD)
23 Dec	1330	62	W	Denby Dale	2208	(TM)
31 "	??	c60	N	Ossett	2819	(GC,GT)

Others reported as feeding in fields were:

Bretton, 8 on 27th Feb (JED), 3 on 11th Feb (SG), 4 on 27th March (SH)

Royd Moor, 10 on 1st Oct (SH).

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Uncommon passage visitor

On 16th April one was observed flying west over Eliand GP (HBC). Bretton C.P. had a single on the lake on 31st July (SH). The only other records of this species were from Royd Moor when seven were present on 11th Sept and five birds were seen on 4th Oct (JED).

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Introduced resident breeder (2)

Highest winter peaks at the regular sites were :

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Royd Moor	16			188	200	87	
Scammonden	12		19	31	30		
Bretton CP	50	159			153		80

Other areas where records of the species have increased are Ingbirchworth with maxima of two in Feb, twelve in Mar, four in Oct and seventeen in Nov. Similarly Blackmoorfoot numbers were nine in Jan, two in Feb, six in Mar, fifteen in Sep, twelve in Oct and four in Nov.

There were many other reports during the breeding season indicating that this species is continuing to spread. Evidence of breeding was reported from a number of reservoirs including Ramsden, Winscar, Digley, Dovestones and Yateholme to name but a few.

**Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***  
Rare visitor. Feral birds breeding

A single at Blackmoorfoot on 30th May (MLD), one at Sparth Res on 3rd June (DF) and one at Royd Moor Res on 13th Sep (JED). Two were in the company of a flock of Canada Geese feeding in a field near Bretton Crossroads on 25th Feb and what were probably the same birds, flew over Clayton West with c50 Canada Geese on the same date (PG). Seven were noted at Winscat on 13th Feb (NEP) and six were present at Bretton on 24 Oct (JED SH).

**Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna***  
Uncommon passage visitor

The highest count was at Blackmoorfoot on 15th Sept, when 25 flew in from the east at 1825hrs (MLD). Other reports from the same location were :- four on 31st Jan, whilst in March a single was present on 2nd, 10th, 12th and 26th and on 27th there were two. On 1st and 7th May there were four and two respectively. Later in the year there were nine present on 29th Aug (MLD DMP). Others were at :  
Ingbirchworth where there was one on 31st Jan (DBa BA).  
Bradley two flying south-south-east on 17th April.  
Elland GP singles on 30th April, 1st May and 20th Nov (HBC) and Ringstone Edge eight on 30th Aug (HBC).

**Wigeon *Anas penelope***  
Common passage and winter visitor

The early part of the year was somewhat sparse, the only records being from Blackmoorfoot; two were present on 23rd Jan, four on 29th and 30th Jan and from 16th to 18th Feb three were present, Bretton CP had a single on 2nd Feb (JED), and a long staying bird was at Dovestones from 23rd Jan until 13th April (GMC).

The autumn records started in Aug when Blackmoorfoot had twelve on 23rd and similarly, twelve on 20th Sept. In October there were twenty-two reports of between one and fifteen birds whilst in November the numbers peaked at twenty-four on the 19th.

Ingbirchworth One on 13th Sept (NP), with numbers building up to twelve on 30th Sept (BA), fourteen on Nov 2nd (DBa) rising to thirty-eight by the end of the month (RD, SEH)

Ringstone Edge held forty-eight birds on 22nd Oct (SH), whilst Baitings Res had thirty-six on 6th Nov (HBC).

A bird at Elland GP on 28th Nov was a hybrid male with a head pattern similar to American Wigeon *A. americana*. In all other respects however it was *A. penelope* (JED JB).

Cadwall *Anas strepera*  
Scarce passage and winter visitor

Elland GP provided the early records with one pair present from 18th Feb until 19th March (DM HBC). A single appeared at Ingbirchworth on 10th May (JED JS). Other records from this location were three on 7th Oct (DBa) and two on 15th Oct (RD SEH). Blackmoorfoot provided the remaining sightings with three on both 30th Sept and on 7th Nov (DMP PB DMO MLD).

Teal *Anas crecca*  
Resident breeder (1) Common passage and winter visitor

Present on six waters in the early part of the year, the greatest number being at Gunthwaite with eleven during Jan and early Feb (JED SH).

In autumn eight waters were occupied, namely Bretton, Royd Moor, Ingbirchworth, Blackmoorfoot, Deanhead, Ringstone Edge, Denby Dale and Elland GP. This latter mentioned site held the largest number with eighteen on Dec 20th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*  
Resident breeder (3) Common winter visitor

Early maxima of 78 at Ingbirchworth on the 1st Jan, 58 at Scout Dike on 9th, 47 on the River Colne at Deighton on 16th, 31 at Boshaw Whams on the 29th, and 60 at Cannon Hall on 27th Feb plus smaller numbers at another twenty locations give some indication of the status of this species.

There was evidence of breeding at many locations.

Later in the year the maximum numbers recorded were :-  
Ingbirchworth 18 including 12 juveniles on June 9th (DBa).

Blackmoorfoot 54 on Oct 14th (MLD).

Bretton GP 80+ on Oct 24th (SH).

Royd Moor 75 on Dec 18th (SH).

Golcar 42 on the canal between Golcar and Linthwaite on Dec 31st (JKP).

Pintail *Anas acuta*  
Uncommon passage and winter visitor

The only record during the early part of the year was from Scout Dike when a single flew over on 6th Feb (JED).

Later records were :- Ringstone Edge - A male on 3rd Sept and 13th Oct. (HBC) Broadstones - six on 9th Sept. (NP) Blackmoorfoot - A single on each of 2nd, 3rd and 6th Oct and 2nd, 3rd and 6th Nov (MLD). Ingbirchworth - A female on 5th Nov and finally, Elland GP three flew E on 18th Dec (HBC).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*  
Rare summer migrant

A single was present at Dovestones on 20th May. This was found by a member of the Greater Manchester Club during their "Bird Race", unfortunately no further details were supplied (GMC).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*  
Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot had the first record of the year when a pair were present on 27th June. At the same location one was present on 28th July, three on 15th Oct and eight on 22nd Oct. Five were present on 19th Nov and three on 2nd Dec.

Ringstone Edge - one on 22nd Oct (SH) and Ingbirchworth - four were present on Sept 8th and one on 19th Nov (RDH SEH).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*  
Common passage and winter visitor

During the first winter period up to 18 were present at Ingbirchworth until early March. July saw the start of the return but numbers did not build up until October when there were 29 present on 10th, increasing to 49 by 5th Nov. Similarly Blackmoorfoot had small numbers of birds present until 25th April with the return starting on 7th Aug, building up to a maximum of 35 on 10th Oct.

Other waters which held birds were Scout Dike with 16 on 25th Jan, Scamonden, Bretton, Gunthwaite, Cannon Hall, Elland GP, Ringstone Edge and Royd Moor.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*  
Resident breeder (1) Common passage and winter visitor

Ingbirchworth Well reported by a number of observers with birds present in all months. The table below indicates the monthly maxima.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	6	13	19	14	23	63	102	92	40	6	6

Blackmoorfoot was similarly well reported, the monthly maxima being :

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	7	4	5	10	11	32	34	25	21	13	7

Other sites include Scout Dike, Bretton where there were at least two broods of six and Gunthwaite where there were two pairs during the breeding season (SH). There were a further twelve waters where birds were seen during the winter months or on passage.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*  
Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Blackmoorfoot A male and a female were present on 8th April, whilst on 25th and 27th July there were two males (MLD).  
Elland\_GP One female seen on 8th May and on a date in July (unfortunately not specified) there were 18 accompanied by a Velvet Scoter *M. fusca*. Here again there were no further details (HBC).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*  
Scarce visitor

Elland\_GP As noted above, one was present on an unspecified date in July (HBC). This is the fifth record for the Club area.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*  
Regular but uncommon winter visitor

Ingbirchworth From January until 18th April there were up to four birds present on most days. The first of the winter birds arrived on 22nd Oct, three females were seen on 24th, by 14th Nov there were two males and two females and the final count in Dec produced 3 males and 2 females.

It was a similar story at Blackmoorfoot where up to 3 birds could be seen regularly until 20th April. Four birds returned on Oct 16th rising to five on 22nd and numbers then remained at this level until the end of the year. Other waters holding the species were Scammonden with a male on 4th Feb, Deanhead with three on 7th Mar, Ringstone Edge with 6 on 18th Mar, four on the 7th April, two on 22nd and a late female was still present on 1st May (JED). Bretton held a single on each of three dates in December and Scout Dike had a female on 20th Nov.

Snew *Mergus albellus*  
Rare visitor

A 'red-head' was seen at Blackmoorfoot on 14th and 15th Nov. (AJW DMO JED SH) The last one recorded here was in 1984.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*  
Rare visitor

Blackmoorfoot is the expected site for obtaining a record of this species and we were not to be disappointed. A male was present from 14th to 19th and 23rd to 26th May, then on 15th and 20th to 23rd June there was a pair with a male again present on 28th. Singles noted were a female on 10th July and males on 11th Oct and 2nd Dec (MLD JKP).

Other locations were, Dean Head one pair on 20th April (HBC), Yateholme with a pair on 10th May (RH), Ingbirchworth a female on 2nd July (RD SEH) and Ramsden Res a male and two females on 28th Oct (TD).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor

This would appear to have been an exceptional year for the sheer numbers of this species. Elland GP had a maximum of 45 on 7th Feb (BBo), 48 on 20th Feb (SH) and 53 on 21st Feb (TM). At the latter end of the year on 31st Dec Halifax Birdwatchers Club recorded 61. These are the highest numbers ever recorded in the Huddersfield area.

Blackmoorfoot also had records, mainly of single birds but nine were seen flying W on 21st Aug (MLD). Others recorded were from Bretton CP with one pair on 16th Nov and 6th Dec. Broadstones held nine on 21st Aug (DM D&VI).

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Infrequent visitor but expanding

The first report was of a male at Bretton CP on 12th June, numbers rose to a maximum of six males on 17th November. Similarly at Ingbirchworth three males appeared on 7th August and birds were present on most days until 5th November. Only one female was seen throughout this period and the maximum number of males was four on 13th September. From 4th Aug until 1st Oct between one and four birds were present at Scout Dike whilst at Ringstone Edge two females were present on 14th Oct.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Rare vagrant

Sightings occurred at Rishworth on 1st June when one was observed flying WSW (TM HBC), and the second sighting was on the following day at Digley when a wing-tagged bird was seen being pursued by corvids (DMP). This was possibly the same bird on both occasions but unfortunately no combination was obtained.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Rare visitor

On 22nd February a single was seen flying over Winscar (JTM) and a female was observed over Broadstones at 0900hrs on 19th May (JS).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder and rare visitor

A single was seen at Langsett on 12th Feb (TM) and a pair were displaying near Brownhill Res (HQ) on the same day. At Yateholme there were two present on 19th March (HQ) and on

7th April a pair were seen over the Little Don Valley (TM). Skeltonthorpe provided an unexpected sighting on 7th May when one was visible for five minutes before flying E over the Dearne Valley (JED JMD). A single was seen flying over Denby Dale on 11th Aug (PG).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*  
Resident breeder (2)

This species was recorded in a total of 52 different localities. Breeding evidence was reported from several areas as well as some interesting reports of unsuccessful pursuits of likely prey, e.g. Redwing at Almondbury (SG) and Green Woodpecker at Lockwood (DM). Prey taken from gardens included Robin and Bullfinch.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*  
Rare visitor

On 28th May a single was seen in flight near Flouch at 1300hrs (TM). The only other report was of a bird at Rishworth (MSH) but, unfortunately, no date was given.

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*  
Rare winter visitor

**Golcar** A single flew North-West on 21st Oct (KW). This was only the ninth record for the Club area.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
Rare visitor

The only report this year was of a single which flew S over Elland GP on the 17th October (HBC).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*  
Resident breeder (2)

The overwhelming number of reports of this species, both sightings and positive proof of breeding are most encouraging.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*  
Rare vagrant

Unfortunately, the one bird reported in the Club area did not stay long enough for word to get around to many members. An adult female was perching on wires between the two reservoirs at Royd Moor and Scout Dike on 28th May (first located by MCW and subsequently seen by BA NP JED JB et al). This record is still under consideration by BBRC.

**Merlin *Falco columbarius***

Resident breeder (1) and scarce visitor

Singles were seen at: Scammonden, a female on 4th Feb (JED), Yateholme on 20th March (TM), Wincar on 9th May one flew over the moors to the west of the reservoir (JED), at Langsett Moor a male was seen on 13th May (SG) and a male was seen on five dates between 11th and 28th August, hunting over fields in Shepley, on two occasions carrying prey (DBa). At Deer Hill a single was seen on 26th Aug (TD). A single was seen over a garden at Ossett on 23rd Oct (GC), whilst at Blackmoorfoot a bird flew west on 29th Oct and at Middlestown a male was present on 8th Nov (JG SG). At Dovestones a pair were seen frequently (AJS).

**Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

Rare visitor

A single put in a brief appearance at Helme on 20th August (TD).

**Peregrine *Falco peregrinus***

Resident breeder (1)

One to three birds were regularly present on the cooling tower at Elland GP from the 11th January (HBC). Breeding was successful at at least two sites in the Club area, one pair fledging three young. There were many other sightings :- a juvenile at Cannon Hall on 26th February, and singles were seen flying over Denby Dale on 3rd March (TM), Lockwood on 26th June, 27th July and 5th Aug (DM) Blackmoorfoot on 13th Aug, 23rd Oct and Nov 6th (MLD DMO). Rather surprisingly, one was very close to the town centre, perched on a lamp post on the Ring Road close to the Technical College on 3rd Nov (Rk).



Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*  
Resident breeder (3)

Breeding in several of the moorland areas; Langsett (SG), Woodhead (TM), near Crossleys Plantation (SH), Marsden Clough (DBa) and Yateholme (RH) plus a number of other suitable locations.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*  
Resident breeder (1)

It would appear that this species is on the decline in the Club area as there was only one report of a single bird at Dovestones on 29th May (SH).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*  
Resident breeder (2)

Successful breeding reported from several locations. There was a great deal of activity at Turley Cote Lane with four birds on 11th Feb (JED). Shepley a pair seen on 12th Mar had raised nine young by 8th June (DBa), Royd Moor one flushed from a nest on 29th May (JED). Emley Moor six pairs were present early in the year (SG). Coveys of varying size were noted as follows: Denby Dale two on 10th June, 3 on 30th August and seventeen on 25th October (TM), sixteen were present at Crosland Hill on 25th October (DM) and at Farnley Tyas on 28th November a covey of thirteen were seen (SG).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*  
Scarce summer visitor. Occasional breeder

Calling males were heard around the Broadstones area from 4th June. Other reports received were from Browns Edge Road, Birds Nest Lane, Broadstone Road and Windmill Lane. Up to six were located at any one time but there were possibly more. The last record was of one which had been slightly injured after hitting wires and, on recovery, was released in this area on 19th Aug (TM).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*  
Resident breeder (2-3)

Many woodlands in the area appear to have resident birds which have been reared for sport. An unusual breeding success was from the ICI tip near the River Calder (DS).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*  
Scarce winter visitor

The only reports were of single birds. Bretton on 26th and 27th Feb (at the western end of the top lake) (JED JMT SH DMP SP KW) and on 17th Dec from the same area (JKP)  
Elland GP on 14th April and again on 16th Oct (HBC). On the

latter date there was also a single reported from a riverside garden near Holmfirth (per HQ).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*  
Resident breeder (2-3)

Pairs bred successfully at many locations: Gunthwaite, Ingbirchworth, Cannon Hall, Elland GP, Shepley Push Dam and many others.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*  
Resident breeder (2)

The maximum pre-breeding peaks were twenty at Ingbirchworth on 20th March (DBa), twenty-nine at Elland GP on 22nd March (HBC) and forty-three at Cannon Hall on 27th Feb (SH). Breeding successes were noted at many of these locations but there were the inevitable failures such as the pair at Blackmoorfoot which had a nest with five eggs on 24th April but by 2nd May the nest was high and dry and subsequently fell from the base of the bush it had been built in. Post-breeding peaks were: thirty-five plus at Bretton CP on 6th Dec (SH).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*  
Uncommon passage visitor

Reports were of single birds only, these were : Broadstones on 7th, 8th April (PG) and on 5th May (NP), Baitings Res on 5th June, Elland GP on 23rd June (SW HBC) and Blackmoorfoot on 15th Sept (MLD).

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*  
Occasional breeder and scarce summer visitor

As with the preceding species all reports were of single birds: Rishworth on 11th April (TM), Blackmoorfoot, on 23rd July (juvenile) (MLD), Ingbirchworth, on 2nd Aug (juvenile) (BA) and Royd Moor on 1st Sept (NP).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*  
Uncommon passage visitor

In spring single birds were recorded at Ringstone on 30th April and 10th May. All other records were in August and September: singles were at Ringstone on 5th and 16th Aug and 17th Sept with two 30th Aug (HBC), at Ingbirchworth on 28th Aug three were present and at Blackmoorfoot one was heard calling on 13th Aug (MLD) and five juveniles were present on 10th Sept (DWS PB).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*  
Migrant breeder (2) common passage and winter visitor

The numbers recorded at the start of the year were quite low

compared with some years. First records were of five flying E in the Hadge Edge area on 18th Feb (SH) and twenty-four at Blackmoorfoot on the 13th (MLD). March saw an increase with in excess of a hundred in heavy rain at Ringstone Edge on 18th (JED). Eleven at Broadstones on the 20th increased to forty-four on the 21st (BA) and 143 on 10th April (SH). In the Ingbirchworth area on 22nd April there were ninety plus (DBa) with eighty-three at Blackmoorfoot on the same date (MLD). Small numbers were recorded in subsequent months, peaking at 120 at Ringstone Edge on 23rd Dec (HBC).

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare passage visitor

In the Ingbirchworth/Whitley Common area a single which was still in winter plumage was present on 10th May (JED). A bird was present at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd October (MLD).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Resident breeder (3-4) Numerous passage and winter visitor

Quite well represented throughout the Club area but numbers are down on previous years. Monthly maxima include :-

Ingbirchworth (DBa RDH SEH)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	16	0	1	1	400	5	30	100	0	58

Blackmoorfoot (MLD)

47	60	24	0	0	58	250	263	154	230	107	150
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Other maxima records include : Broadstones with 200+ on 12th June, 150+ on 13th June and 260 on 22nd December (JED), Ringstone Edge with 53+ on 3rd Nov (SH) and 90 on 23rd Dec (HBC), . Royd Moor 85+ on 20th Nov (SH) and Crasland Moor with c60 on 21st December.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Scarce passage visitor

Ingbirchworth played host to two birds on 4th May (NP) and a single was seen at Ringstone Edge on 13th Aug (HBC).

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage visitor

A juvenile was present at Blackmoorfoot on 15th Sept (MLD). This was the first record at this site since 1983.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1-2) uncommon passage visitor

Blackmoorfoot scored highly with twenty records of single birds on dates from 24th July until the 2nd Dec and four birds were present on 25th Oct (MLD). At Broadstones there were two

summer plumaged birds on 4th and 5th May (BA NP). Other singles were noted at Scout Dike on Sept 14th (NP) and at Elland GP on 24th Dec (SH).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*  
Scarce passage visitor

There was an unusual spring record from Scout Dike on April 3rd when a single was present (NP). Autumn movement was indicated in August and September at Ingbirchworth with a single on 12th, 28th and 31st Aug and the 1st, 3rd and 7th Sept with two birds on 2nd Sept (DBa NP RDH SEH). Similarly at Blackmoorfoot - a male and female were present on Sept 2nd, from 6th to 9th a female and on 15th a male and two females, with four females on Sept 27th (MLD et al).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*  
Scarce passage and winter visitor

On the 30th Jan there were six present at Elland GP with fewer birds present by March. The return started on Oct 23rd with a single and peaked at seven on 28th Dec (HBC). At Deerhill a single was present on 13th Feb, Ringstone Edge had a single on 20th Oct whilst Blackmoorfoot held two on 8th Nov (MLD).

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

A good number of records from March until December, however there was only one occasion when double figures were attained, this being twelve at Elland GP on 18th Dec (HBC). At Broadstones there were a number of reports of birds drumming in May and a maximum of eight were seen on 14th Oct (PG). Similarly eight birds were seen at Ringstone Edge on 28th Aug (HBC). Blackmoorfoot had records for sixteen days between July and November with a maximum of eight on 22nd Oct (MLD). Other records of up to three birds were from Ingbirchworth, Denby Dale, Scout Dike, Digley, Deanhead and Scammonden.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*  
Resident breeder (2) Uncommon winter visitor

Elland GP held a single on 9th Jan then singles on three unspecified dates in March (HBC). Single roding birds were heard at Bretton CP on 28th April (BA) and at Midhope Moor on 13th May (SG). At Crossley's Plantation two were roding on 12th June (SH). Three territories in the Little Don Valley where up to four birds were seen on 14th June (TM) and 1st July (SH). Four birds were shot during November at Yateholme (TD). Other reports from the latter part of the year were of singles at Healey House on 11th Oct (TD), Bullcliffe Wood on 25th Nov (PG) and Denby Dale on 9th Dec (TM).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*  
Rare visitor

Two birds in near full summer plumage at Blackmoorfoot on 25th July arrived from the west at 1945hrs on 25th July (MLD DMO JP).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*  
Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

A single was present at Broadstones on 4th May (NP), five birds flew over Golcar at 0630hrs on 6th May (KW), two flew west over Blackmoorfoot on 7th May (PB).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*  
Migrant breeder (2) Common passage visitor

The return passage started on 2nd March when one flew south-east over Hade Edge (SH) and on the same day one flew over Denby Dale (TM). The next report was 13th March with twenty-five in the Broadstones area (NP). Regular reports from other areas include Scammonden, Winscar, Ingbirchworth, Hade Edge, Digley, Rishworth and on the eastern side, Bretton and Stocks Moor Common. Final reports were mainly in July apart from Blackmoorfoot where four flew west on 20th Sept and the last, a single, on 5th Nov.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*  
Migrant breeder (1)

The first record was of a single at Ingbirchworth on 27th April and at the same location two were present on 1st, 2nd, 4th, 7th and 8th May. The species was not seen again at this locality until a single was present on 16th July. On Whitley Common a single was seen on 30th April, 10th May and 5th June. At Broadstones on 7th and 8th May two were displaying. Singles were present at Winscar on 7th May and at Dovestones on 5th June. There was a poor showing at Blackmoorfoot which only had singles on 30th April and 2nd and 30th Oct (MLD).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
Uncommon passage visitor

With the exception of two at Ringstone Edge on 5th Aug (HBC) all other records were of singles; Blackmoorfoot on 17th (MLD) and 26th Aug (TM) and 2nd and 3rd Sept (MLD), Ingbirchworth on 22nd Aug and 1st Sept (RDH SEH NP), Broadstones on 1st Sept and Scout Dike on 3rd, 4th, 13th and 14th Sept (NP).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*  
Uncommon passage and winter visitor

An adult was present at Dewsbury SF on 13th July (SH) and a single was seen at Ringstone Edge on 5th Aug (HBC) whilst

Scout Dike had singles on 1st Sept and 2nd Oct (NP) and Blackmoorfoot had one on 10th Oct (DWS PB).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Migrant breeder (2)

The first record was at Bilberry with two on 24th April (HQ). Ingbirchworth had one on 28th April, 6th May, whilst four were present on 28th July, two on 2nd Aug, five on 3rd, a single on 12th, three on 18th, and singles on 31 Aug, 2nd and 13th Sept (DBa NP TM RDH SEH). At Winscar a pair were present on 9th May (JED) and a pair with young were seen on 1st June (ICP). The reservoirs at Dovestones, Yeoman Hey and Greenfield had in excess of five birds (SH) and singles were seen at Digley on 2nd May and Wessenden Head on 5th June. During May Blackmoorfoot had one on 2nd, 7th, 8th and 9th and a single was seen on 23rd June, 1st July, then two or three birds were present almost daily until the 31st Aug with the last, a single, on 2nd Sept (MLD).

**Turnstone** *Areolaria interpres*  
Scarce passage visitor

The two seen at Ingbirchworth on 1st Sept moved to Broadstones later in the afternoon (NP).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*  
Rare visitor

In Jan an adult was present at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 11th, 15th, 23rd, 27th and 31st and also on 19th and 20th Feb (PB MLD KW JP DWS). During the second winter period a first-winter bird was present on 30th Oct and 20th Nov (PB MLD).

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*  
Scarce passage visitor

At Blackmoorfoot a first-winter was present on 3rd Jan (PB DWS), an adult on 19th and 20th Feb (MLD PB DWS) and an adult on 11th Nov (JP PB KW DWS). At Elland GP there was a single of unspecified age on 12th Feb (HBC).

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*  
Resident breeder (1) Numerous passage and winter visitor

Evidence of breeding came from Black Moss and Dewsbury SF where adults were protecting territory and small juveniles were seen but no numbers were forthcoming. At March Haigh Reservoir six nests were located on the dam wall (TD).

Counts of this species combined with Common Gull *Larus canus* roosting at Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth showed peaks of :-

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	7450	6700	3600	5800	4700
Ingbirchworth	300	1024	146	271	504

Throughout the autumn and winter periods numbers in excess of 50 were noted at Woodsome Golf Course. At Blackmoorfoot on 13th Feb there was an all white bird which had a faint trace of normal underwing pattern and on 15th Oct one showed a white mantle and upper wing coverts (MLD PB).

**Common Gull *Larus canus***  
Common winter and passage visitor

The only counts, with the exception of those included with Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* were as follows:  
Ringstone Edge had eighty on 16th Jan and fifty on 24th (JED).  
Elland GP had in excess of 100 on 21st March and 240 on 18th Nov (HBC) and  
Blackmoorfoot had up to 500 throughout Oct, 676 on 12th Nov and 744 on 3rd Dec (MLD PB).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***  
Common passage and winter visitor

The table below shows the peak counts at Blackmoorfoot (n/c indicates no count).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	15	47	n/c	17	81	257	618	828	1656	269	48

Once again the species showed a slow build up to the peak in October and then a very rapid decline. The 1656 on 6th Oct was the largest number ever recorded in the Club area

Birds showing the characteristics of the race *L.f. intermedius* were noted at Blackmoorfoot on 28th Sept (an adult), 5th Oct (two adults), 9th Oct (one adult and a sub-adult) 19th, 20th and 27th Nov (an adult) (MLD DWS PB). Two adults showing characteristics of the nominate race *L.f. fuscus* were present on 5th Oct (MLD DWS SP).

Broadstones had eleven on 12th June, 65 on 21st Aug (SH), 150+ on 30th Aug (JED) and 275 on 11th Oct (PG). In fields near the Flouch Inn approximately 200 were present on 11th June (SH). Numbers peaked at Ingbirchworth in November with 62 (RDH SEH SG)

**Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***  
Common passage and winter visitor

There were no other records apart from the peak counts at :  
Blackmoorfoot (n/b indicates no birds present)

(n/b	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	766	64	88	n/b	n/b	n/b	1	n/b	3	10	71	427

Ingbirchworth The maximum seen here were sixteen in November, whereas at Broadstones the maximum recorded was forty in January.

**Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans***  
Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Recently speciated, having previously been considered a race of Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Past Club area records will be found under the name of *L.a.michahellis*. All records of the species were from Blackmoorfoot; adults were present from 28th to 31st Jan, 13th July and on 18th and 21st to 23rd September saw the return of two adults on 5th, three on the 6th and one on 7th to 11th and 23rd. In October an adult on 3rd, 4th, 14th and 21st, whilst on 22nd an adult and a sub-adult were present, the adult remaining between 24th and 30th. Finally, in November there was an adult on 4th and 20th. (PB MLD DWS KW JP DMP).

**Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides***  
Scarce winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot

In January a first-winter bird was present on 2nd, 7th, 10th, 15th, 16th, 27th, 30th, 31st and also 5th Feb. This being joined by a second-winter on Jan 7th and 30th. None were recorded at the latter part of the year. (PB MLD DWS KW DP SP JP SH)

Lowfields A second-winter bird on 17th Jan was seen later at Blackley tip (JED HBC) and a first-winter bird was present on 29th and 30th Jan (MH HBC).

At Lindley Moor on 2nd Feb a second-winter bird flew SW at 1600hrs (JED).

**Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus***  
Scarce winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot

As with the previous species, the only records were from the first winter period. In January a second-winter bird was present on 4th, 5th and 26th whilst a first-winter was seen on 8th, 16th, 21st and 27th. What were presumably the same birds were in the roost on 11th and 12th. In February there was a second-winter bird on 1st, 2nd, 6th and 20th. A record in March was of a third-winter bird on 4th. (DWS TD PC SP PB SH DMO JP MLD KW).

Lowlands A second-winter bird on 16th Jan and a first-winter bird from 16th to 18th Jan (MH JB HBC).

Elland GP held a first-winter and a second-winter bird on 14th Jan, whilst in Feb there was a second-winter bird on 5th and a third-winter bird on 6th and 7th (JB HBC).

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*  
Common winter visitor

Ingbirchworth had a maximum of four birds in each of January, February and December. At Broadstones there were fifteen present on 1st Jan (SH) and at Elland GP on 2nd January there were 177 (HBC).

The peak counts at Blackmoorfoot were:- (n/b indicates no birds present).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
278	39	3	n/b	n/b	n/b	n/b	n/b	n/b	3	42	266

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*  
Scarce passage visitor

Recorded from only two locations:

Blackmoorfoot On 14th and 15th Jan and on 6th and 11th March there was a single adult, whilst on 28th Jan an adult and a second-winter bird were present. Heavy passage was noted on 19th March when thirty-two adults arrived from the north at 1725hrs and departed west at 1735hrs (MLD).

Elland GP one on 22nd March, two flew W on 3rd April, two were present on 17th April and one flew E on 2nd May (MH HBC).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*  
Uncommon passage visitor

There were fewer records of this species than is normally the case. There was a single at Elland GP on 24th May (MH HBC). Whilst at Blackmoorfoot singles were reported on 12th and 20th June, 4th July and 10th Sept with three birds on both 19th June and 10th Sept (MLD).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*  
Uncommon passage visitor

A bird at Ingbirchworth on 18th April was seen to fly to Scout Dike (NP). Autumn records were from Blackmoorfoot with immatures on 30th September (MLD) and 2nd October (PB).

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*  
Scarce passage visitor

On 29th April three birds were at Ingbirchworth for a period of ten minutes, they then departed south-east at 0843hrs (DBa). Later in the year a single was at Blackmoorfoot on 26th September (DMO).

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*  
Resident breeder (3)

Huddersfield town centre remains the stronghold of this species, with birds starting to breed early in the year. A pair were building near the canal on 10th Feb (JKP). Up to 250 were regularly present in the town centre and there were many sightings of flocks in excess of 50 around agricultural areas, particularly at crop-sowing time in spring and autumn.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*  
Resident breeder (2)

Reported from eighteen different scattered locations. Generally seen in low single figures, the only large flock was at Elland GP with c80 on 21st March (JED). Breeding was recorded at Bretton CP, Penny Spring Wood and Lepton Great Wood (SG), plus a number of other sites.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*  
Resident breeder (4) Numerous winter visitor

Flocks reported rarely attained three figures. In January, 111 in the Bradley Gate area was the largest, 70+ were present at Elland GP on the 1st (SH), Bretton had c70 on 2nd (SH) and at Golcar 70+ flew west on the 17th (JED). During the second winter period the largest flock reported was of thirty plus at Beaumont Park on 20th October (RH).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*  
Resident breeder (3)

Very widespread but rarely breeding away from human habitation. A regular visitor to many gardens, usually in single figures with up to eight being reported in Shepley (SBWG).

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*  
Rare feral visitor

At Royd Moor one flew overhead when disturbed by gunshot sounds on 14th May (ICP). A single was reported on a number of occasions in the Almondbury district and a bird in the Farnley valley on 6th November could possibly have been the same individual (AT).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*  
Migrant breeder (2)

The first report was from Deffer Wood on 30th April (JED) and birds were then reported from many scattered localities until 12th June. Various sites after this included Scammonden, Ingbirchworth, Clough Head, Dovestones, Bilberry Res, Blackmoorfoot and Holmbridge.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*  
Resident breeder (2)

Present at 17 sites during the breeding season. Successful breeding was reported from Shepley, Lindley Moor, Holmbridge, Made Edge, Royd Moor, Scammonden, Bretton, Penistone and Digley. Singles were seen at a number of other locations.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*  
Resident breeder (2)

Frequently heard at many scattered localities. Evidence of breeding came from Almondbury where an adult and two juveniles were seen on 15th June (DSI) and similarly at Holmbridge on 12th July (HQ). Other locations where breeding probably took place were Shepley, Royd Moor, Beaumont Park, Lockwood, Bratton CP, Monley and Fixby.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*  
Resident/migrant breeder (1)

Very few records this year. A single was near Winscar Res on 14th April and was regularly reported up to 30th July (ICP BA HQ JKP SH). Birds were present at two other sites during the breeding season, but no evidence of breeding was forthcoming.

Swift *Apus apus*  
Migrant breeder (2)

The first record was of a single bird at Ingbirchworth on 28th April (NP RD & SEH). At the same location there were five on 30th April and on the same date one was seen at Holmbridge (HQ). Early May saw many more arriving with numbers building up to between 30 and 60. There were no larger concentrations reported apart from Blackmoorfoot which held 120+ on 11th Aug (MLD).

Nesting sites at Almondbury, Colnebridge and along the Colne Valley were once again occupied.

Last reports were in the final week of Aug, apart from a single was seen at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd Sept.

**Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***  
Resident breeder (1)

Reports were mainly of single birds from a number of scattered locations Denby Dale, Armitage Bridge, Holmbridge, Thunderbridge, Elland GP, Lockwood (Brewery Dam), Folly Hall, and on various stretches of the canal between Slaithwaite and Golcar. Although sightings at Blackmoorfoot have increased over the year, it was most unusual that a single bird was present throughout the first winter period (last date being 10th March) with two being seen on a number of occasions. Up to two were regularly on the canal at Elland (JT) and two pairs bred at Elland GP (HBC).



**Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis***  
Resident breeder (1-2)

A very pleasing number of reports from at least seventeen different locations. Probably bred at Bretton CP, Scammonden and Shepley but the number of reports received from other suitable habitats would suggest that breeding took place at some of these.

A bird at Lockwood had a lucky escape when it was observed being chased by a Sparrowhawk (DM).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major***  
Resident breeder (2)

Another species which appears to be successful in our area. Many reports were of sightings from gardens where they fed from the nut dispensers in winter and also late in the breeding season accompanied by juveniles. Reported from eighteen different localities where the species probably bred.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*  
Resident breeder (1)

Regularly seen at Elland GP, where a pair were displaying on 21st March (JED) and two males and a female were present on 3rd April (HBC). A pair bred at Healey House and raised at least one young (TD). The reports from Bretton CP would indicate that breeding took place. Other reports were of single birds in a garden at Clayton West during June (AS) and at Farnley on 1st May (DSI).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*  
Resident breeder (3-4)

The earliest records of the year were three which flew west at Blackmoorfoot on 29th Jan, a single at Hade Edge on 7th Feb, with ten present there on 1st March (SH). Ten birds were also noted at Ingbirchworth on 11th Feb (RDH SEH). Present throughout the summer months in all the usual breeding areas although a disturbing report was that no sightings or singing birds were in the Bradley (DSP) or Holmbridge areas (HQ). Thirteen flew south at Blackmoorfoot on 9th Oct and on 17th Oct a total of 43 birds including a flock of 21 flew south-west over Moorside Edge (SH).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*  
Migrant, rare breeder

Elland GP had the first record of the year with a single on 23rd March. Blackmoorfoot had four on 29th March and six on 12th April whilst two were present at Ingbirchworth on 11th April. Later in the year, singles were seen at Blackmoorfoot on 19th May, 13th and 14th Aug with three present on 17th Aug. Two were feeding over a pond at Denby Dale on 17th Aug (TM), two flew west at Scammonden on 11th Sept and eight flew north-east over Lindley Moor on 20th Sept (JED).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
Migrant breeder (4)

First reports came from Blackmoorfoot where singles were seen on 11th and 13th April. On 14th April single birds were noted at Denby Dale and by the 21st numbers had increased considerably and there was a steady stream of reports from a number of locations. Breeding was reported from several sites including Emley Moor where twelve pairs nested in the vicinity of the transmitter site.

The autumn passage resulted in large numbers being reported : c50 were present at Upper Denby on 7th Sept (DBa) whilst at Blackmoorfoot the maxima during the month was 37 on 3rd, 28 on 7th, 48 on 10th, 80+ on 11th and 50+ on 15th and 16th. Numbers then dropped, but 20 were at Holmbridge on 4th Oct. The final record came from Meltham where a single was seen on the very late date of 1st Nov (DWS).

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*  
Migrant breeder (3)

A very early individual was seen at Ingbirchworth on 11th April (NP). The next, a single, was seen at Holmbridge on 22nd April (HQ), then larger groups began to return and up to twenty were sighted almost daily until mid June. The number of nesting records was somewhat sparse, but this may have been due to the scarcity of birds in some of the breeding areas such as Lindley, Salendine Nook and Outlane. The number of young birds seen gathering in late July and August in Shepley, Upper Cumberworth and Denby Dale would indicate successful breeding in these areas.

The build up to autumn migration was very well reported and in Aug Blackmoorfoot had 120 on 11th (MLD) and forty plus were seen over Royd Moor on 13th (JED). The last records came from Berry Moor with ten on 4th Oct (JED), Elland GP on the 5th Oct with over twenty birds passing through (HBC) and on the same date at Wingsar Reg there were ten birds (SG). The last record of the year came from Blackmoorfoot with two on 9th Oct (MLD).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*  
Migrant breeder (2-3)

The first record was from Midhope Moor when a single was present on 12th April. Two birds were in song at Bretton GP on both 28th April (BA) and 3rd May (TM). Singing males were also reported from Scammonden on 1st and 6th May (JED) and from the Little Don Valley on 17th May (TM). Reports from Harden Clough would indicate that this is one of the strongholds. At Deffer Wood, where the species could formerly be located, no indication of birds was found.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*  
Resident breeder (4-5) Partial migrant

Rather unusually single birds were seen throughout January at Hade Edge, Holmfirth, Meltham and Almondbury but, of particular interest were the five seen at Broadstones on 1st Jan (SH). During heavy snow on 3rd Feb there were over 300 at Elland GP (TM). During March and April more birds appeared on the higher ground with 28 at Scammonden on 25th March, over 30 at Oldfield on 28th March and in excess of 20 at Broadstones on 3rd April.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*  
Rare visitor

Ringstone Edge Held a single on 10th and 11th Oct (JB), and what may have been the same bird was seen briefly on 16th (SH).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*  
Migrant breeder

The only records were of singles at Houses Hill on 3rd May, Wilshaw on 14th and 15th May (SH) and Blackmoorfoot on 17th July and 10th and 11th Sept (MLD).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
Resident breeder (2)

In January singles were seen at Almondbury on 3rd (DSI), Meltham on 4th (SH) and Silkstone on 25th (JED). There were many reports during the breeding season with pairs proved or probably breeding at Shepley, Dogley, Riding Wood Res, Blackmoorfoot, Hill Top, Thornton Lodge, Waterloo and Almondbury.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
Resident breeder (3)

The roost in Huddersfield town centre exceeded 200 on 20th March and 75 plus were still present on 3rd April (JKP). Bred throughout the area with records from many scattered localities.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*  
Resident breeder (2)

Reported from several locations. One was present at Crowden on Jan 31st (JED) and on 10th Feb one was feeding near the canal overflow at Golcar (JKP). At Holmfirth a single was seen on 22nd April (RD & SEH) and on 31st Aug two were present near the swimming baths (DM). Breeding records came from Hill Top, Oxy Grains Beck and along The Black Brook.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
Resident breeder (3)

Many reports of breeding from woods and woodland edges throughout the area, also at altitudes such as Ingbirchworth and Deer Hill. Birds breeding in gardens were reported from Shepley, Clayton West, Shelley, Holmfirth, New Mill and many other locations.

Dunnoch *Prunella modularis*  
Resident breeder (3)

Regular in many gardens and hedgerows, five birds were in a garden very close to Huddersfield town centre on 8th Feb (ICP).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*  
Resident breeder (4-5)

Very widespread with almost every garden report containing a pair. There were a number of instances of birds in song very late into the night.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*  
Rare visitor

This is almost a repeat of the 1993 report when the bird remained until 14th June: a male sang at Dovestones from the end of May until 10th July (AJS). It remains to be seen whether this bird returns in 1995, and if it can attract a female.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
Migrant breeder (2)

The first reports were all of single males in May; at Scammonden on 1st (JED), Hey Clough on 2nd (DM) and Brownhill Res on 29th (SH). In June four were seen at two locations in the Little Don Valley on the 12th (SH). The only report for later in the year was of a male at Scammonden on 3rd Sept (NP).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*  
Migrant breeder (2)

The first arrivals noted were a male at Meltham Moor on 27th April, one at Bradley Park on 29th (DWB) and two males at Whitley Common on 30th. Other locations in May were: Broadstones Res and Scammonden. A pair bred at this last mentioned locality and an adult with four young was seen in mid-Aug (JED).

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

At Dunford Bridge a single was seen on 1st Jan (JMD) and a male was noted on 16th (SH). At Royd Edge Clough there were three or possibly four present on 3rd Jan (DMP JJ). Dovestones had at least two pairs present and on 29th May, a male was seen with three juveniles whilst on 5th June there was a male with four juveniles (SH). There were no other reports but a pair with two juveniles was still present at Dovestones on 26th Sept.

**Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***  
Migrant breeder (2)

The earliest record was from Scammonden when a single male was present on 21st March (JKP), this was followed by a further two on 28th (JB). A male was seen at Blackmoorfoot on 27th March with two males present the following day. The influx started the following month with twenty-two at Whitley Common on 3rd April and a single on the same date at Royd Moor (JED). Scammonden once again featured, and on the 7th and 10th of the month, thirteen and twelve birds respectively were present (SH JED). At Broadstones there were at least ten present on 10th and on 30th twenty-two were seen. Other locations were: Dovestones with three males and two females on 29th May and two males and three juveniles on 12th June (SH), Bilberry had three present on 7th May (HQ), Winscar had a single on 1st May, Digley, where breeding was noted, had family groups on 30th June and 27th Aug (ICP HQ). Of the birds at Whitley Common on 30th April, five showed the characteristics of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoea* (JED). The only late records were in Sept with two birds at Broadstones on 2nd (NP), one at Digley on 10th (HQ) and two at Scammonden on 11th (JED).

**Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus***  
Migrant breeder (2)

The first record of the season was of a single bird at Digley on 1st April, later in the month five were seen around this area (HQ). Other reports for April include one at Whitley Common on 3rd (SMD), two males at Meltham Moor on 6th (DMP) and one at Broadstones on 10th. At least one pair bred at Dovestones and five or six birds were seen in the area on 5th June (SH). The only late record was of a male feeding on Rowan berries at Scammonden on 3rd Oct (JED).

**Blackbird *Turdus merula***  
Resident breeder (5) Numerous winter visitor

Numerous reports, particularly of birds frequenting and nesting in gardens. The only large concentration was of a group of twenty-two at Coxley Wood on 8th Jan (SH).

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

Maximum numbers during the early part of the year were recorded on 2nd Jan when Rusby Wood had a flock of approximately 100 and, on the same date, there were in excess of 300 at Ingbirchworth which also held flocks of 80 on 8th Feb and 200 on 11th and at Broadstones 80 on 22nd. Blackmoorfoot held a maximum of 200 on 25th March, 100 on 19th and 104 on 27th. 178 were observed flying north-east at

Oldfield on 30th March (SH). On 5th and 6th April flocks of 200 and 120 respectively were seen in the Almondbury area, thereafter numbers dropped rapidly with a very late single at Wessenden on 1st June (DMP).

An early returning bird was seen at Scammonden on 3rd Oct (JED). The main arrival came a little later with around 700 in the Spicer House Lane area on 24th Oct. A large mixed flock of this species and Redwing in the ratio of about 7 : 1 was in the Ingbirchworth area on 16th Nov (BA). Movements at Blackmoorfoot included 567 south on 23rd Oct and 621 west the following day. At Royd Moor 135 were seen on 21st Dec and 60 were at Birdsedge on 31st (JED).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*  
Resident breeder (3)

At Penny Spring Wood three birds were in full song during spring (SG). The bird in a garden at Lindley Moor on 11th March had been present since 24th Oct 1993, this being a most unusual winter record (JED). Other spring records were all garden reports. One bird was in song at Royd Moor on 3rd July and a bird seen at Lindley Moor on 19th Oct was probably of Continental origin (JED).

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*  
Numerous passage and winter visitor

Flock sizes were not particularly large during the early part of the year. With the exception of 50 at Blackmoorfoot on 4th Jan and 30+ there on 12th and 13th Feb, the Jan figures never exceeded twenty. Locations with flock sizes in brackets were : Gunthwaite (10), Coxley Wood (9), Wills o' Nats (17), Ingbirchworth (20) and Meltham (10). On 12th Feb at Lindley Moor thirty-one were gathering to roost. In Huddersfield town centre about ten were seen close to the 'bus station on 15th Feb (JKP). Twenty birds were flying in a north-easterly direction over Hade Edge on 11th Mar (SH).

Returning birds were noted on 4th Oct at Digley Bottom when a party of twenty-five were found (HQ). Bretton CP had over 200 on 24th Oct (JED), at Golcar (near the canal) there were 300 on Oct 30th (JKP) and there were approximately 250 at Ingbirchworth on 16th Nov (BA). Movements at Blackmoorfoot included 293 north on 16th Oct, 126 south the following day and 224 west on 24th.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*  
Resident breeder (3)

Small numbers were seen in Jan at Hade Edge: nine on 5th, fourteen on 10th and six on 24th (SH). Also during Jan there were seven at Scammonden on 16th. Surprisingly for this time of the year, seventeen were seen at Hade Edge on 18th Feb (SH).

There were a number of records from gardens throughout the

area during the breeding season.

Autumn groupings began in Aug with eleven flying over Longroyd Bridge on the 24th (JKP), but no other gatherings were reported. The largest group reported during the winter was of eleven at Scammonden 3rd Nov (JED).

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*  
Occasional migrant breeder (1)

In the Litherop Road area at Bretton at least two males were present on 28th April (TM). A male was singing from a young plantation at Yateholme on 28th May (JED) and at Ingbirchworth (near Broadstones crossroads), a single was in song on 19th June (NP).

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
Migrant breeder (1)

The first record was of a singing male at Elland GP on 23rd April (HBC) and again on 28th (JED). At the same site there were six males on 7th May (HBC) and three pairs are known to have bred. A male was singing at Scout Dike on 8th May (NP). The last, a single, was seen at Elland GP on 23rd Aug (HBC)

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
Rare passage migrant

Two males were present in the Litherop Lane area at Bretton on 28th April (JED TM BA) and a male was singing from a young plantation at Yateholme on 28th May (JED). A male was present at Horbury Wyke on 19th June (SH) and at Elland GP a male was singing on 21st May and two were present on 19th June. For the first time a pair bred and were seen feeding young on 24th July (HBC).

This is the first time since 1977 that this species has been recorded in four different locations. The 28th April record is also the earliest since Club records began.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*  
Migrant breeder (1)

Singing males were located at Elland GP on 25th (HBC) and 28th April (JED) and at Dalton on 27th and 28th (BA). Two birds were in song at Scout Dike on 8th May (BA), one was present at Almondbury (near Kaye Lane) on 6th June (DSI) and a single was at Whitley Beaumont on 25th June (DWB). Whilst no dates were given, there were more birds than normal singing in the Penistone area although no indication of numbers present was given (NP).

Last reports were of a single seen at Dalton on 28th July and also from 15th to 19th Aug (BA) and a very late bird was at Elland GP on 9th Sept (HBC).

**Whitethroat *Sylvia communis***  
Migrant breeder (2)

Digley produced the first bird on 27th April (HQ). On 28th and 29th of that month there was one at Bretton with two singing there on 30th and three were present on 1st May (JED BA). A male was also noted on 30th April at Deffer Wood. There were a number of reports of singing males throughout May from Scout Dike, Elland GP had birds on 20th and 22nd a single was present at Royd Moor on 29th. Similarly, June was also productive with birds at Upper Cumberworth, Thornhill, Horbury and Dewsbury SE where, on 13th July there were five birds (SH).

The last was recorded at Elland GP on 10th Aug (NBC).

**Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin***  
Migrant breeder (2)

One singing at Woodsome on 24th April was the first noted (DSI). At Elland GP there was a male on 28th April, three singing on 22nd May and two on 20th June. Other locations of singing birds were: Bretton CE on 1st May (at the west end of the park), Penistone on 2nd, Meltham on 7th, Honley on 8th, Almondbury on 9th, two at Mollicar Wood on 13th, five at Elland GP on 20th and one at Digley Bottom on 29th. Sightings in June were of one at Windybank Wood on 1st, a single at Lockwood on 4th and three at Royd Moor on 12th. There were no Autumn records.

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

Overwintering males frequented bird tables and gardens in Jan through to the end of March at Ossett (GC), Wooldale (RD & SEH) and Fixby (BL). At Penistone a female fed daily on peanuts and baked potato! (NP)

Migrants arrived at Elland GP in April with a male on 11th and four males and a female on 28th, two males were present on 22nd May and also on 20th June. Reported from a further eighteen locations with at least twenty singing males, this being a most encouraging sign for the Club area.

In November a male was noted with a flock of tits feeding on elderberries in a garden at Ossett and on 9th Dec, what was probably the same bird, was feeding in the same garden (GC).

**Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix***  
Migrant breeder (1-2)

The only records were of a single singing at Elland GP on 10th May where a pair bred and were feeding young in July (JB) and one in Stocks Wood on 19th May (DSI).

**Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita***  
Migrant breeder (2) Scarce winter visitor

The earliest record was from Elland GP which held a male on 21st and 27th Mar (HBC, D & VI) and a male was present in Bradley Park GC on 29th March (DWB). The next two months announced the arrival of this species with singing males at Shepley on 3rd April, Beaumont Park on 5th, Deffer Wood on 10th and 30th (three and four respectively), Almondbury on 11th, Thunderbridge on 16th, Storthes Hall on 17th, Longley on 19th and 27th, Woodsome Lees on 22nd (four), Fenay Bridge on 29th and Gunthwaite on 30th. In May the picture was similar with the addition of a further eleven locations. The only autumn record was of a singing male at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd Sept.

**Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus***  
Migrant breeder (3-4)

The first report came from Blackmoorfoot with one on April 7th (MLD), this was followed by a single at Elland GP on 8th (HBC). The canal between Linthwaite and Golcar recorded other arrivals on 11th April with three singing males (JKP). On 22nd April there was one at Digley (HQ), then numbers started to build up at other locations with reports of singles from Brockholes and Lockwood on 23rd and at Royd Moor many were reported to be singing on this later date. Birchcliffe held two or three males on 26th and on 27th one was singing at Moldgreen. The very large number of twenty-two singing males was noted between the car park and the fishing lake at Elland GP on 28th (JED). Numbers continued to build up throughout May. Breeding season records involved well over a hundred birds at over thirty different locations, thus making a full list impracticable.

Autumn passage at Blackmoorfoot began during the second week of July, the largest totals caught for ringing included sixteen on 16th, twelve on 17th and thirteen on 23rd, whilst in August twelve were caught and ringed on 13th and fourteen on 20th. The last bird of the year, a single, was present at Blackmoorfoot on 6th Sept (MLD).

**Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***  
Resident breeder (2-3)

The majority of reports of this species were submitted during the month of January. Single birds were seen at Royd Moor and Gunthwaite on 1st, Anchor Wood on 9th, three were present at Dunford Bridge on 16th and further singles were noted at Lindley Moor on 17th and Elland GP on 20th. Up until June there were further sightings at Cannon Hall, Shepley, Barkisland, Holme Styes, Holmbridge and Ingbirchworth.

The only reports later in the year were from Blackmoorfoot which held one or two on several dates between 3rd Sept and 4th Dec, Thornton Lodge where one or two were present between 14th Sept and 22nd Nov and Lindley Moor which had singles on 17th Oct and 2nd Nov.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*  
Rare visitor

A single was present at Elland GP 17th Jan (JED), 22nd (HBC) and on 24th (SG). This is the seventh record for the Club area.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*  
Migrant breeder (2)

The first reported arrival was a single at Royd Moor on 28th May followed by another single at Honley on 5th June. In July two were present at Blackmoorfoot on 21st, 25th and 28th to 31st, whilst in August a single was seen on 6th. Two birds were present at Gunthwaite on 30th Aug and another two at Lockwood on 11th Sept. The lack of reports was presumably due to under-recording rather than a drop in population.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*  
Migrant breeder (1)

A poor year for this species, with no birds being seen in the usual breeding areas. A single male visited a garden briefly at Shelley on 28th April (DBa) and on 29th a male was seen at Elland GP. At Lockwood a male investigated a nestbox on 5th May (TC), but, although being seen on 8th (DM), was not seen subsequently. Also on 8th May two males were present at Langsett (Cliffe Wood) (JED)

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*  
Resident breeder (2)

Small parties were noted early in the year with, in January, at least seven at Gunthwaite on 1st, six at Holmbridge on 7th, approximately twelve at Bretton CP on 9th and seven at Dunford Bridge on 16th, 17th and 24th. Breeding evidence came from Bretton, Holmbridge, Shepley, Deffer Wood and Elland GP. From August onwards groups were widespread, the maxima being seen at Scout Dike (thirteen) on 9th Oct, Blackmoorfoot (four) on 14th Oct, (nine) on 25th and (four) on 8th and 16th Nov, Aspley (five) on 1st Nov, whilst Holmbridge had approximately thirty on 13th Nov. Windy Bank Wood and Ingbirchworth had unspecified numbers in November and December.

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*  
Resident breeder (2)

No breeding records available and the decline mentioned in past reports continues. The only reports were as follows: Elland CP had one on 24th Jan, a single was in a garden at Dalton on 6th Mar, Yateholme had one on 18th April, at Horbury Wyke a single was calling on 19th June (SH), Gunthwaite had one on 30th Aug and Bretton CP had two on 24th Oct.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*  
Resident breeder (3)

Many reports of birds visiting gardens in winter with up to ten birds in a garden at Lindley in December. Widespread throughout the Club area and flourishing.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*  
Resident breeder (5)

Very abundant, most reports were from gardens where nest boxes and peanut feeders prove attractive. Well reported from natural woodland and other suitable habitats.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*  
Resident breeder (4)

The only large flock reported was that of thirty plus at Bretton CP on 2nd Feb (JED). Other reports, of which there were many, indicate the abundance of this species throughout the area.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*  
Resident breeder (1)

Bretton CP remains the stronghold for this species in the Club area. Whilst most reports were of single birds, the exceptions were four on 6th Jan and two on 2nd Feb (GC). The species was seen during the first two and last three months of the year but there were no reported sightings during the breeding season. Other reports were from: Beaumont Park which had singles on 5th April and 30th May with two on 4th June (DM), Windybank Wood had one on 1st June and a single was at Netherton on 25th Oct.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*  
Resident breeder (2-3)

Two birds were regularly seen throughout the year in a garden at Flixby (BL). Breeding records were received from : Stones Wood, Deffer Wood, Storthes Hall, Bretton CP, and Thunderbridge although the species probably bred at many more locations.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*  
Resident breeder (2)

Quite widespread with breeding reported from Holme Styes, Coxley Wood, Stones Wood and Digley. Whilst reports have mainly been of single birds, they are so numerous and widespread that it is suspected that breeding took place on a larger scale than this report suggests.

Magpie *Pica pica*  
Resident breeder (4)

A total of twenty-four were roosting at Ossett Spa on 13th April (GC). The roost at Blackmoorfoot has reduced somewhat in recent years and the maxima was only twenty-one on 5th Dec and thirty-eight on 11th.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*  
Resident breeder (4)

At Bretton CP approximately 300 were roosting near the upper lake on 2nd Jan (SH).  
An all white bird was seen at Clayton West on 2nd Feb (JKP).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*  
Resident breeder (5)

The largest roost size was of 1700 at Bretton CP (near the upper lake) on 2nd Jan (SH). Feeding flocks of around 500 were present at Holme Styes on 29th May with 900 in cut silage fields there on 11th June.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*  
Resident breeder (3)

Very widespread throughout the area, but no flocks of significance were noted.

Raven *Corvus corax*  
Rare visitor

During January and February ones and twos were seen in the Dovestones area. Two were present on April 3rd, 10th, 30th, May 20th, 22nd and one was seen on July 14th (GMBC). At Upper Midhope a single was seen flying west then north on 22nd Nov (RD & SEH).  
This is the third consecutive year that this species has been observed in the Club area.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*  
Resident breeder (5) Numerous winter visitor

Regularly seen in all areas with no flocks of significance reported.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
Resident breeder (5)

No particularly large gatherings were noted, but up to 30 were feeding in fields in Shepley during July and August.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*  
Resident breeder (2)

Two birds present at Almondbury (Lumb Lane) on 9th Jan (SH) were regularly seen until late March, and a single was also seen at this locality on 21st and 22nd July (DSI). Sixteen were in bushes at the northern end of Scout Dike on 6th Feb with five being present at the same location on 20th Mar. At Upper Cumberworth two were seen on 27th June, one of which was carrying nesting material and two pairs nested at Shepley.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*  
Resident breeder (4) numerous winter visitor

Wintering flocks in January were noted at Ingbirchworth where sixty were present on 1st, twenty-five on 2nd and fifty on 25th. A flock of sixty was seen at Cunthwaite on 9th Jan and thirty were at Yateholme on 31st. In February sixty were present at Bretton CP on 2nd and again Ingbirchworth held birds with forty on 6th and twenty on 11th. Reports during the breeding season were widespread and mainly from gardens and woodland throughout the area. A total of thirty flew south at Blackmoorfoot on 9th Oct.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*  
Uncommon to common winter visitor

During the early part of the year most reports came from Ingbirchworth: in January there were six on 1st, fifteen on 2nd and two on 25th, February saw twenty present on 6th five on 8th and an unknown number were heard calling on 20th March. Other records during the first winter period were of three at Elland GP on 9th Jan, one at Meltham on 24th, a female in a garden at Lindley Moor on 5th and 6th Feb, a single at Scout Dike on 6th, four at Penistone on 13th and eight in flight over Scammonden on 18th. A late report was of one in a garden at Fixby on 4th April (BL). The first report of returning birds was on 8th Oct when a single was seen at Blackmoorfoot (MLD) and on 24th October there were at least seven at Bretton CP. The only sizable flock noted during the second winter period was of around fifty at Ingbirchworth on 26th Nov.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*  
Resident breeder (4)

Many reports of birds feeding in gardens during winter, the only large concentration was on 18th Dec at Elland GP when a flock of 40 was noted (HBC).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*  
Resident breeder (2-3)

During the early part of the year the only flock of any size was at Bretton CP on 2nd Feb when there were thirty-two at the western end (JED). Other reports during this time related to a maximum of four birds from many widely scattered locations. Autumn flocks were somewhat larger, fifty-five were present at Lindley Moor on 30th Sept, fifty-two on 6th Oct with twenty-two on 13th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*  
Resident breeder (1) Uncommon winter visitor

More reports than ever were received of this species feeding from nut dispensers in gardens during the winter months, sometimes in appreciable numbers, up to fifteen at Wooldale on 5th and 22nd Jan. Between 7th Jan and 3rd March, up to four were reported from a garden at Almondbury, whilst at Meltham and Dalton similar reports were of birds present well into March and two males were still feeding in a garden at Lockwood on 12th April.

Later in the year two birds were in a garden at Holmbridge on 10th Sept but the main influx occurred on 24th Oct when approximately seventy were seen moving between two woodland areas at Berry Moor (JED).

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*  
Resident breeder (3) Partial migrant

The first report for the year was of two at Oldfield on 26th March. Up to 140 were seen at Elland GP on 8th April and on 19th a Sparrowhawk flushed around fifty-five from a field near Lumb Lane. On 20th the first returning birds to a breeding site at Lindley Moor were noted. Birds were then present throughout the area at the usual breeding locations.

The largest post-breeding flock noted was of fifty at Broadstones on 3rd July.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*  
Resident and partial migrant (2-3)

The records of this species commenced in March with two at Oldfield on 29th and three there on 30th (SH). In April, birds were heard flying over Clough Head on 7th (SH) and on the same date four were seen at Scammonden (JED) whilst two flew west at Blackmoorfoot on 24th (MLD). The species bred at both Deer

Hill and Rishworth Moor but no quantitative data was forthcoming. There were no reports after 16th July when six were seen perched on wires near Holme (DM).

**Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

Resident breeder (2) Uncommon winter visitor

The number of records for this species continues to decrease. In May five were at Crossley's Plantation on 9th (JED), a single was at Elland GP on 22nd and four were at Holme Styes on 29th (SH). At Blackmoorfoot a single was present on 30th May and 25th June and one flew South on 9th Oct whilst three were seen on 24th Oct and nine on 21st (MLD). The only other records were of thirty-seven on 12th Nov (HBC), fourteen on 28th (JED) near the car park at Elland GP and ten at Windy Bank Wood on 5th Dec (JT).

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1) Uncommon passage visitor

On 28th May a family party of five were in an area near the fenced car park at Yateholme (JED SMD). Two flew west over Scammonden on 8th Aug (JB) and one was heard at Elland GP on 25th Dec (JB)

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2)

Remains a fairly widespread breeding species across the area in suitable habitat. Most records were of between one and four birds but in January at Royd Moor there were six on 2nd, at Dunford Bridge eleven on 16th, at Colcar three males and two females were near the canal on 19th and there were seven at Elland GP on 27th.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce to uncommon visitor

A single was present at Bretton CP on 2nd Nov (BC).

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce winter visitor

One flew west over Scammonden on 6th Nov (JB).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3)

A common breeding species in agricultural areas especially at lower elevations. No winter flocks were noted but small numbers were recorded during every month of the year from at least seventeen different locations. There were a number of

reports of birds during the breeding season such as at Broadstones, Upper Cumberworth and at Shepley where at least seven pairs bred.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
Resident breeder (2)

There were fewer records received during the year and the species would appear to be declining. A single was seen at Ingbirchworth on 2nd Jan (JED) and further singles were present on 11th Feb and 20th March. A pair were very active at this location on 30th April.

Blackmoorfoot held one or two birds on several dates between 19th Mar and 6th Nov but no evidence of breeding was obtained. At Royd Moor eight birds were present on 20th March, four pairs on 12th June and a single male on 3rd July.

At Scamonden a male was present on 16th April with a pair being present on 1st May and on 13th June.

Other sightings came from Elland GP, with two males on 28th April and a single on 22nd May; Whitley Common, two males and a female on 1st July whilst Browns Edge and Broadstones both held single males on 3rd July.

#### Escapes

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

A bird was seen from 22nd to 29th Jan in the Bank Wood, Denby Dale area (PG TM) and was obviously a falconers bird

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

With apologies for any omissions

Armitage B	BA	Holloway RD & SE	RD&SEH
Barber G	GB	Ives DS	DSI
Barrans D	DBa	Lucas B	BL
Beaumont J	JB	Manchester D	DM
Brierley DW	DWB	Martin I	IM
Butterfield D	DBu	Meredith Mr & Mrs	MM
Cantwell T	TC	Melling Dr T	TM
Carr G	GC	Owen DM	DWO
Chambers P&AC	P&AC	Palliser JK	JKP
Cocking B	BC	Piggott T	TP
Coldwell J	JC	Pogson DM	DMP
Cooper B	BC	Pritchard IC	ICP
Dale JE & Mrs SM	JED SMD	Quarterman H	HQ
Dale JM	JMD	Shore D	DSH
Denton ML	MLD	Spellman D	DSp
Duckworth T	TD	Sykes J	JS
Findlay Dr HR	HRF	Taylor G	GT
Garbutt J	JG	Thurman J	JT
Gear S	SG	Todd A	AT
Graham S	SGr	Turton JM	JMT
Griffin P	PG	Wells M	MW
Hall D	DH	Wood W	WW
Hampshire R	RH	Woodcock B	BW
Hayes M	MH	Woodhouse D	DW
Hinchliffe P	PH	Wright K	KW

Barnsley Bird Study Group  
 Greater Manchester Bird Report  
 per Mrs A.Judith Smith  
 Halifax Birdwatchers' Club  
 RSPB Denby Dale Office

## FIELD TRIPS REPORT 1994

### ROTHER VALLEY COUNTRY PARK and CLUMBER PARK

23 January 1994

A dry sunny day with only light winds - but very cold

A brief visit only to this first venue in order to take a look at the Long-eared Owl roost, which is in a now traditional site in dense scrub hawthorn, clothing the railway embankment, which here forms part of the boundary to the country park. It is interesting to note that trains still actively run atop this embankment and are ignored by the owls! Additionally a well-used footpath runs along the foot of this embankment. One would imagine that much disturbance would occur, but this seems to be far from the case. In the past, up to seven birds have been recorded at the roost but today we had to be content with three. These three did, however, give excellent views.

There were other interesting birds along this scrub-covered area and in woodland and rough ground in its immediate vicinity. Not the least of these was a party of about ten Tree Sparrows, along with a larger mixed flock of finches and buntings, which comprised (roughly) Goldfinch (around forty), Greenfinch (up to ten), Yellowhammer (about six) and a male Reed Bunting. Also in this area were three Stock Dove and two Redwing.

The Rother Valley CP lakes held around one hundred and fifty Canada Geese and perhaps an equal number of Greylags, but were generally disappointing for other wildfowl, holding only small numbers of Mallard, Tufted Duck and Wigeon.

Our Club visit to Clumber Park in December '92 was the first for many years, and so a return was somewhat overdue. One forgets how productive this area of parkland can be - especially at a time when "day-trippers" are not likely to be out there in force.

The area has several "speciality birds", uppermost of which is probably Hawfinch. These should be looked for in the hornbeams in the immediate vicinity of the Chapel, where we today located a minimum of three birds. Another speciality is Nuthatch, which can be very plentiful throughout the Park.

All three species of Woodpecker can be seen within the wooded areas - today, however, we found none at all.

Flocks of Siskin and Redpoll should be looked for on the woodland edges, especially where birches and alders come in contact with the waters' edge. Today a small party of between eight and ten birds were seen in association with a mixed flock of tits, Treecreepers and Goldcrests. The latter species

was extremely numerous throughout the area with a minimum of twenty birds observed and many others were heard calling.

The lakes themselves should not be ignored - both Little Grebe and Great Crested Grebe (courtship displays observed from the latter) were recorded along with seven Cormorant, three Grey Heron and six species of wildfowl - Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, Pochard, about twenty pairs of Tufted Duck and a similar number of pairs of Ruddy Duck, plus both Moorhen and Coot, and three species of gull were noted.

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BLACKTOFT SANDS and HORNSEA MERE            1040-1300    1410-1700  
27 February 1994

A very cold day of weak sunshine and light, NE winds, with generally good visibility.

Viewing conditions at Blacktoft Sands during the morning were excellent, and we were well placed to view the large numbers of the nine species of wildfowl and six species of wader that were present. All could be viewed in relative comfort from the ever increasing number of hides. Development of facilities at this RSPB reserve is coming on apace and I feel we are fortunate in having such a good area so relatively close to hand.

There was nothing particularly out of the ordinary here today with the exception of Water Pipit. A single individual was known to be on the reserve at the time of our visit, and a bird which showed itself only poorly, and at a distance, was suspected of being this species. This individual was seen in close association with Skylark and (ubiquitous) Meadow Pipit. Much better views were obtained of a male Stonechat

Hornsea Mere was another area that the club had not visited for some time. Trips to this site have been planned but, for various reasons, we rarely seem to get here, until today.

This is the largest freshwater lake in Yorkshire, and, situated less than 1km. from the sea, is well worthy of its reputation for being one of Yorkshire's premier sites for winter wildfowl. The open fields, broad-leaved woodland with some scrub, and woodland-water ecotone also ensures that an equally wide range of passerines can usually be found.

During this visit forty-eight species were identified in the area of which no less than twenty-five were wetland species. Among these were two species of swan, four species of goose, and eleven species of duck. Foremost among the latter were excellent views of three male Red-crested Pochard and a single female Long-tailed Duck.

Also memorable was the flock of more than a hundred grazing Barnacle Geese on the grassland at the lakeside, albeit of feral origin.

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CORS CARON  
20 March 1994

1130-1500

A warm, dry and sunny day, with only light winds, and good visibility.

Once again, we made the journey with raptors in mind; Red Kite in particular. Once again we were not disappointed. There were birds seen in the area regularly throughout the day and at most times they gave excellent views. Red Kite is an easy bird to see, and an observer can easily forget just how rare the bird is! Frequently seen in pairs, with at one time as many as four in the air together, most records were of individuals soaring over the adjacent wooded hillsides. It was difficult to asses but a consensus estimated the number seen to be between ten and twelve birds. Buzzards were easily the most numerous raptor species of the area with sightings of around thirty individuals.

Other birds of prey found in the area included Sparrowhawk, with one or two females encountered; Kestrel, a lone female; and Peregrine, where one or two unsexed birds were noted overflying the summit of the adjacent hillsides.

The other 'major' bird species that we look for here, and one which breeds in the area, is Raven. Overall we encountered up to four birds, but failed to record them in display flight as has happened in the past.

On the day fifty-two species were encountered. Most of us probably 'ticked' our first summer visitor, with the two singing Chiffchaff that were located in willow scrub in the vicinity of the elevated hide.

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**Craig Yr Adern (Bird Rock)**

On our way home a brief visit was paid to "this most picturesque and lofty, rock, so called from the numerous birds which nightly retire among its crevices" [William Catherall's 'History of Wales' 1828]It was hoped that we would find the Chough which use the rock as a nightly roost, and most of the party were fortunate enough to see the group of seven or eight that flew in shortly before we were scheduled to leave the area. Once on the rock they were very hard to find, but in the

air, or while vocalising, they were much easier to locate. In actuality, Bird Rock is one of the few natural inland sites in Wales where this species breeds - most others prefer quarries or mine-shafts.

Another 'speciality' of Bird Rock is the Cormorant. Limited by the availability of rock ledges for nest sites, it is thought unlikely that the forty breeding pairs has ever been greater. However, none of that takes anything away from the uniqueness of seeing large numbers of this spectacular bird flighting in to the roosting sites high above ones head - the rock towers high on seven hundred feet above the valley floor.

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LEIGHTON MOSS NATURE RESERVE CENTRE      1130-1700  
WOODWELL    1015-1130  
24 April 1994

Cloudy after rain, initially brightening in late morning when it became quite warm, but clouds building again towards mid-afternoon resulting in heavy showers. No wind. Visibility good.

During the course of the day, from both localities, over eighty species were recorded. With one or two exceptions - notably Little Gull and Black Tern - there was nothing seen that might not have been expected.

One of the main "quarry species" at Leighton Moss is Bittern and there were up to four booming males present. All heard them , but not everyone saw them, despit the fact that they were showing themselves much more frequently than normal. With some regular breeding haunts losing their birds in recent years, this stable population at Leighton Moss is assuming an even greater importance.

Wildfowl obviously play an important role in the avifauna of an area such as this - with fourteen species seen, the indication of that importance can be gauged. Possibly the most surprising of those seen today were the two pairs of Red-breasted Merganser.

Four species of raptor were noted. Marsh Harrier in the area were once again breeding: one male was serving two females, which had nests in different parts of the reserve. The females were actively nest-building whilst the male was kept occupied flying back and forth between the two. Sparrowhawk sightings were of two females. Buzzards were also noted - or perhaps it was one individual seen on a couple of occasions. Some fortunate souls in our party were lucky enough to see a female Peregrine.

Eight species of gull/tern were recorded: the most notable being Little Gull ( two immatures) and Black Tern. The latter were somewhat special, all being adults in full summer plumage.

The Woodwell woodlands produced records of all three woodpeckers. Green Woodpecker gave us audio contacts on a few occasions, along with one visual contact. This species was also noted on several occasions in the wooded areas of Leighton Moss reserve. Great Spotted Woodpecker were seen on three occasions and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker -which is always the most elusive - gave us a single audio contact on just one occasion.

The one species that is always hoped for from the Woodwell area proved to be very elusive but was seen by some of our members. That species is, of course Hawfinch. Up to three birds were eventually located.

Passerine summer visitors were seen in good numbers. Ten species were recorded, namely, Swift, all three hirundines, Wheatear, Sedge, Reed and Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Chiffchaff. Nothing surprising there, with the exception of Swift, which is at least a week earlier than we would expect it in Huddersfield.

Bearded Tit were said to be present 'in some strength'. I cannot speak for others, but I did not find it so, with only two birds being seen at all well.

Last word goes to a particular favourite of mine - Nuthatch. This is another species from the Woodwell area, where an audio contact from one bird was obtained on one occasion. Usually, this species makes itself more obvious than this.

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SOUTH STACK RSPB RESERVE

1100 - 1430

CEMLYN BAY

1500 - 1700

Anglesey

22 May 1994

Dry but overcast after rain throughout the previous 24 hours. Winds light NW. Visibility good over short distances, but rather obscured beyond about half a mile offshore.

South Stack is a wonderful reserve: in spring and early summer the northern part of the reserve is probably the most exciting because at least nine species of seabird breed there. The 120m cliffs have a breeding population that includes around two thousand pairs of Guillemot, five hundred pairs of Puffin and six hundred pairs of Razorbill.

Chough is undoubtedly the highlight of the area. Here the birds can be seen readily. The largest parties observed (on the day) were groups of seven and ten, but the norm were flighting parties of three or four. The species is very gregarious and is very easy to observe at this site.



In addition to the cliffs the reserve holds areas of other important and rather specialised habitat: that of maritime heath - a dwindling habitat - and hill moorland. These areas have their own 'special' birds, amongst which we recorded Stonechat (at least five pairs), Whinchat (two or three) and Wheatear (between three and five). Unusual species recorded in the gorse on the maritime heath were Redpoll and Sedge Warbler, with between one and three singing males of each species. The four singing male Whitethroat were much more in keeping with this type of habitat.

The coastal heathland, for those of us with an interest in wild flowers and butterflies, is made further attractive because this reserve holds a good number of species which are national rarities - Field Fleawort and Spotted Rockrose - to name but two of the former, and Marsh Fritillary and Silver-studded Blue, to name but two of the latter.

The trip to Cemlyn Bay is undertaken to observe the tern colonies for which the area is deservedly renowned. Several hundred pairs of terns breed at Cemlyn. Three species breed regularly:- Arctic, Common and Sandwich Tern. Smaller numbers of Black-headed Gull and a smaller number of Herring Gull also breed in this area. Other breeding species include Mallard, Red-breasted Merganser and Redshank.

The most sought after species is usually much more elusive. Roseate Tern, the warden informed us, were on the reserve, numbering some four individuals. We did however fail to see them on this visit.

A fortnight later, on the RSPB's group trip to this area, these four birds were seen, along with possibly one or two others, but the weather was truly awful, and the birds were only seen in flight. Numbers were consequently difficult to assess and we counted ourselves fortunate to have found these.

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SPURN POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

25 September 1994

A total of seventy-seven species were seen in the area on the day - a total somewhat lower than on previous visits. Some very good birds were located however. Despite a good amount of activity in the area in general (and especially the vicinity of Clubley's Field, the 'Canal Zone' and the fields around the Church) things began to dry up by early afternoon and the rest of the day was on the whole disappointing.

Up to a dozen different wader species were seen chiefly on the salt marsh and estuarine mud overlooked by the path across the Canal Zone. The commoner species were present in often quite large numbers. Grey Plover was represented by up to twenty individuals, but others, like Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwit, were represented by just singletons. Little Stint, Dunlin and Snipe were seen from the hide overlooking the new scrape.

The 'best' birds of the day were seen in the fields and hedgerows in the vicinity of the Church. Here amongst a much larger gathering of Reed Bunting, Yellowhammer and Tree Sparrows were a single Ortolan and Little Bunting. Largely elusive, the Ortolan, at times, gave very good views.

Beacon Lane was generally disappointing, but up to six Ring Ousels were noted from the area, along with Wheatear and Stonechat. The Beacon Lane Ponds held a single Common Scoter.

Much searching of the grassland and hedgerow systems around Clubley's Field was undertaken in an endeavour to find the Wryneck which was occupying the area. Many of our party were successful, but not all.

Other migrant passerines observed in the area on the day included Redstart, Whinchat, Fieldfare, Redwing, Reed Warbler, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Pied Flycatcher.

Finally, mention is made of a couple of Cuckoo - a species not

often encountered on our trips - which were seen by some members of the group.

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### FLAMBOROUGH HEAD & FILEY

23 October 1994

A day of intermittent, blustery showers with some periods of sun. The winds were fresh, off the sea, creating quite a substantial swell, but visibility was, on the whole, moderate to good over inshore waters.

Today's visit to these two premier east coast sites produced a total of seventy seven species. Many of these were such as might have been expected at this time of year, but others were those that are hoped for but not often come across.

A single Cory's Shearwater was identified during a sea watch off Flamborough Head - this bird was doubly welcome as it proved to be the only shearwater species observed during the course of the day. This was disappointing, as was the lack of skua species.

In the wooded farmland area in the vicinity of the "Timoneer", Woodcock was located. This species has been found regularly in this locality before - it may seem to be an unlikely species, but it is worth looking for at this site and at this time of year.

Black Redstart and Corn Bunting were both species observed on the grassland areas overlooked from the cliff-top paths in the Flamborough area. It is pleasing these days, that Corn Bunting can still be found here with some degree of reliability.

In the ravine at South Landing a few observers were fortunate in finding and obtaining good views of Pallas's Warbler.

At Filey, in the sheltered waters of the Bay, just off the Brigg, were small numbers of both Common and Velvet Scoter, as well as both Goosander and Red-breasted Merganser.

The fields above the cliffs to the north of the Country Park offered us distant sightings of Rough-legged Buzzard. There has been an unprecedented influx of this species into the whole of eastern England this autumn - especially into those counties from Northumberland south to Lincolnshire. Many have also penetrated some little distance inland.

Other raptors seen in the area include Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and, in the 'totem pole' field a Short-eared Owl was noted.

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## FILEY

20 November 1994

[Due to circumstances brought about by a lack of support, the advertised trip to Hornsea Mere and Blacktoft Sands was cancelled. Instead, fifteen members went by car to Filey Dams and Filey Bay. I should like here to express my thanks to all of those who allowed us to use their cars in this manner. It is no easy task to drive to a venue, spend all day there, and then drive back !]

The weather on the day was generally dry, but light rain fell at times. It was very mild, with only light to moderate north-easterly winds.

An hours stay at Filey Dams gave us good views of several of the commoner species of wildfowl and waders. There were surprisingly high concentrations of Snipe with numbers approaching eighty birds on the scrape overlooked by the two hides. The surrounding hedgerows and taller hedgerow trees gave us very good views of a number of passerine species. Goldfinch and Greenfinch were two that were particularly numerous and noticeable. Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting were present in smaller numbers.

Watching off the Brigg was interesting, with excellent views of two immature Great Northern Divers, one winter male Long-tailed Duck, and a probable Red-necked Grebe. No member of the party saw any sign of either the Common or Velvet Scoter, despite the reported presence of both species in the area. On the cliffs north of the Brigg, Fulmar were very numerous.

Several Guillemot were seen on the sea from the end of the Brigg, and several more were seen regularly in flight, some close inshore. There was also an indeterminate number of Diver, most probably Red-throated, on the sea. One unidentified Skua species was seen as it moved south.

Shag were also numerous - numbers were probably in excess of the local Cormorant population.

Both sites provided us with views of twelve wader species which, for this area is quite good, I feel. Some of the nicest views were of a party of more than ten Sanderling, which were in close association with three Knot and a Ringed Plover on the sandy beach off the end of the Cobble Landing.

Finally, several interesting species were seen in the woodlands of the Church Ravine. These included Chiffchaff, Great Spotted Woodpecker and some really marvellous views of a roosting Tawny Owl.

All in all, a total of seventy-two species were identified.

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David Butterfield

## RINGING REPORT

As wet and windy weather dominated the first winter period, the mist netting of birds was almost an impossibility.

During the course of the summer months only 54 pulli were ringed, this consisted of the following: Dipper (8 Hill Top), Robin (8 Blackmoorfoot), Blackbird (16 Blackmoorfoot), Chaffinch (8 Blackmoorfoot) and Greenfinch (14 Blackmoorfoot).

Although every opportunity was taken to mist net at Blackmoorfoot during the late summer and autumn periods, the lack of the usual holiday precluded any intensive activity. As a consequence the low numbers of migrants (including Willow Warbler) may not be an indication of any true declines.

The somewhat inclement weather conditions that prevailed at weekends during the second winter period resulted in no ringing attempts being possible. Additionally, the general mild conditions meant that birds were more interested in natural food and were not attracted to the peanut basket. It is thought, therefore, that even if weather conditions had allowed, few birds would have been ringed.

Given the above facts it is not surprising that the total number of birds ringed during the year was only 318.

### RINGING RECOVERIES

#### Key to Symbols and Terms used

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

SEX: M = Male F = Female

#### Manner of recovery:

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

All recoveries of five kilometres or more are published.

RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDS

**Sedge Warbler**

H095021 4 8.8.93 Blackmoorfoot, near Huddersfield. 53°37'N 1°52'W

V 26.6.94 Turnhouse Airport, Lothian Region, Scotland  
sexed M 55°56'N 3°24'W 275 Km NNW

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD

**Mute Swan**

An adult at New Mill, Huddersfield (53°35'N 1°45'W) from mid-August 1991 to at least the year end was wearing a pink colour ring on its right leg inscribed with 059. The Wildfowl & Wetland Trust indicate that although there are a few records of pink ringed birds these rings have never been issued to ringers. The origin of this bird, therefore, remains a mystery.

**Whooper Swan**

Colour ring	6M	15.12.93 22.01.94	Martin Mere, Lancs. 53°37'N 2°52'W date last seen at Martin Mere
	V	28.10.94	Blackmoorfoot 67 Km E

**Barnacle Goose**

Two birds (of the four present) at Blackmoorfoot on 30.09.91 were wearing metal rings on their left leg and off-white rings on their right leg. Although both colour rings were inscribed it was only possible to read the number 13 on one of them. Investigations have revealed that these birds were almost certainly escapes from a collection; the rings do not fit any of the combinations currently in use in the wild.

M.L.Denton

## Black-headed Gull

Colour ring	5	13.04.86	Utterslev Mose, Kobenhaven, Denmark	55°43'N	12°29'E
	VV	26.03.88	Utterslev Mose		
	VV	21.06.88	Utterslev Mose		
	VV	26.03.89	Utterslev Mose		
	VV	04.04.89	Utterslev Mose		
	VV	07.04.89	Utterslev Mose		
	VV	13.01.90	Blackmoorfoot	965 Km	WSW
	VV	19.01.90	Blackmoorfoot		
	VV	26.01.90	Blackmoorfoot		
	VV	04.02.90	Blackmoorfoot		
	VV	08.02.90	Blackmoorfoot		
	VV	18.02.90	Blackmoorfoot		
	VV	24.02.90	Blackmoorfoot		
	VV	25.02.90	Blackmoorfoot		
	VV	16.03.90	Utterslev Mose	965 Km	ENE
	VV	23.07.90	Blackmoorfoot	965 Km	WSW
	VV	14.03.91	Tingbjerg, Kobenhaven, Denmark	55°43'N	12°30'E
				965 Km	ENE
	VV	26.03.92	Utterslev Mose	5 Km	E
	VV	23.04.92	Utterslev Mose		
	VV	18.06.92	Utterslev Mose		
	VV	07.07.93	Blackmoorfoot	965 Km	WSW

## LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

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

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

**TABLE 1 RETRAPS**

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	Total
Robin		1				1
Blackbird	1			1		2
Willow Warbler	2			1		3
Blue Tit	1	1				2
Great Tit		1				1
Chaffinch	1					<u>1</u>
						10

**TABLE 2 RECOVERIES**

	1yr	Total
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1
Greenfinch	1	<u>1</u>
		2

### RING TOTALS LIST - 1994

Woodpigeon	1
Pied wagtail	4
Dipper	8
Wren	4
Duncock	14
Robin	32
Blackbird	25
Blackcap	3
Willow Warbler	89
Golderest	2
Coal Tit	2
Blue Tit	54
Great Tit	24
Maggie	1
Starling	10
Chaffinch	17
Greenfinch	<u>28</u>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>318</b>

M.L.Denton

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