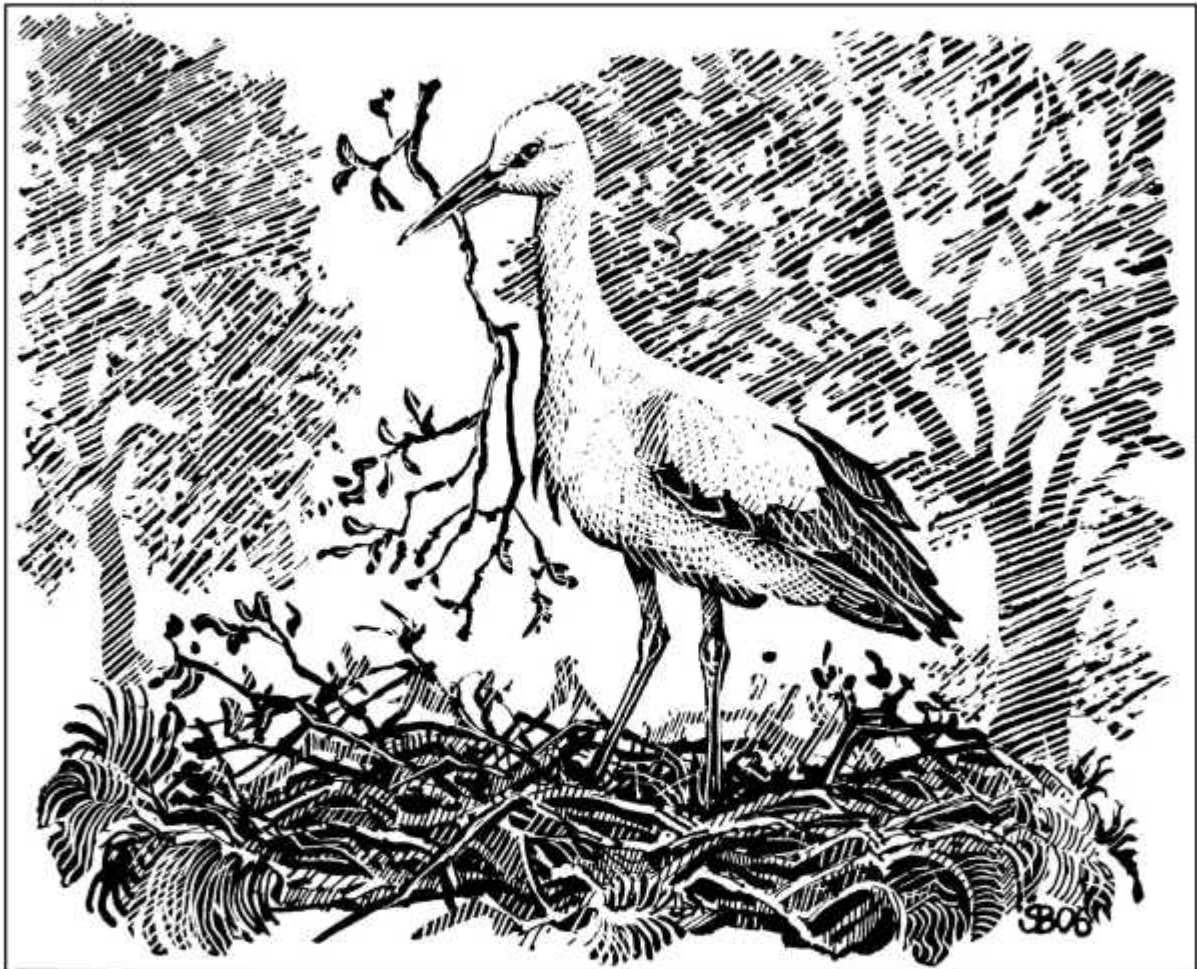




Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 2004



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

‘Birds in Huddersfield 2004’ is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers’ Club and the latest in an unbroken series of such reports produced annually by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and a number of systematic surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Huddersfield Birdwatchers’ Club is a registered charity (no 1098296).

Front cover illustration: White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) by Stuart Brocklehurst.

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www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk

Birds in Huddersfield 2004

Compiled by Brian Armitage and Russ Boland

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ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Club Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 39 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological research and *Birds in Huddersfield 2004* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

From time to time we also publish more specific, one-off work, including in 2001 an *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area* and, in 2004, *Birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1985-2003*. A major new book *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area*, reviewing the highlights and changes in local bird populations since records began, is in preparation.

Our publications are to be found in the Huddersfield Public Library, go to many regional and national ornithological and wildlife conservation bodies and are on sale in local bookshops and regional RSPB reserves.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simply contact any member of the Committee (see last page of the report) or visit our website www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk for more information.

FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT

Members and friends of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club will be pleased to see the publication of our *Birds in Huddersfield 2004* report, which has been unavoidably delayed. It lists all the birds recorded in our area during that year and forms yet another addition to our archive. This substantial collection shows trends and developments, often noted briefly against the record for each bird in each report. We shall, of course, continue to add to this stock with a publication in the not-too-distant future of the 2005 report. In addition to these annual productions we are putting the finishing touches to a report providing an in-depth overview of a larger span of time: *Birds of the Huddersfield Area* by Paul Bray. This follows our latest special report *Birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1985 - 2003* by Mike Denton.

For this 2004 report the Club is grateful to our writers Brian Armitage (our Recorder) and Russell Boland, together with Alf King who assisted them. We are also grateful to Stuart Brocklehurst once again and Russell Boland for their illustrations, which enliven the text. Mike Wainman again oversaw the printing and we thank him for this work. It always strikes me how much effort has to go into these productions and how lucky we are that these members have given their energies and time to the task. I hope readers will enjoy this report and support the Club that produced it in any way they can.

In the wider ornithological world we might want to note a couple of trends, which recently came to my attention and which we might observe in the future, relating to changes in bird habits or habitat, both connected to big changes in the world. Global warming (which might not strike us this summer as a credible phenomenon but which is occurring nonetheless) seems to be affecting migration habits. Various bird bodies – BTO, WWT and RSPB among others - have produced a report noting that several species of wetland birds do not now need to fly as far as Britain to winter in a tolerable climate. The Baltic and the Netherlands will do for White-fronted Geese, the species showing the greatest of decline of two-thirds. Mallard, Shelduck, Pochard, Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Turnstones are also showing declines, smaller but significant. The second trend is the result of the rising world demand for food, especially cereals and milk. That increased demand is likely to lead to the curtailment or even disappearance of set-aside land as more is brought back into productive use. This land has, in the right areas, been a boost for bird habitats and will be a loss. The fortunes of birds are intimately linked with climate and human activity and it seems they are always fluctuating.

Michael Rayner.
President.

2004: THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 176 species were reliably reported in 2004 and, although there were no additions to the club area list, several species put in appearances for the first time in many years.

The most attractive draw for birders in January was the good numbers of Waxwings, including sixty-plus birds in the Folly Hall area mid-month. A regular feature during January is the westerly movement of Pink-footed Geese and large numbers passed over on 10th and 23rd. The year's only Iceland and Glaucous Gulls visited Blackmoorfoot on 20th and 25th respectively. Five hundred Fieldfare at Cartworth Moor on 18th was particularly noteworthy; numbers in the area generally being much lower. Dewsbury Sewage Farm played host to three Green Sandpipers and up to five Water Pipits – an exceptional number.

February saw a high count of 35 Greylag Geese pass over Blackmoorfoot on 13th and ring – tail Hen Harriers were at Black Moor and Langsett mid-month. Good numbers of Lesser Redpoll entertained visitors at Golcar, with up to six rarer Common (Mealy) Redpolls among them.

Common Redpoll increased to twelve at Golcar during March, and an elusive Firecrest tantalised birders here from 10th to 13th. Little Ringed Plover, Chiffchaff, Wheatear and Sand Martin had all put in appearances by the end of the third week of the month, and a party of 25 Kittiwakes passed over Shelley on 22nd. The predicted passage of Whooper Swans took place on 27th and 28th, with large herds passing over Elland and Birchencliffe, and the first Swallow and Ring Ouzel appeared on 26th.

With the exception of Spotted Flycatcher, all the expected summer visitors had arrived by the end of April, although an Osprey over Digley on 4th proved to be the only one of the year. Highlights included two Black Terns at Blackmoorfoot on 16th, 8 Common Scoters at Dovestones on 17th, a Red Kite at Winscar on 18th, the first Hoopoe in the club area since 1991 at Kirkheaton on 22nd and an Arctic Tern at Blackmoorfoot on 29th.

April was also notable for what might have become an event of major national importance, when a pair of White Storks began nest building, initially at Bretton Sculpture Park and then at Horbury Strands. Unfortunately, their nest had to be removed from the electricity pylon they had chosen and adjacent landowners declined to co-operate in enabling an alternative platform to be built. A full account of this 'so nearly' historic breeding attempt is given in the article on page 103.

In May three Dotterel delighted observers near Blackmoorfoot on 3rd and 4th, a Marsh Harrier was seen near Black Hill on 23rd and a Little Gull flew by Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 27th. Rarity wise though, the star bird of 2004 was the Temminck's Stint found at Ringstone Edge Res. on 31st – the first record in the club area since 1939!

The first Little Tern for six years that flew through Blackmoorfoot on 16th June rounded off an eventful first half of the year.

In the breeding season there were mixed fortunes again for our migrant breeders. There was little change from the situation in 2003 for Tree Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat, Redstart, Wheatear, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat and Spotted Flycatcher. Ring Ouzels fared slightly better, Blackcap appears to be going from strength to strength and Cuckoo continues to steadily increase, but there was a worrying drop in records for Lesser Whitethroat and

Garden Warbler. Wood Warbler and Pied Flycatcher remain in a precarious position – how long will it be before both become scarce passage visitors?

It was also much the same for our resident species; Kingfisher had a marginally better year than 2003, but once again there were no breeding reports for Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Stonechat again benefited from another highly successful breeding season, but the situation seems worse for Dipper, with breeding evidence reported from only five sites. Tree Sparrow manages to retain a toehold in the area, but the number of singing male Yellowhammers were well down on previous years. With no repeat of the Marsden Estate survey this year, the numbers of breeding Twite reported had fallen, but good numbers seen in early autumn suggest the species may have had some degree of success.

Eleven species of raptor were recorded and included six Red Kites, two Marsh Harriers and four Hen Harriers. 2004 saw another large number of records for Common Buzzard submitted and, with the species breeding just outside the area, an addition to our breeding bird list is now much anticipated. Hobbies were reported from seven sites, with breeding almost certainly occurring in the N of the area. Peregrines were successful at two sites but, once again, there was no confirmed breeding record for Merlin.

It was an excellent year for Short-eared Owl plus a fairly productive one for Long-eared Owl, whilst there was just a single report of Barn Owl. Our two commonest species, Tawny and Little Owl, were perhaps under-recorded this year.

It was an excellent breeding season again for Little Ringed Plover, while a moorland survey revealed encouraging numbers of Golden Plover and Dunlin. Passage waders were fairly well represented with two Knot, single Sanderling, Little Stint, Ruff and Turnstone occurring, plus a record count of Black-tailed Godwits, which no doubt enthralled the observer at Blackmoorfoot on 15th August.

July can be a good month to see Common Scoter in the area, and 16 duly obliged at Blackmoorfoot on 4th, with another 13 seen here subsequently.

In August a Sandwich Tern passed over Lindley on 13th and Black Terns visited Blackmoorfoot and Ringstone Edge during the month.

Visible migration during September was fairly uneventful, although a passage of House Martins through Dewsbury Sewage Farm peaked at four figures on 18th. Eighteen very early Redwing passed over Colnebridge sludge plant on 12th, an early Whooper Swan visited Ringstone Edge Res. on 24th and the first returning Pink-footed Geese flew over Scout Dike Res. the next day.

Migration was well underway by early October, with the first Fieldfare and several skeins of Pink-feet seen on 3rd, and an impressive five thousand Redwing over Baitings on 10th. A Black-necked Grebe dropped in at Blackmoorfoot on 21st and the year's only Ruddy Ducks, possibly taking refuge from the cullers' rifles, began a short stay at Scout Dike on 24th.

A good variety of wildfowl was seen in November, including three increasingly rare Bewick's Swans at Blackmoorfoot and a Garganey at Dewsbury Sewage Farm. The latter site also pulled in Rock Pipit early in the month, while 27 Waxwings at Blackmoorfoot on 11th heralded a bigger influx than last winter.

December is often rather quiet, but this year was an exception with an excellent variety of birds. Although a report of a Red-necked Grebe at Dovestones Res. remained unsubstantiated, another Water Pipit spent the month at Dewsbury Sewage Farm and the ever-popular Waxwings reached three-figure counts mid-month.

The year came to a close with a superb Red-throated Diver performing well in the winter sun at Scout Dike on Boxing Day, and the first Bean Goose for several years was found among Pink-feet near Blackmoorfoot on 30th.

Readers will see numerous references in the Classified List to the Breeding Birds Survey of the Peak District Moorlands. This was undertaken by Moors for the Future between April and June and covered an area from Edale in the south to Marsden in the north, of which some 125 square kilometres falls within the Club area. The survey is an impressive piece of work form which we have been able to glean a great deal of data and more details, including where the full report can be purchased, are given in the article on page 107.

The survey above was undertaken in parallel with the Club's own survey of the southwest of the Club area, covering from Redbrook Reservoir (Standedge) in an arc south, then east to Withens Clough southeast of Holme Moss in May/June. A summary of this survey is given in the article on page 109.

Regular readers will be aware that Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and its environs has been the most watched site anywhere in the club area for many years. However, 2004 was particularly notable because, for the first time ever, it was watched every day of the year – 366 in this leap year ! The quantity and quality of the data obtained will be evident from the summary above and from reading the Classified List. Our congratulations to all involved, particularly Mike Denton and Chris Horne.

Russell Boland.

THE WEATHER IN 2004

Most of January was typically wet and mild, although there was a brief cold snap at the month's end. It was a similar picture in February; again a cold spell at the end produced a few snow flurries. This cold spell continued into March until mid-month when southwesterly winds then predominated.

Conditions in April were mixed, winds being variable in the first half of the month with some dull days, before cooler northerlies then forced temperatures down. Variable winds were encountered throughout May and into June when warm, settled conditions then changed to a period of westerly winds and showers.

July was pretty unsettled with northeasterly winds and lots of heavy rain in the first half of the month; winds were more variable later on but it was still largely unsettled. August began very warm and dry, but there were some periods of very heavy and prolonged rain mid-month; drier conditions with winds from a westerly quarter then took over. Winds were variable, often with showers, in the first half of September before they increased in strength and became predominately southwesterly to the month end.

Westerly winds early in October changed to easterlies before mid-month and then once again swung back to westerly, often with rain, for most of the month. November was mainly a mild, dry month with a brief cold snap in the third week. December saw variable conditions with some calm, sunny days early in the month, strong winds and snow showers around Christmas and milder, damper conditions at the month's end.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

There has been a major change to the taxonomic order, which now follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union, not the Vooous order of previous years. Anseriformes (swans, geese and ducks) and Galliformes (grouse, partridges, pheasants and rails) have been moved to the beginning of the Systematic List. The BOU expects all reports to adopt this new order.

Changes have also been made to some Latin names and to the species order of warblers and tits. Little Tern becomes *Sterna albifrons*. The Sylvia warbler sequence has been re-arranged and now becomes Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* and Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

The Tits (genus *Parus*) have been split into several smaller genera and their order re-arranged; the new scientific names and order are Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Coal Tit *Periparus ater*, Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* and Marsh Tit (in the Huddersfield List) *Poecile palustris*.

In addition, in the Huddersfield List Great Skua becomes *Stercorarius skua* and Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

'The Huddersfield List', a complete list of all species recorded in the area up to the end of 2006 appears on page ????

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

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

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2004

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Resident, occasional breeder (1).

Recorded in all months and a breeding attempt was made, but no young were seen. The majority of sightings were in the Calder valley, as usual.

Elland GP – one or two ads. were present until at least 22nd Feb; one was brutally killed with the other remaining until 8th May, and one was also present from 3rd Oct to the year-end.

R Calder at DSF – three on the 14th Jan and one flew along the canal there on the 15th. In May two sporting bright red colour rings were present on the 16th and a sub-ad. was on the river on the 30th.

Horbury – a pair was present regularly in the area in the early months with a third bird on 4th April. A breeding attempt was probably unsuccessful, a nest having been seen on the 25th April and 2nd May, but was later abandoned.

R Calder – three flew W on 25th April and at Colnebridge SP a male was present on 18th Sept and a female on 5th Dec.

Bretton Lakes – up to two ad. were present in the early months with two on 12th June and one on 22nd July and up to three ads. in December.

Ingbirchworth Res – two were seen on 13th Jan and on a single date in November.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Rare winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res - three adults were present on 22nd Nov (CH, PB et al).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce winter visitor.

Records were received from 6 sites at both ends of the year.

Elland GP – one on 14th March (HBC) and 35 flew NW at 09.10 hrs on 28th March (DT).

Baitings Res – on 28th March one flew in the same direction from Flints and 7 (6 ad) were present on 23rd Nov (HBC).

Ringstone Edge – one on 24th Sept (HBC).

Blackmoorfoot – an ad. on 8th Oct departed S at 08.25 hrs (MLD).

In addition wild swans seen flying over the observers house at **Birchenccliffe** were probably this species, with c 30 W at 08.15 hrs on 27th March and 35 N at the same time the following day (BC).

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Rare winter visitor.

One in a field at **Potato Lane** near **Blackmoorfoot** was an excellent find (CH, MLD). It was considered to be of the “taiga” race, but many “tundra” birds appeared in unusual locations about this time. Discovered at 08.20 hrs, it left with the accompanying 10 Pinkfeet at 09.03 hrs.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Uncommon to common passage visitor.

Numbers observed on passage during the early part of the year were considerably higher than in 2003. Approximately 5,080 birds were recorded, with movements particularly marked on 10th Jan, 23rd Jan and between 11th and 15th Feb, with c.1270 on 15th alone. Passage was effectively over by 16th Feb, with just three other skeins reported thereafter. Virtually all birds were recorded moving in a W to NW direction, the only exception being 80 N over **Crosland Moor** on 12th Feb – a day of predominantly NW passage. The majority of skeins were recorded between 11.00 hrs. and 12.30 hrs., with another noticeable movement taking place between 14.00 hrs. and 17.00 hrs.

3rd Jan – three skeins, including one of c.80 birds, SW at **Marsden** at 9.50 hrs.

7th Jan – c.20 NW at **New Mill** at 19.00 hrs.

10th Jan – 150 NW at 11.50 hrs., 100 NW at 12.00 hrs. and 130 NW at 12.05 hrs. over **Marsden**, 250 W at **Helme** and 150 W at **Dalton**.

15th Jan – 26 W at **Dewsbury SF**.

18th Jan – 75 W over **Langsett**.

22nd Jan – 200 NW at **Bradley Park GC** at 15.00 hrs.

23rd Jan – 800 NW at **Honley Wood** between 11.15 and 11.30 hrs., c.150 W at 11.40 and c.150 W at 11.48 hrs at **Pole Moor**, 100 NW at **Cannon Hall** at 12.00 hrs., 250 NW over **Wooldale** and 51 W at **Blackmoorfoot** at 14.30 hrs.

26th Jan – 75 NW at **Denby Dale** at 10.15 hrs.

7th Feb – 100 NW at **Linthwaite**.

11th Feb – 150 W at **Emley** and 180 W at **Thornhill**.

12th Feb – 400 NW at **Bradley Park GC** at 11.30 hrs., 80 N at **Crosland Moor** at 12.00 hrs., three W at 15.35 and 94 W at 16.15 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**, 100 NNW over the **Longwood Valley** and 70 over **Brighouse**.

14th Feb – 100 NW over **Shelley** at 11.30 hrs., 100 NW at 12.30 and 100 NW at 12.45 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

15th Feb – 400 W over **Ringstone Edge Res**, 180 W at **Oxygrains** at 11.00 hrs., 120 NW over **Cawthorne** at 11.15 hrs., 80 NW at **Fixby** at 11.40 hrs., 240 WNW at 16.00 and 93 WNW at 16.10 hrs. at **Winscar** and 80 NW at **Denby Dale** at 16.50 hrs.

29th Feb – 130 W over **Elland GPs**.

4th March – 24 W at **Denby Dale**.

9th March – 80 W at **Birds Edge** at 09.30 hrs.

Up to nine birds were grounded at **Ingbirchworth Res** from 7th to 10th Jan, where they were usually associating with Canada Geese. In Feb, 15 were down at **Royd Moor Res** on 8th, 4 were at **Scout Dike Res** on 18th and singles were at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 19th and 29th. In March a single was at **Blackmoorfoot** from 1st to 4th, two were at **Scammonden** on 7th and 22nd, two were at **Bretton Lakes** on 2nd and 7th, five were at **Ingbirchworth Res** on 5th and a gaggle of 23 began to occupy fields at **Scout Dike Res** from 27th. Birds lingered into April with two at **Scammonden** and 25 down at **Langsett** on 2nd, while 22 at **Royd Moor** and 21 at **Ingbirchworth** also on 22nd were probably from **Scout Dike**, where they were last noted on 24th. Two were at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th April with three on 24th April and 11th May.

After the first skein flew through on 25th Sept, numbers witnessed on passage in the latter months were almost as good, with approx. 4,600 birds recorded – an excellent total. Movement was particularly evident on 3rd Oct when over 1,300 flew over, while c.700 on 26th Oct was also noteworthy. Predictably, passage during the first two weeks of Oct was E,

with some skeins then beginning to follow a W heading after 26th. The timing of passage was remarkably consistent during this period also, with the vast majority recorded between 08.00 and 09.30.

25th Sept – 32 E over **Scout Dike Res** at 14.30 hrs.

2nd Oct – a skein were heard over **Linthwaite** at 23.30 hrs.

3rd Oct – 48 and 85 E at 08.05, 100 ESE at 08.20 and 120 E at 09.00 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**. 130 + 40 E at 08.28, 90 + 180 + 20 E at 08.40 and 270 E at 08.53 hrs. at **Wessenden**. 230 E over **Elland GPs**.

5th Oct – 50 ESE at **Blackmoorfoot** at 08.50 hrs.

17th Oct – 110 SE at 09.15 and 63 SE at 09.20 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**. 150 over **Baitings Res**.

18th Oct – 150 E over **Royd Moor Res** at 10.05 hrs.

24th Oct – 320 E over **Thurlstone** at 09.25 hrs.

26th Oct – 100 E at 09.05 and 190 E at 09.35 hrs. over **Thurlstone**. 64 SE at **Blackmoorfoot** at 09.20 hrs. 363 NW over **Dewsbury SF**.

31st Oct – 30 SW over **Deer Hill** and 30 over **Wessenden**.

7th Nov – a single left W after a brief stay at **Blackmoorfoot**.

8th Nov – 300 SSW at **Salendine Nook** at 12.35 hrs. and 100 SE at **Shelley** at 13.00 hrs.

14th Nov – c.220 WNW over **Winscar**.

26th Nov – 57 E at **Blackmoorfoot** at 10.10 hrs. and 250 over **Elland GPs**.

9th Dec – 250 NW at **Bradley Park GC** at 12.00 hrs.

23rd Dec – 11 low NW over **Dalton** at 11.20 hrs.

27th Dec – 35 W at **Blackmoorfoot** at 16.10 hrs.

29th Dec – 52 WNW over **Lindley Moor** at 12.50 hrs., and 420 over **Elland GPs**.

There were fewer reports of grounded birds in the latter part of the year, with the only records being 23 in fields at **Scout Dike** on 21st Oct, at **Blackmoorfoot** three on 10th Dec, five on 24th Dec and 10 on 30th Dec that left W with a Bean Goose at 09.03 hrs.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Uncommon passage and feral visitor.

Rather fewer records received than in some recent years. The problem of separating genuine wild birds from feral stock persists.

Bretton Lakes – one with Canada Geese for most of the year.

Ingbirchworth Res – singles with the Canada Geese flock on 7th and 10th Jan.

Scout Dike Res – 4 on 25th Jan, 2 on 21st March.

Blackmoorfoot – 35 flew NNW on 13th Feb, 3 W on 30th Nov and 14 W on 22nd Dec.

Shelley – one flyover on 2nd May.

Dewsbury SF – one on 26th May.

Horbury Wyke – 2 flew E on 24th Oct.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (2).

Reports were received from 30 sites and breeding confirmed by the presence of young at 11 of them. Again no counts have been reported for **Bretton Lakes**.

Breeding occurred at **Deer Hill** with a nest and 4 eggs on 24th April and a brood of 5 young on 20th May, **Swellands Res** with a pair and 3 young on the same date, **Wessenden Head Res** a pair and 5 young on 23rd May, and 16 young on the **Wessenden Reservoirs** on 13th June, 16 young on **Ramsden Res** and 6 young on **Royd Moor Res** on 26th May, at **Winscar** a pair and 5 young on 16th May, a brood of 6 on 13th June and at least 2 broods on 26th June, a brood of 2 young at **Chew Res** on 23rd May, and a pair with 4 young on the **River Calder** at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd May. The Peak District survey revealed 51 pairs.

In the winter months record counts were broken at the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs and numbers also showed an overall increase at both **Blackmoorfoot** and **Scammonden**.

Monthly max. at regularly counted sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	181	78	78	16	5	1	63	163	114	103	169	139
Royd Moor/S. Dike	520	540	430	nc	nc	20	60	350	220	360	350	350
Ingbirchworth	500	nc	300	23	5	nc	nc	nc	1	nc	310	400
Scammonden	26	nc	44	44	nc	nc	38	62	49	100	nc	70

Peak counts recorded at other sites were:

Boshaw Whams – 76 on 30th Jan.

Dovestone Res – 142 on 8th March.

Langsett Res – 45 on 2nd Apr.

Chew Res – 28 on 23rd May.

Winscar Res – 64 on 13th June.

Yateholme Res – 80 including 15 young on 22nd June.

Digley Res – 33 on 25th June.

Wessenden Valley – 95 on 5th July.

March Haigh Res – 44 on 1st Aug.

Brownstone Res – 50 on 21st Aug.

Shepley – c 100 during the night in the “Little Bunting field” in October.

Grounded birds were also reported in small numbers from a further 8 sites.

Flyovers were noted at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th Jan (17), 15th Jan (16), 26th Jan (57) and 16th Aug, all passing West. Also at **Shelley** on 22nd Feb (6), 3rd April (4), 2nd May (2), 6th June (11), 16th Aug (11) and 29th Aug (12).

Hybrid geese were also noted:

Bretton Lakes – prob. Canada x Greylag regularly, plus Canada x Barnacle on 20th Dec.

Blackmoorfoot – Canada x Greylag on 26th Nov.

Ingbirchworth – Canada x Greylag on 7th Jan.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor and occasional feral breeder.

Records continue to decrease with up to 2 throughout the year at **Bretton Lakes** and a feral bird at **Royd Moor Res** on 8th Feb.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor.

Birds occurred in all months except Jan and May, but there was no obvious peak.

Ingbirchworth – one on 4th Feb.

Ravensthorpe GP – 2 on 7th Feb.

Royd Moor Res – one on 8th Feb.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 2 on 12th and 13th Feb, one on 4th and 9th March, 4 on 26th Sept, one on 11th Oct, 2 on 25th Nov and an ad. male on 11th Dec.

Hade Edge – one flew WSW on 17th Apr before landing on **Winscar Res**.

Horbury Wyke – a male and female flew E downstream on 20th Apr.

Scout Dike Res – one E on 24th Apr.

Dewsbury SF – 2 flew W on 17th June, one on 18th June and a juv. intermittently between 21st July and 25th Aug.

Ringstone Edge Res – 9 on 24th Aug and 2 on 26th Sept.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare feral visitor.

The regular male continued its sojourn at **Elland GP**, being present from 2nd Jan to the 31st and 31st Oct to 19th Dec, and was joined by a female from 21st Nov to 19th Dec (HBC).

At **Ryburn Res** 4 male and 2 female were recorded on 26th and 27th Jan (HBC).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Reported from 11 sites between 1st Jan and 29th March, and 21st Aug to the year-end, mainly in single figures especially in the second period.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 3 on 1st Jan then one on a further 9 dates in Jan and on 2 dates in Feb; 3 on 5th May; sightings on 7 dates in Sept including a maximum of 11 on 30th; on 30 dates in Oct with a maximum of 27 on 13th; 17 dates in November with a maximum of 10 on 26th, and 9 dates in Dec with a maximum of 10 on the 30th being the only double figure.

Ingbirchworth Res – 3 on 7th Jan, 5 on 29th March, 11 on 30th Sept and up to 3 in Nov/Dec.

Royd Moor/Scout Dike – maximum of 30 on 17th Jan, 27 on 15th Feb, 2 on 5th Sept, 5 on 18th Oct, 4 in Nov and 21 on 26th Dec.

Ringstone Edge – 2 on 6th March, one on 21st Aug, 7 on 5th and 3 on 30th Sept and up to 5 in early Oct.

Bretton Lakes – a female on 24th Sept and a male on 5th/6th Dec.

Baitings Res – 2 on 1st Oct.

Butterley Res – a male and female on 3rd Oct.

Elland GP – 2 on 3rd Oct and 28th Nov.

Windybank Res – up to 5 including 4 males on several dates in Dec.

Jackson Bridge – 4 or 5 on Meal Hill Lake and heard there at night on several occasions, but no counts possible due to restricted access.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

A poor year for records with reports from only two sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 3 (2 M) on 13th Feb (MLD, PDB) and 3 (1 M) on 26th Nov (TD, CH, BB).

Bretton Lakes – up to 4 from 12th Nov to the year-end.

Teal *Anas crecca*

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

Reports were received from slightly fewer sites than in 2003. Wintering numbers appear to be in severe decline, even at favoured sites, although some of these received little coverage.

The only breeding evidence came from the same two sites as in 2003. At **Oxygrains** a female with 7 young was present on 19th June and at **Cupwith Res** a pair was located on 13th April and a male was acting suspiciously on the 20th, whilst a female was quacking in alarm on 5th June.

Sites from which the highest numbers were reported were:

Dewsbury SF – 72 on 2nd Jan and 24 on 29th, with a pair on the Calder on 31st March, then no further counts until autumn with 2 wintering birds on 9th Aug, a max of 33 on 18th Sept, 18 on 23rd, 42 on 2nd Oct and 13 on 14th Nov.

Blackmoorfoot Res – reports on 11 dates to the end of March, usually of singles, but with 4 on the 9th. After 2 on 1st July and 7th August, present regularly from early Sept with just 7 double figure counts – 16 on 1st, 19 on 2nd Sept, 12 on 13th Oct, 36 on 20th, 18 on 21st Nov, 12 on 28th and 13 on 30th Dec.

Elland GP – present from Jan to March and Nov – Dec but no more than 4 in the early months and 7 in Dec.

Ravensthorpe GP – 34 on 18th Jan was the only count received for this site.

Horbury area – max numbers were at least 18 on 18th and 8 on 25th Jan, 30 on 4th and 28 on 28th April, but no more than 4 sighted at the year end.

Langsett Res – 36 on 27th Jan and 2 on 2nd April.

Royd Moor Res – max of only 16 at the beginning of the year and 17 at the year-end were very low compared with recent years, possibly as a result of high water levels.

Thornhill Millbank – 40 on 28th March and 9 on 11th April.

Ringstone Edge – up to 9 in Sept/Oct.

Ingbirchworth – 9 on 10th Dec.

Smaller numbers were recorded at **Bretton Lakes** on 4 dates with a max of 6 on 17th Jan, 3 at **Scout Dike** on 11th Feb, 2 on 2 dates with a single male on three dates at **Colnebridge SP**, a male and female at **Winscar** on 5th March and on a flood pool at **Upperthong** on 7th April, a pair at **Scammonden** on 11th and 25th April and 6 at **Deanhead Res** on 3rd Oct.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeder (3) and common winter visitor.

Breeding was confirmed at over 20 sites, mainly by the presence of broods of young as follows:

Bradley Hall (1yg), **Broadstones Res** (3yg), **Bullcliffe Wood** (nest & eggs), **Colnebridge** (bred on canal, river & ponds), **Cupwith Res** (15yg), **Hagg Wood** (1yg), **Honley area** (several pairs & including a brood of 12yg on 4th April, indicating egg-laying in late Feb), **Ingbirchworth Res**, **Ringstone Edge Res** (4yg), **Scammonden**, **Scout Dike** (14yg) and **Winscar Res**. At **Blackmoorfoot** 19 young out of a total of 71 reached the flying stage, a success rate of 26.8%, continuing the increase that has occurred each year since a low point of only 3.1% in 2000.

Max. numbers at regularly counted sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	38	37	29	16	19	24	37	51	53	47	43	27
Elland GPs	48	25	nc	25	21	nc	44	30	28	69	63	57
Ingbirchworth	18	2	nc	3	nc	13	11	50	56	47	18	43
Scammonden	46	nc	18	12	nc	nc	nc	45	nc	16	22	23
Scout Dike	244	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	17	36	nc	nc	20

Significant counts at other sites were 52 at **Pioneer CP, Holmfirth** on 10th Jan, at **Royd Moor** 65 on 24th Jan, 84 on 3rd Oct and 43 on 9th Nov, 31 at **Langsett** on 27th Jan, 162 at **Dovestone Res** on 8th March, 141 at **Cupwith Res** on 21st July, 32 at **Dewsbury SF** on 13th Aug, c40 in the **Horbury area** in Sept/Oct, at **Deer Hill Res** 54 on 30th Oct and 37 on 14th Nov, 21 at **Holme Styes Res** on 11th Oct and 80 at **Bretton Lakes** on 5th Dec. Up to 20 birds were reported from a further 8 sites.

The Peak District Survey, in which the Club participated, reported 8 pairs.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Records were returned from 3 sites and included the fifth largest party ever to appear in the Club area.

Ringstone Edge – 2 on 22nd Aug and 14th Oct.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in Sept 2 on 3rd and 16 on 28th of which 13 departed W at 08.20 hrs (MLD), one on the morning of 13th Oct when 2 also arrived in steady rain at 17.30 hrs and a male on 16th Nov.

Langsett Res –male and female on 21st Nov.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare summer migrant.

One female was at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th and 9th Nov (JH). This is the seventh consecutive year in which this species has been recorded in the Club area.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Another good year with reports from 8 sites.

March Haigh Res – a male on 28th March was an unexpected find at this moorland site.

Ringstone Edge – a flyover male on 6th April.

Scout Dike – a male on 13th April and an eclipse male from 7th to 10th Sept.

Ingbirchworth – a pair on 17th April.

Elland GP – 2 male and a female on 21st April.

Blackmoorfoot – 2 male on 21st April, 7 on 12th and 2 on 18th Aug, 3 (1M) on 28th and 5 (1M) on 21st Dec.

Dewsbury SF – a female on 2nd July and a male on 28th Sept.

Royd Moor Res – 2 female types on 3rd Oct.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor

There was a slight improvement on last year's poor showing with records from Jan to April, July, and from Oct to the year-end. There were six double figure counts compared to just one in 2003.

Elland GP – a max of 3 on several dates from 3rd Jan to 14th March, one female 26th Dec.

Boshaw Whams – one on 3rd Jan.

Blackmoorfoot – recorded on 51 dates compared with only 13 in 2003. In Jan present from 7th to the month end with a max of 8 on the 7th, 3 from 1st to 13th Feb, 6 on 27th July, on several dates in October including a large flock numbering 35 (18M) on the 25th, one on 12th and 3 on 30th Dec.

Deanhead Res – a male on 11th Jan.

Bretton Lakes – good numbers were present in the early months with 21 on 17th and 20 on 24th Jan, 24 on 11th Feb, at least 12 on 7th March and a flock of 19 on the lower lake on 16th April. Fewer were seen at the year-end with a max of 5 on 5th and 12th Dec.

Bradley Hall – one flew W along the River Calder on 30th March.

Ingbirchworth – max of 5 in Oct and 3 in Nov.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

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

Numbers generally continued to decrease, reaching double figures in only two months at **Ingbirchworth**. It was the worst year on record at **Scammdon/Deanhead** where birds were noted on only 3 dates and at **Scout Dike** only one double figure count was achieved in the early months.

Birds were recorded at 19 sites with breeding occurring at three of them. At **Carlecote Ponds** 4 males were present on 19th May then subsequently 2 prs; a pair with 6 very young ducklings was located on 11th June. At **Bretton Lakes** a female with 5 small young was on the upper lake, whilst for the second year running a female again tried to raise a brood of 8 on the outflow pool at **Scout Dyke**, but all died within a few days. A pair remained on one of the beds at **Dewsbury SF** throughout April and May, but there was no evidence of breeding.

Monthly max. at selected sites were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	6	6	3	5	2	12	14	12	15	6	5	2
Elland GPs	8	6	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4
Ingbirchworth	5	4	7	10	5	7	6	1	3	2	14	6
Scammonden	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Scout Dike	nc	15	nc	nc	nc	nc	26	33	11	nc	8	17
Bretton	nc	24	30+	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	4

Elsewhere, apart from 11 at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 18th Feb, 6 on 2nd April at **Boshaw Whams** and 6 on the **R Calder** at **Dewsbury SF** on 13th April, no more than 4 were recorded at the following sites: **Bilberry Res**, **Blakeley Res** (just one record of a male on 30th Aug), **Coxley Dam**, **Denby Dale**, **Meal Hill Lake**, **Ringstone Edge Res**, **Royd Moor Res** and **Winscar Res**.

An interesting and instructive observation was made of a bird at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th Oct. A female present was wearing a bill saddle and proved to have been marked at Grande Metaire, Jublains, Mayenne, France as a 2yo on 22nd June 2004. It had moved 605 km NNW to reach **Blackmoorfoot**.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A probable 1st year female took up residence at **Windybank Res**, **Meltham** on 25th Dec and remained into 2005.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor, mainly in summer.

A better year than 2003, with records from 4 sites, mainly on typical dates in the summer.

Blackmoorfoot – 1M on 11th April (MLD, PB), 9M on 17th and 10M on 18th June (PB, MLD), 16 (14M) on 4th July, 5 (3M) on 28th July before departing W at 1020 hrs, 8 (2M) on 31st July and a single male on 2nd August.

Dovestones Res – 8 on 17th April (via GMBC).

Ringstone Edge – 6 (3M) on 5th June (JED), 3 on 29th June and a female on 23rd July (JB).

Ingbirchworth – one on 5th Nov (JKP).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Regular, but uncommon, winter visitor.

Recorded from 20 sites, an increase on the 15 in 2003, between 2nd Jan and 27th June with returning birds appearing from 3rd Oct. There were two double figure counts and **Blackmoorfoot** provided the majority of records as before.

Dewsbury SF – 4 rhs on 2nd, 10 on 5th, 4 on 14th, 5 on 15th, 2 on 28th & 4 on 29th Jan all on the R Calder.

Blackmoorfoot – present on 15 dates in Jan, max 6 on the 7th, 20 dates in Feb, max of 4, daily in March, max of 7 on 5th, 24 dates in April, max 3, 1M daily to 30th May and a (different) 1st year male on 14th June. The first bird returned on 3rd Oct with a max of 3 on a further 5 dates in the month, up to 7 on 17 dates in Nov and a max of 5 in Dec which also had birds on 17 dates.

Elland GP – singles in Jan, Feb and April.

Deanhead/Scammonden – 3 on 4th Jan, 1 on 7th March, and in April 3 (1M) on 11th, 4 on 18th, 2 on 19th and 25th.

Boshaw Whams – imm male on 26th Jan, rh on 30th March and 2nd April, male on 31st March and male plus rh on 30th Dec.

Horbury – 9 (5M) on 29th Jan.

Cupwith Res – 2M and 1F on 24th March, male on 13th April.

Ringstone Edge – up to 3 in April, an adM from 21st May to 7th June.

Deer Hill – in April a male and female on 6th, 2M and 1F on 8th, 1M on 29th and 2 on 29th Oct.

Bilberry Res – 1M and 1F on 6th Feb and male on 9th April.

Scout Dike – 1M on 12th Oct, 5 rhs on 31st Oct and up to 3 regularly in Nov, and in Dec 5 (1M) on 4th and up to 3 to the year end.

Langsett Res – 10 (6M) on 21st Nov.



Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Other records came from **Yateholme**, 1M on 9th March, **Redbrook Res** 3 (1M) on 28th March, **Digley** 1F on 7th and 21st April, **Harden Res** adM on 14th Oct, **Winscar Res** an adF on the unusual date of 27th June (MC), **Ingbirchworth** one in Nov and **Colnebridge SP** 1M on 15th Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Reports were received from 3 sites.

Boshaw Whams – 1M on 29th and 31st March at least (RDH, MC, JED).

Scammonden – 1M on 2nd April (PDB). This may have been the same bird as seen at Boshaw Whams.

Blackmoorfoot – single rh on 28th Sept (DHP) and 12th Nov (PB, PDB, MLD).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Regular passage and winter visitor.

There was a small increase to 17 of the number of sites hosting this species, but this was still down on the 23 sites that held birds in 2002. Max numbers at favourite sites remained similar to 2003, but numbers appear to be falling at Bretton. Birds were recorded in all months except June with three sites having birds in May and two in July. Perhaps a breeding record will be forthcoming in the not too distant future.

Max. numbers reported at regular sites were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	26	19	13	4	-	-	-	1	3	11	22	21
Bretton	28	16	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	26+
Dewsbury SF	1	8	nc	10	8	-	-	1	6	nc	nc	nc
Elland GPs	29	22	16	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	15	18
Ringstone Edge	5	4	9	-	-	-	1	-	8	1	-	-
Scout Dike/Royd Moor	9	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

Birds were present at **Blackmoorfoot** on 103 dates between 1st Jan and 29th April and from 22nd Aug to 31st Dec on 70 dates, a slight increase overall on 2003. At both **Horbury** and **Dewsbury SF** all sightings were on the R. Calder which also held birds in both winter periods, at **Colnebridge SP** with a max of 8 (5M) on 27th, at **Bradley Hall** one on 9th May, and at **Cooper Bridge** with 1M on 9th Dec. At last the species seems to have discovered the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs with sightings on 9 dates in the first winter period and singles on 2 dates towards the year-end. There was just one record on the R Holme of a pair seen at **Armitage Bridge** on 11th Nov. The only other records were at **Windybank Res** with 3 on 21st Jan and up to 3 on 5 dates in Dec, 2 on **Langsett Res** on 27th Jan, 9 on the unlikely site of **March Haigh Res** on 28th March, up to 8 on 4 dates in Oct at **Scammonden** and 3 on the R Colne adjacent to the **Galpharm Stadium** on 23rd Nov.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Irregular breeder (1) and infrequent visitor.

Records continue to plummet with the only records at **Scout Dike Res**, a 1st WM from 24th Oct to 9th Nov joined by a female from 7th (RJB). It would appear that the cull in other parts of the country is having an effect in our area.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3).

Birds were reported from 17 localities but generally in small numbers, apart from 30 in the **Langsett** area on 18th March and at least 60 in snowy conditions near the shooting lodge at **Deer Hill** on 26th Dec.

Although young were only located at **Salter Brook Moss** and **Shiny Brook** in the **Wessenden Valley**, territorial males were widespread with a minimum of 12 in the **Chew Res** catchment area on 6th March, **Buckstones**, **Cupwith/Slaithwaite Moor** (5), **Wessenden Valley** (3), **Black Moss** (3), **Waystone Edge**, **Featherbed Moss** (2), **Meltham Moor** (in bracken), **Deer Hill**, **Harden/Snailsden**, **Winscar**, **Dunford Bridge**, **Crossley's Plantation**, **Holme Moss** and **Dovestones**.

The Peak District survey recorded 973 birds in 84 km² in the club area.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1).

Reports from 11 sites were a further slight increase. The problem of knowing which are birds simply released for shooting remains, for example at **Denby Hall Farm** the keeper reported that of 100 birds released only 3 were known to have been shot (via BA).

Hullock Bank – 5 on 18th Feb (HQ).

Clayton West – 1 on a roadside post on 2nd March (MC).

High Hoyland – singles on 3rd March, 11th Aug (JMN), 31st Oct (3), and 24th Dec (PB).

Denby Dale – 1 on 4th March (TM).

Flight Hill – 2 on 25th April (MC).

High Wood – 2 on 27th June (PB).

Buckstones – 1 at roadside on 4th July, possibly a released bird (JHod).

Yateholme – 14+ along the main track and birds were seen climbing out of 2 wire mesh pens in bracken in the valley, moulting from juvenile to first plumage. Probably dozens were being released along with large numbers of Pheasants! (PB).

Hoylandswaine – 1 perched on a wall by the Manchester Rd on 17th Oct (RJB).

Bretton Lakes – 2 on 5th Dec (BA, DM).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2)

There was a further small increase to 27 in the number of localities from which reports were received, but breeding proof was obtained from just one near **Scammonden**, where a pair on

28th March and 23rd April were seen later on 9th Aug with 10 young trying to cross the Scammonden Rd.

Counts of 9 at **Ringstone Edge** on 29th Oct, 8 at **Hepworth** on 11th Aug, up to 15 in **Jos Lane, Shepley** in Nov/Dec where birds were present all year, a party of 14 regularly from Aug to Oct in the **Honley Moor/Holmroyd** area, reducing to 4 in early Nov are suggestive of breeding at these sites.

The largest count of the year was 18 birds in **Annat Royd Lane** on 24th Jan, but at nearby **Royd Moor** and **Scout Dike**, once strongholds of this species, despite intensive coverage it is now described by the patch watcher as scarce, the only records being of 2 on 20th April, calls on 3rd Oct, and 3 on 3rd and 31st Dec. The keeper at **Denby Hall Farm** adjacent to **Deffer Wood** reports the species as numerous and not shot.

Birds were seen/heard elsewhere near **Ingbirchworth** (6), **Dewsbury SF** (9) and **Hartcliffe Hill** (4) in Jan, **Denby Dale** (2), **Emley** (2), **Hepworth** (2), **Horbury** (2), **Lower Whitley** (pr), and **Wolfstones** (3) in April, **Digley** (3 calling) **Deer Hill** (1) and **Cheesegate Nab** (2) in May, **Black Moor** (1M) and **Marsden** (calling) in June, **Bullcliffe Colliery** (calling) in July, **Whitley Edge** (2) and **Dewsbury SF** (2) in Sept, **Honley** (8) in Oct and at **Deer Hill** from Oct to Dec (up to 5).

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

Reported in small numbers from almost 40 locations, very similar to 2003, with sightings in all parts of the area.

Breeding was reported only from **Blacker Beck** where a nest with 11 eggs was located on 17th April, from **Far Bank, Shelley** where a family party was seen and from the **Farnley/Woodsome** areas. Many are reared for shooting at various sites.

Most records involve low single figures, but at least 5 were in a small area at **Horbury SF** on 19th Sept and 9 (not known to be escapes from the nearby farm) at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th/27th Sept, with 6 at the same location on 9th/10th Oct.

Garden visitors were reported from **Almondbury** from Jan to April (1F), **Meal Hill** all year with up to 5 in the early months, 4 in the summer and 1 in autumn, **New Mill** (4 dates), **Netherton** in Nov/Dec (1M) and **Holly Bank Rd, Lindley** when a juvenile, apparently stunned, perched on top of a forsythia shrub for about half an hour before flying off.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*
Feral introduction.

The released birds at **Bretton Lakes** continue to thrive with 2 males in the early months and one male on 11th Dec.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Rare winter visitor.

Scout Dike Res – a juv on 26 Dec flew off towards Royd Moor Res at 1430 hrs after spending 10 mins at Royd Moor Res (RJB, MC, JMcL, DHP).

This is the first record since 2000 and the first for the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Partial migrant breeder (1).

Reported from 19 sites with breeding confirmed from 3 sites at least.

Elland GP – present in all months with a max of 5 in June and displaying in May but no proof of breeding reported.

Boshaw Whams – 4 on 3rd Jan.

Bretton Lakes – regular in both winter periods and breeding proven with 3 ads and 2 yg on 26th Aug; max of 10 on 24th Sept.

Horbury – on R Calder 1 on 18th and 5 on 25th Jan, 2 on 19th Sept, 4 on 14th Nov.

Ingbirchworth Res – present in almost all months with max of 4 in March, April and July but no proof of breeding.

Denby Dale – one on 19th Jan, 2 on 3rd Sept.

Dewsbury SF – on R Calder 2 on 30th Jan and 10th July, singles on 3rd and 26th Sept.

Digley Res – one on 26th Feb.

Scammonden – one on 7th March.

Tunnel End Res – singles on 28th March and 10th June.

Broadstones Res – one whinnying on 23rd April.

Carlecotes Ponds – a pair from 24th April to July. Possible breeding.

Meal Hill Lakes – 2 on 8th May and heard on other dates.

Blackmoorfoot Res – no records until one on 24th May then a single imm in late July, up to 4 in late Aug and throughout Sept then one daily Oct – Dec.

Coxley Dam – one ad on 3rd and 19th May.

Scout Dike Res – 2 pairs raised 3 yg.

Gunthwaite Dam – 2 imm on 21st July.

Windy Bank Res – one on 12th/13th Oct.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1).

A distinct improvement on 2003 with successful breeding recorded at 2 sites and attempts made at 2 other sites as well.

Elland GP – one was present from 18th Jan, increasing to a max of 8 with 2 pairs displaying on 23rd March, but there was no subsequent evidence of breeding. The last sightings were singles on 12th Sept and 9th Oct.

Scout Dike Res – the first returning bird was noted on 25th Jan increasing to 3 by 29th Feb and a max of 7 on 13th March. 3 pairs raised 8 young (4,2,2) and 5 were present at the year-end.

Blackmoorfoot – present in all months except Jan. Scarce at the beginning and end of the year. Max were Feb 3, March 10, April 8, May 8, June 15, July 22, Aug/Sept 22, Oct 12, Nov 3, Dec 11. 3 nesting attempts all failed.

Ingbirchworth Res – present from Feb to Nov, with a failed nesting attempt in May. Max 2 birds.

Bretton Lakes – recorded from 11th Jan onwards with 3 pairs, including one with 2yg on 13th June. Max at year-end 15 on 10th Dec.

Boshaw Whams – one on 9th March.

Ringstone Edge – one on 4th April, 4 on 31st May, up to 4 in June/July.

Dewsbury SF – one on R Calder from 13th April to 4th June.

Oak Skar Res – one with a second bird sitting on a nest on 20th May.

Brownstones Res - 3 imm on 8th Aug.

Scammonden – a single on 5th and 30th Sept and 17th Oct.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Rare visitor.

Dovestones – one reported on an unknown date in Dec.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one on 21st Oct (MLD).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Passage and winter visitor.

Records again covered all months, most frequently in Jan, March and June/July, but there were no double figure counts this year. **Calder Valley**, **Blackmoorfoot** and the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs provided the bulk of the records.

Monthly numbers of Cormorants

(excluding Colnebridge SP, Dewsbury SF, Elland GPs and Royd Moor/Scout Dike Res's):

Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	6	14	4	10	16	13	8	7	9	7	10

Blackmoorfoot had birds on 23 dates covering all months except Feb, May and Dec, usually numbering 1 or 2 but 6 flew E on 26th Aug and 6 S on 7th Oct.

At the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs birds were present on about 25 dates with a max of 6 on 25th and 27th Jan and 4 on 19th Sept.

In the **Calder Valley** sightings at **Elland GP** were made in all months except May and Sept with a max of 7 in Jan, Feb and March. **Colnebridge SP** had flyover single birds on 8 dates and birds were present regularly at **Dewsbury SF** either on the river or as flyovers, with max counts of 7 in May, 6 in July and Sept and 4 in Jan. Three flew over **Ravensthorpe GP** on 11th July, one at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 30th March and up to 4 were seen regularly in the **Horbury** area.

Elsewhere up to 4 were at **Boshaw Whams** from Jan to the end of March, **Ryburn Res** had one on 25th and 2 on 30th Jan and 7 on 27th Dec, **Scammonden** singles on 4 dates in winter with 2 on 12th Dec, 4 flew W over **Slaithwaite** on 1st March, one was at **Bretton Lakes** on 7th March with 3 on both 15th May and 22nd Nov, and there were records at **Ringstone Edge Res** on 11 dates between 13th Jan and 18th Sept, with a max of 3, and one on 26th Dec.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Resident breeder (2).

With reports from over 30 localities again this species can be encountered almost anywhere in the Club area, though rarely on the high moorland areas of the S and W.

Most sightings were of one or two birds but higher counts were 5 at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th and 28th June and 10 in a single tree nearby on 30th Aug, a max of 6 at **Elland GP** on 8th Feb and 6 sheltering from strong winds at **Scout Dike** on 13th Sept and at least 7 at **Horbury Wyke** on 24th Oct. **Blackmoorfoot** had birds on many dates throughout the year but with a max of only 2 until late May, when there were 5 on the 25th, then 6 in June, 9 in July and 6 in August before numbers began to decrease from Sept onwards.

A new heronry was discovered in dense conifers at **Cannon Hall** making nest counting very difficult, but there were 3 or 4 on 24th March, at least 5 were occupied on 23rd May and included at least 2 with large young, with other fledged young flying short distances. On 15th June fully grown juvs were visible in at least 3 nests (PB).

The only counts of the heronry at **Bretton Lakes** was of 17 nests on the upper lake island on 7th March and young in some of them on 16th April.

At **Scammonden** birds were present at the heronry from early Feb to early July. 11 occupied nests with at least 14 young were counted on 22nd June and eventually 9 pairs succeeded in raising 15 young.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare visitor of doubtful origin.

It was a quite exceptional year for this species, which might have provided the ornithological event of the decade, if not the century, had circumstances been different.

Two birds in the Sculpture Park and roosting on the roof of the college buildings at Bretton Hall on 16th April, where they carried sticks during the morning, moved briefly to Cannon Hall before returning to Bretton with more display and nest material.

They were then reported at several sites until they settled down at Horbury Strands, where they displayed and began nest building from 18th April. The nesting attempt failed, but there were further sightings up to 28th April at Horbury, Elland GPs, Briestfield and again at Bretton (three birds reported on 23rd). A full account is given in the article on page 103.

Other sightings, not necessarily of the same birds, were also made on unspecified dates in early April over Marsh (PW) and in late April over Oldfield (NH).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor.

As expected in view of this species' great success elsewhere in the county, records have increased recently and the trend has continued this year with reports from six locations, all in spring/early summer.

Winscar – one over during the afternoon of 18th April (RT).

Saddleworth Moor – one flew W across the A640 at 15.30 hrs (SF).

Bretton Park – one on 9th May (via JMcL).

Woodsome Valley – one for several days in early May (via SRG).

Laddow Rocks – a 1st S. on 23rd May (GMBRG).

Harden – singles over the observer's house on 30th May and N on 7th June (MC).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare visitor.

For the third year running there were 2 records. A cream-crown drifted slowly up the **Crowden Valley** towards **Black Hill** on 23rd May (DHP) and on the 7th August at **Harden** another cream-crown moved SSE before turning WSW to soar over **Harden Moor**. (This constitutes the 11th raptor species seen from the observer's house since Dec 1999.) (MC)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Rare visitor.

Four sightings meant that this was a good year for the species.

Langsett – a juv on 15th Feb and another juv hunting the moor at 1600 hrs on 17th Oct (MC, RJB).

Black Moor – a ringtail flew SE at 1720 hrs on 19th Feb (CH).

Dovestones – an imm female at **Dishstones** on 23rd May (DWY via GMBRG).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder and uncommon visitor.

Immediately to the S of the area there was a well-established breeding population of 7 to 11 pairs of this species, but it has been lost as a breeding species since 2002 and there has also been a significant drop in Derwentdale. The only explanation is human interference as habitats have not changed and prey items are available in abundance. Both of these areas contain large areas of driven grouse moor. (See RSPB Report "Peak Malpractice", RSPB Denby Dale 2006.) In view of the reports alarming findings it is perhaps worth querying many of the sightings for this species that have been claimed in our area in the recent past. Separation from large female Sparrowhawk is a common problem.

This year there were reports from lowland sites of a single on 15th Feb, a pair displaying and soaring on 3rd March and a male on 11th March, and one was reported over **Bretton Lakes** on 22nd July.



Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

At a former breeding site on the moorland fringe a male was reported on 8th March, a pair displaying on 13th and one on 27th March plus a pair on 9th April. At a similar site on 15th March one was displaying over a coniferous wood making two stoops before disappearing into the woodland. One flew over **Black Hill** on 18th July (HQ) and a juv flew S along the W bank at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd Nov. (CH)

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2).

The species was again reported from over 60 locations as in the previous two years. Dated records, totalling 156, well down on 2003, were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	11	10	10	12	11	11	20	19	15	18	12

The increasing number from Aug is presumably explained by the presence of fledged juveniles. In addition birds were reported to be a regular occurrence at several sites from which no dates were given.

Breeding was confirmed from **Stoney Battery** where a pair raised four young, at **Bullcliffe Wood** where a female was at a nest on 13th April, with food carrying noted at **Blacker Beck** in July and at **Lindley Moor**. Birds were also present during the breeding season at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Bradley Hall**, **Dalton**, **Deffer Wood**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Elland GP**, **Fixby**, **Grimescar**, **Honley Bridge**, **Honley Moor**, **Horbury**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Lockwood**, **Marsden**, **Ox Lee**, **Shelley**, **Taylor Hill**, **Winscar**, **Woodsome** and **Yateholme**.

Gardens were visited at **Almondbury**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Meltham**, **Netherthong**, **New Mill**, **Salendine Nook** and **Shelley** in which prey items taken were Collared Dove, Blackbird and Greenfinch. One chased a nest-building Long-tailed Tit at **Stoneycliffe Wood** on 15th March.

Two birds mobbed a Common Buzzard at **Yateholme** on 27th March and the sight of 3 birds mobbing 2 White Storks over **Elland GP** on 17th April must have been quite a spectacle.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Regular visitor, becoming increasingly frequent.

The species was reported from fewer localities than in 2003 and scarce in the winter months with just one sighting in Jan, 5 in Feb and none in Nov/Dec, the majority of records coming from March and June. The anticipated breeding in the area by this species failed to occur, although it did take place less than ½ km outside our boundaries.

New Mill – 2 flew over to the S on 17th Jan and one in mid-June (HE via DBy).

Crosland Moor – one flew W on 8th Feb (MLD).

Langsett – 2 on 15th Feb (MC).

High Hoyland area – pairs on 15th Feb and 23rd March over both **High Wood** and **Cawthorne Park**, joining together at times (PB), then one on 29th Feb at **High Wood** (JED), 3 on 7th April, 2 separate individuals (plus a further bird just outside our area) on 23rd April and one on 27th June (PB); at **Cawthorne Park** one calling on 15th March plus some singles in May/June but with some blank days, one on 18th July when one was also over **Margery Wood** (PB). There was no hint of breeding taking place.

Emley – one flew over towards **High Hoyland** on 7th March (BA, DM).

Yateholme – singles on 13th (DMP, SP) and 27th March (HQ) and 9th April (KW, RW).

Hepworth – one over the pipe works on 15th March (JKP).

Denby Dale – one flew over the main road on 17th March (MC).

Blackmoorfoot – singles N on 24th March and S on 11th April (MLD) and again S on 25th April (TD).

Bretton – 2 near **Haigh** on 30th March, one mobbed by a Kestrel on 6th July, 2 low over the roundabout on 6th August (JRC) and one on 24th Sept 9 (TM).

Harden Moor – a pair chasing and copulating on 12th April and a pair talon grappling with a possible food pass before soaring jointly towards **Holme Moss** and **Windleden** on 22nd and 31st May.

Scout Dike – 2 soaring above the activity centre on 17th April and one NE on 9th Oct (RJB).

Elland GP – one flew SE mobbed by Corvids on 24th April (HBC).

Holme Moss – singles on 24th May and 2nd June (M&SW) and one W on 22nd June (JED).

Winscar – one hovering/hunting over the moor to the SW of the reservoir before moving off E on 2nd June (PB).

Ingbirchworth – one on 10th Sept (SRG).

Shepley – 2 S on 5th Sept TM.

Carlecotes – an adult on the roadside to **Townhead** on 12th Sept (MC).

Woodsome Valley – one soaring on 8th Oct (SRG).

Horbury Bridge – 2 flew low to the SW on 24th Oct (BA, DM).

Deffer Wood – regular sightings reported by the gamekeeper (via BA).

Sightings of 2 birds were recorded in the Peak District survey.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant.



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

After several good years 2004 was very disappointing with just one record of a bird over **Digley** on 4th April (SMP).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2).

The upsurge in records noted in 2003 was not quite maintained with birds being reported from c. 70 sites by 22 observers.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bird's Nest Lane** (2juv), **Bradley** (2yg), **Colnebridge SP**, **Dewsbury SF** (1juv), **Greenfield Rd** (full-grown yg at nest hole on 10th July), **Harden** (2yg), **Kirkheaton** (juv food begging on 21st July), **Netherwood**, **Scammonden** (2 pairs, one of which reared 2yg), **Swinden Plantation** (food carrying on 25th June) and **Yateholme** (2yg well seen on 22nd June), but not this year at **Blackmoorfoot** despite the presence throughout of one or two birds.

Birds were also present and probably breeding at **Carr Wood**, **Digley**, **Holme Moss**, **Langsett**, **Lumb Lane**, **New Mill**, **Shelley** and **Woodsome**.

The greatest number reported was four at **Langsett** on 22nd June. One very experienced observer reported it as the worst year on record for sightings from his garden at **Lindley Moor**, with only 13 sightings during the year.

The Peak District survey reported 23 sightings.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Partial migrant breeder (1) and scarce visitor.

There was a big drop in the number of sightings of this species, from almost 50 in 2003 to only 28, as well as in the number of sites from which reports were received – only 15 compared with 27 last year. There were very few winter records.

However, the situation may not be as bleak as this may suggest, as pairs were present at 7 sites in the breeding season, although there was no observed proof of success. At one site a female flushed from a nest with 3 eggs on 25th May, but scattered eggshells on 4th June suggested predation by Carrion Crow. At a second traditional site a pair on 14th and 25th April did not remain, probably as a result of extensive fencing work taking place at the site. At another site a pair was displaying on 19th April and 2 probable juveniles were present in the same area on 1st Sept. Two other sites had displaying birds in mid to late April, a pair (one of which chased Meadow Pipits for 8 minutes) were at another site on 12th April with one still there on 17th April, and at yet another site after one on 28th March, a female was hunting on 6th July and almost certainly breeding.

The Peak District survey recorded pairs at 8 sites.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Occasional migrant breeder (1) and passage visitor.

Although there were fewer records than in 2003 the species almost certainly bred in the area. At a site in the N of the area an adult was seen to catch a House Martin on 9th Aug and take it into nearby woodland where a juv was calling, an adult was seen again on 11th Aug and a juv was hunting dragonflies along the woodland edge on 30th Aug (JB, BA).

Elsewhere one flew W at **Denby Dale** on 7th July (TM), a juvenile at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 29th July approached from the W and made several unsuccessful attempts to catch hirundines over the SE corner before departing NE up the **Colne Valley** at 1045 hrs (MLD, TD, PB), and one was at the SE of the site on 24th Sept leaving to the NE at 1650 hrs. A bird chased hirundines in the **Meltham** area on several evenings to the 18th July and was well described

(SC via JMP), a juv flew over **Ingbirchworth** and then W over farmland on 30th July (PB), whilst one at **Castleshaw** on 1st Sept may have been either just inside or outside the Club area (GMBRG).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Rare breeder (1), increasing.

Birds were reported in all months except Aug.

Breeding attempts were made at a minimum of 4 sites with a successful outcome at 2 at least. At one site an adult took food to young on 13th June, at a second a juv was involved in an unsuccessful chase of a pigeon to the ground on 9th Sept, with later that day 3 birds, all probably juveniles, hanging above the hillside. At the third site after display was observed in March, the presence of 3 birds in late July suggests successful breeding occurred. At the fourth site a bird was incubating at a nest on a small quarry on 12th April, the female was brooding small young on 15th May, but by 20th May there were no signs of either adults or young and the nest was empty. Also at an undisclosed site a pair was reported to have hatched 3 young, but this may have been one of the sites mentioned above.

Away from these areas other sightings were reported from:

Winscar – male and female on 31st Jan and 16th Feb, male on 2nd March.

Isle of Skye – one over on 9th Feb, 2 on 8th Sept.

Harden – male chasing Red Grouse on 15th Feb.

Dunford Cycle Trail – female roosting on pylon on 15th Feb (same as Winscar bird above ?).

Digley – imm on 28th March.

Bilberry – one on 12th April.

Dewsbury SF – one E on 1st May, one on 21st Nov.

Blackmoorfoot – one on 16th May, imm on 17th and 23rd July, an imm male caused havoc in the gull roost at sunset on 26th Nov and the same bird was present at midday on 6th Dec.

Holme Moss – one on 2nd June.

Buckstones – a female on 10th June.

Scout Dike – a juv flew E on 12th Sept causing panic amongst Lesser Black-backed Gulls in nearby fields.

Honley – a male flew SE on 16th September.

Delph – one on 3rd Oct.

Huddersfield – one was hunting pigeons near the Civic Centre at 1000 hrs on 5th Nov.

Deer Hill – one flew over on 7th Nov and on 26th one mobbed 2 Ravens in the quarry. There was much calling from all 3 birds for at least an hour and the spectacle was enjoyed by families and dog-walkers who stopped to watch.

Yateholme – one on the crags at Ramsden Clough on 13th Nov.

Shepley – a male on 21st Nov.

There were also undated records for **Elland GP** and **Ringstone Edge**.

The Peak District survey reported 10 sites with pairs.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Another poor year for this species, with birds at only 4 sites. At **Bretton Lakes** calls were heard at the W end of the upper lake on 11th Feb (JED) and one was seen there on 10th Dec (SRG), one was at **Lowestwood Pond** on 5th March (JK & MLB via JED), one was flushed from a nearby field at **Deer Hill** on 26th Oct (BA) and one was seen at **Ramsden Mill Dam** on 5 dates in Dec (PB, PDB).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (2-3).

Reports were received from 26 sites with breeding attempts recorded at 10 of them:

Almondbury – a pair again raised a brood on the garden pond in Lumb Lane.

Blacker Beck – 8 yg had appeared from a successful nest by 19th May.

Blackmoorfoot – a nest built in the SW corner overflow never had eggs.

Carlecote Ponds – an ad. with 2 small yg. on 13th June.

Colnebridge SP – at least 2 pairs bred. 5 birds were fighting on 23rd April.

Dewsbury SF – several pairs bred with at least 3 broods still on 30th Aug and yg still present on 19th Sept.

Elland GP – 6 yg. on 15th May.

Hey Green – an ad. with 2 well grown juvs. on 28th April.

Totties – a pair nested on Ford Mill pond.

T P Wood – one pair raised two broods – full grown yg. and a nest with 4 newly hatched yg.

Birds were also present in the breeding season at **Scout Dike**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Coxley Valley** (2 sites), **Ravensthorpe GP**, **Clough Lea**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Lepton Great Wood** and **Shelley Beck**, with additional winter records from **Tunnel End**, **Ramsden Mill Dam**, **Holme Styles**, **Bedding Edge Road**, **Langsett Res** and **Birkby**.

There were few counts with the highest being only of 14 feeding in fields adjacent to the canal at **Golcar** on 17th Dec and max at **Elland GP** of 9 in Jan and 12 in Dec.

One on the observer's lawn at **Meal Hill**, **Jackson Bridge** was a first garden record for the site.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding was attempted at least 6 of the 14 sites from which the species was reported.

Bretton Lakes – an ad. with 3 yg. on 12th June.

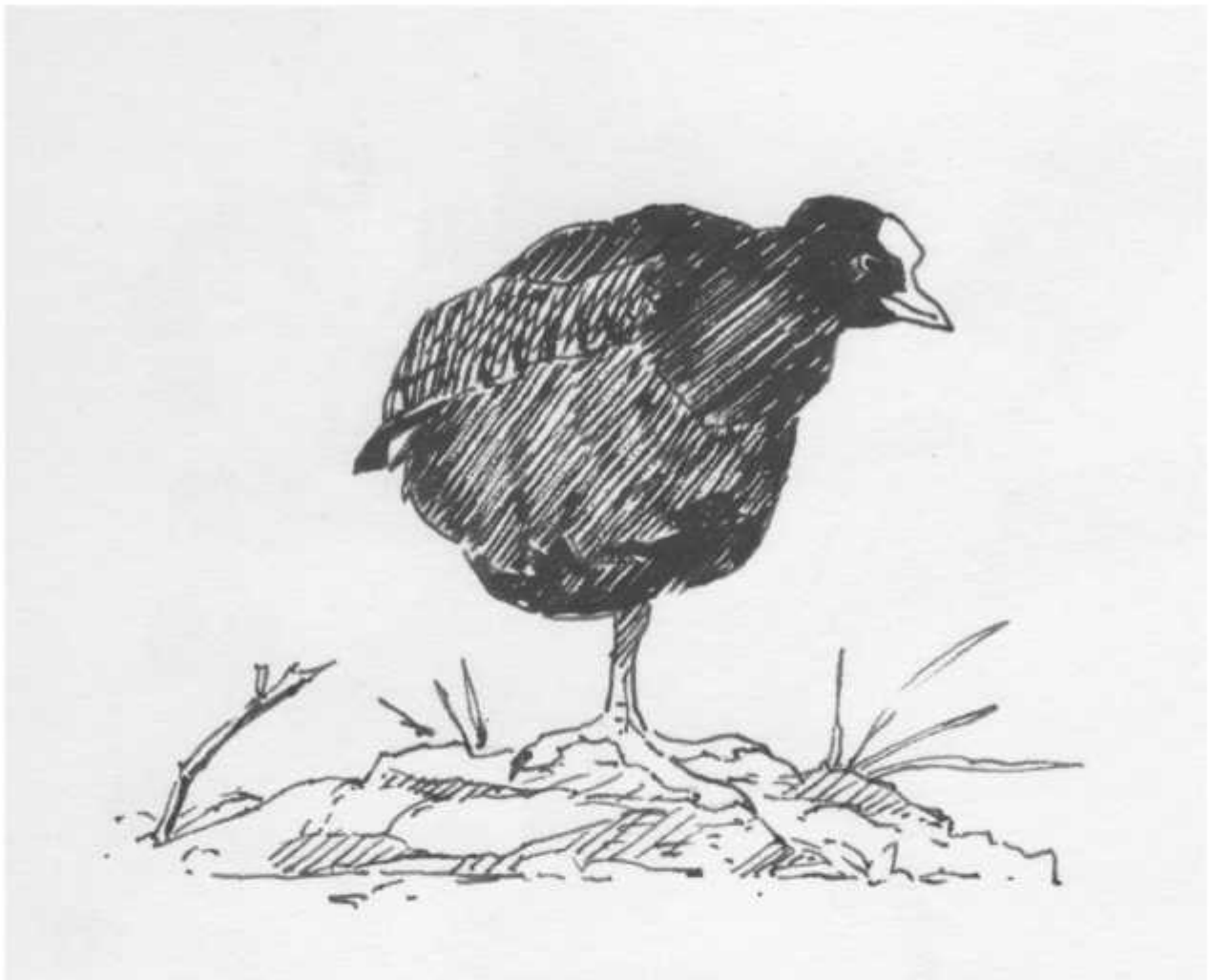
Colnebridge SP – 3 pairs bred.

Elland GP – 3 families plus other individuals present on 21st June.

Horbury Wyke – 3 pairs on 3rd April.

Ravensthorpe GP – an ad. with 1 yg on 11th July.

Scout Dike – 3 pairs with broods of 2, 3 and 3 yg and other individuals on 14th June.



Coot *Fulica atra*

Also present in the breeding season at **Oak Scar Res** (3 on 20th May), **Ingbirchworth** and **Broadstones Res.**

Max monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	0
Elland GPs	4	5	13	6	6	6	5	6	3	6	8	7
Ingbirchworth	2	10	6	11	4	4	5	1	3	4	6	7

The only other sites from which birds were reported were **Boshaw Whams** 4 on 3rd Jan, **Longwood Res** 1 on 25th Jan, **Gunthwaite Dam** 6 on 18th Feb and the highest count was 20 at **Bretton Lakes** on 11th Feb.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Rare breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor.

Birds were present between 17th March and 23rd July with an isolated record in Aug. Breeding was confirmed only at **Winscar** again, but may possibly have been attempted at 3

other sites. Many other records could refer to the wanderings of the breeding birds at Winscar.

Ringstone Edge – 4 birds including one with red colour rings on both legs on 17th March, then 2 birds (no rings) regularly in spring; with courtship and attempted copulation observed.

Winscar area – 2 had returned on 27th March, 4, presumed 2 pairs, were at **Harden Res** on 24th April and 2 with 3 x ¼ grown yg. were present at **Winscar Res** from 14th to 19th June. On 26th June 4 ads. were present in addition to the resident pair.

Blackmoorfoot – 2 on 28th to 31st March with copulation observed on the first date, 1st to 21st April (with a third bird on 13th and 17th), singles on 22nd, 23rd and 26th April, one on 9th May, 2 on 25th May and one on 22nd July.

Scout Dike – one on 30th March, 2 on 20th April.

Royd Moor – in April 2 on 2nd, 1 on 3rd and 2 on 17th (probably the same as the Scout Dike birds of the 20th).

Ingbirchworth – one undated March record, 2 on 9th and 3 on 17th April.

Dewsbury SF – one on 15th April, in May 3 on 10th, 16th and 18th, 4 on 21st in June 2 W on 21st, 2 on 23rd and 29th, in July 4 W on 2nd, 3 on 5th, 2 on 17th and 1 juv on 13th Aug.

Digley Res – 1 on 21st April.

Cooper Bridge – 1 on 30th April and a flyover on 23rd July.

Elland GP – one isolated record in April.

Chew Valley/Dovestones – a pair on 18th April and an ad. on 3rd June, possible breeding.

Deanhead/Scammonden – one on 23rd May and one undated record.

Broadstones Res – one on 2nd and one over on 4th June.

Dunford Bridge – 3 in fields above on 22nd July.

Peak District survey recorded 2 breeding pairs.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and occasional breeder.

Another very good year with breeding possibly occurring at 7 sites. The first returning bird was recorded on 15th March, with the last on 27th July. **Dewsbury SF** once again had large numbers in July.

Site A – 3 pairs present of which at least 2 bred, 2 nests seen on 18th May and the first chicks recorded on 22nd June.

Site B – after 1 on 25th March and a pair on 5th April, 3 pairs were confirmed breeding in June, each pair having one chick.

Site C – one pair from 9th May and bred but the 2 chicks were predated by Carrion Crows in June. Later however a well-grown juv. was seen so a repeat attempt may have been successful.

Site D – at least one pair attempted to breed, but the outcome was unknown. 2 or 3 birds were present in heavy rain on 6th April, at least 3 birds were present and behaving anxiously on 18th April, one was calling agitatedly on 2nd June and in July one was performing the distraction display with a second bird calling nearby.

Site E – one on 27th May, an agitated pair on 2nd June and 2 ads. on 9th June.

Site F – 3 on 24th April including some courtship display and an adult giving anxiety calls between 14th and 19th June.

Site G – a pair reported to have bred but no further information received.

Aside from breeding sites, there were few records of passage birds with the exception of **Dewsbury SF** where the first arrived on 15th March. Birds were present from late June with 10 on 29th then regularly to 21st July during which month 8 were present from 1st to 5th, 13 on 6th, 12 on 7th, 8 on 8th, 9 on 10th, 6 on 11th, 5 on 12th, 3 on 14th and 5 on 21st. Elsewhere one was at **Thornhill Millbank** on 28th March. At **Scout Dike** one on 17th and 2 on 19th April and singles were at **Winscar** on 26th June, **Royd Moor Res** on 11th July and in fields above **Holmfirth** on 12th June, with the last of the year at the **Isle of Skye** quarry on 27th July.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor.

Reported from only 4 sites, 2 of which have a good series of records.

Dewsbury SF – one flew W on the unusual date of 10th, in May 2 on 16th and 18th, 3 on 26th and 2 went E on 28th; in June singles on 15th and 17th and an ad. with a juv. on 18th; singles on 11th (ad.) and 14th July with 2 on 17th; in Aug one on 9th, 3 flew W on 12th, 2 on 18th and one on 19th/20th. 2 were present on 27th Sept and 2 flew W on 1st Oct (JH, BA).

Ringstone Edge Res – in May singles on 5th, 9th, 12th and 15th, with 2 on 25th; in June one on 7th and 12th with 3 (including one with only one leg) on 13th and one on 9th Aug (HBC, DHP, DT, PDB).

Chew Res – a single on 7th June showed no sign of breeding plumage and may have been a 1stS. individual (PB).

Blackmoorfoot – on 13th Aug an ad. circled the reservoir calling twice before leaving at 1255 hrs (PB) and 3 flew W at 0830 hrs on 15th (MLD).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare passage visitor.

The “Dotterel Field” at Potato Lane, **Blackmoorfoot** again turned up the goods. One at 09.45 hrs on 3rd May had been joined by 2 others by 15.00 hrs (MLD, CH) and they remained to the following day, allowing many to enjoy them.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Migrant breeder (2). Common passage and winter visitor, decreasing.

By any standards this was a poor year for the species in our area, with low numbers in winter and on both spring and autumn passage, with the exception of **Ringstone Edge**.

In January birds were present at 4 sites on 6 dates, 70 near **Ingbirchworth** on 1st and 47 on 9th and c.20 on 24th, c.110 at **Hartcliffe Hall** on 4th, 35 on ploughed land at **Royd Moor** on 25th and 4 flew W at **Dewsbury SF** on 28th.

February revealed birds at just 3 sites, with a max of 35 at **Ringstone Edge**. At **Blackmoorfoot** 13 flew W on 6th, with 37 on 9th, 1 on 11th, 4 on 16th, 48 on 25th and 67 from 26th to 29th all grounded, and 16 at **Ingbirchworth** on 26th.

With the exception of a peak of 435 at **Ringstone Edge**, the expected increase in March didn't occur, with birds at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8 dates with a max of 67 on 1st/2nd and 44 on 26th, and birds were regular at **Snape Res** peaking at 22 on 30th.

In April movement was noted on 4th when a flock of 45 flew S at **Harden** at 19.50 hrs, and 6 flew W over **Wessenden** on 11th and the same number over **Deer Hill** on 18th. The only grounded birds were at **Issues Rd** (67 on 18th), at **Whitley Common** (36 on 22nd, 9 [poss N birds] on 25th) and at **Ringstone Edge** (max of 100). **Blackmoorfoot** had 60 on 5th then daily from 7th with a max of 49 on 27th and 53 on 29th.

The Peak District Moorland Survey located a total of 206 pairs, many more than expected with the only specific counts from contributors being 3 pairs with young at **Featherbed Moss**, displaying pairs at **Harden**, 3 pairs on territory at **Chew Res**, a pair with chicks at **Dovestones**, a pair at **Cupwith** and probably fewer than 10 pairs in the counts from **Wessenden Head** via **Black Hill** to **Crowden**.

Apart from breeding birds the only records in May came from **Blackmoorfoot** where birds were present daily with a max of 51 on 5th and 37 on 3rd and 13th, 12 at **Cartworth Moor** on 1st and 6 at **Whitley Common** on 19th. A recently dead bird was found at **Greenfield Res** on 25th.

Apart from a singleton in July at **Ringstone Edge Reservoir**, **Blackmoorfoot** was the only site that held birds in June and July, with from 2 to 13 about daily in June and a max of 17+ on 3 dates in July.

Birds were almost non-existent in August with a max of 4 on only 4 dates at the beginning of the month at **Blackmoorfoot** and a single bird at **Ringstone**.

September fared little better with **Blackmoorfoot** having a max of 17 on 7 dates from 16th, a max of 9 at **Ringstone** and 6 flew S over **Scout Dike** on 28th.

There was little improvement in October with **Blackmoorfoot** having the species on 10 dates with a max of 19 on 9th, **Scout Dike** 1 on 12th and 22 on 30th/31st, 10 flew W at **Thurlstone** on 26th, birds were heard at **Shelley** in poor visibility on 27th and c.150 flew over **Annat Royd Lane** towards **Broadstones** on 31st.

November saw significant increases at 2 sites with birds on 5 dates to 14th with a max of c.130 on 13th and 31 on 14th at **Blackmoorfoot**, a max of 145 near **Ingbirchworth** on 28th, whilst 2 were at **Scout Dike**, but **Ringstone Edge** had a max of just 2.

To end the year a flock flew over **Bretton** on 6th, **Blackmoorfoot** had birds on 4 dates with a max of 8 on 20th and many more in a mixed flock of 300/400 birds with Lapwing and Black-headed gulls at **Broadstones** on 19th.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

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



Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Breeding pairs were located at **Boshaw Whams** (2yg), **Chew Valley** (5 pairs), **Clockface Quarry** (3 pairs), **Cupwith** (2yg), **Deer Hill** (good numbers), **Dewsbury SF** (4 nests located), **Digley** (3 pairs), **Hade Edge/Elysium** (but low numbers cf previous years), **Harden Edge** (2 males on territory), **Isle of Skye Quarry**, **Law Stack** (2 nests), **Langsett** (4 pairs), **Meltham Moor** (2 pairs), **New Mill** (at regular hill sites) and near **Scammdon** (3-4 pairs).

In some areas the breeding season was considered to be a poor one. Once again moving flocks of up to 30 birds, all adults, were in the **Harden/Whitley Common** area in late May/June and were presumed to be local nesters that had failed owing to the early cutting of hay for silage.

There were obvious passage birds in late winter/early spring at **Harden** where 43 were counted on 13th and 22 on 22nd Feb.

Annat Royd Lane/Ingbirchworth – 300 on 21st and 500 to the SW on 24th Jan, 27 in Feb, 74 in March, 275 on 27th Sept, c.350 on 18th Oct and 270 in Nov.

Blackmoorfoot – 400 on 6th Jan, 82 in Feb, 11 in March, 57 in May, 133 in June, 450 on 20th July with 4 other counts greater than 250 during the month, 453 in Aug, 450 in Sept, 120 in Oct, 270 in Nov and 120 in Dec, a significant increase in numbers here since 2003.

Crosland Hill – 70 in Aug, 200 in Sept and Oct.

Broadstones area – Jan 120, Feb 100, March 170, July c.200, 40+ in Oct.

Dewsbury SF – Jan 128, Feb 88, June 68, July 112, Oct 32.

Ringstone Edge – Jan 40, Feb 170, March 45, July 55, Aug 130, Sept 205, Nov 45.

Scout Dike – Jan c.90, Feb c.100, March 45, July c.70, Sept c.120, Oct 300+, Nov 273, Dec c.420 (a record count for this site).

Maximum counts at regular sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ingbirchworth	500	27	74	-	-	-	-	-	275	350	270	-
Blackmoorfoot	400	82	11	-	57	133	450	453	450	120	270	120
Crosland Hill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	200	200	-	-
Broadstones area	120	100	170	-	-	-	200	-	-	40+	-	-
Dewsbury SF	128	88	-	-	-	68	112	-	-	32	-	-
Ringstone Edge	40	170	45	-	-	-	55	130	205	-	45	-
Scout Dike	c90	c100	45	-	-	-	c70	-	c120	300+	273	c420

The only other counts exceeding 50 birds were 60 off **Litherop Lane** on 29th Feb, c.180 at **Boshaw Whams** on 17th Feb, c.300 at **Horbury Wyke** on 4th Feb, with smaller counts at **Colnebridge SP**, **Scammonden**, **Flouch/Hazelhead** and **Lepton**.

The Peak District survey recorded 54 pairs.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Rare visitor.

Singles were reported at **Ringstone Edge** on 3rd Oct (flyover) and 4th Nov (JB), the fourth consecutive year in which the species has been reported.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Rare visitor.

One at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 4th Aug was about 50% into summer plumage (DHP et al), again the fourth consecutive year of occurrence.

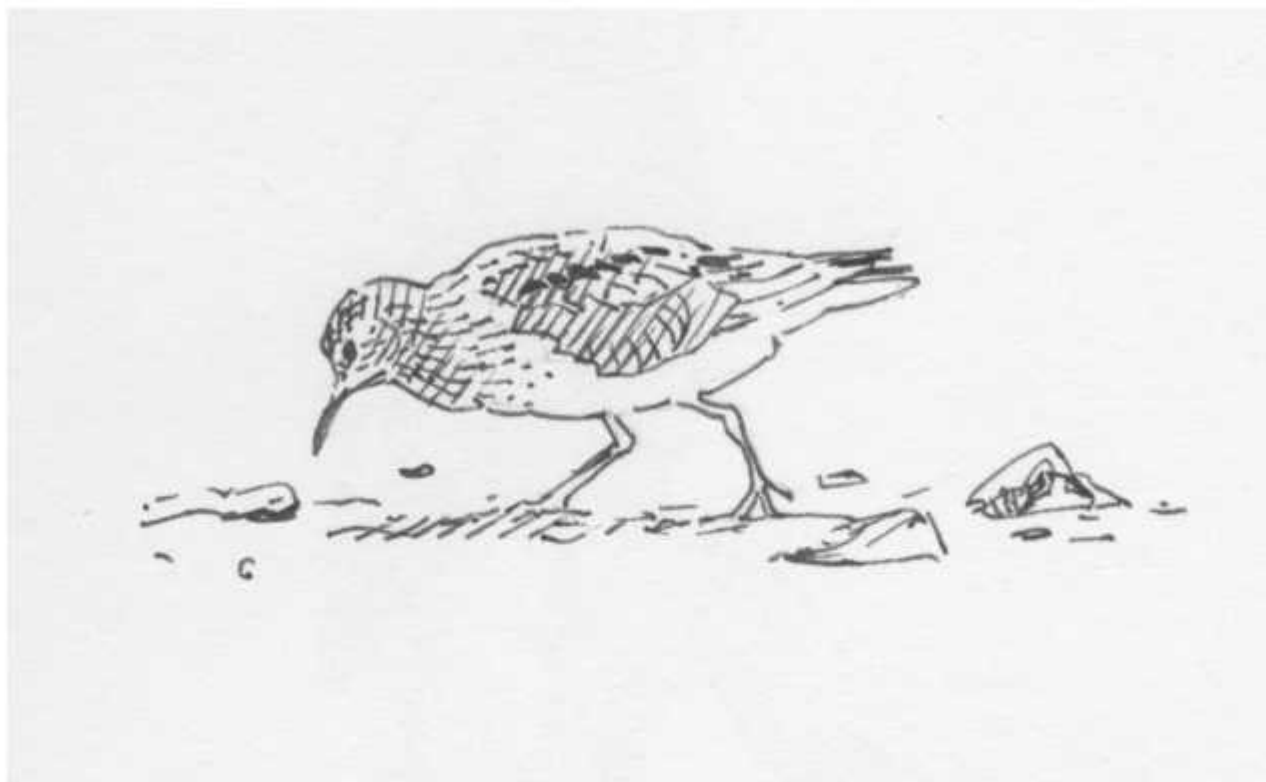
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Rare passage migrant.

A juv. remained at **Dewsbury SF** from 24th to 30th Aug at least (JH, PDB, BA, JRS).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Rare passage migrant.



Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

One found during the morning of 31st May at **Ringstone Edge** by S. Gray was still present at 18.30 hrs but had left by the following morning. This is only the 3rd record for the area and the first since 1939 when a party of 7 birds was at the same site.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1-2). Uncommon passage visitor.

The first was recorded on 17th April, but none then until early May.

The Peak District survey revealed the presence of 33 pairs on territory and included nests located at **Black Moss**, **Featherbed Moss** (which held 3 pairs) and a pair at **Dovestones**.

Scout Dike – a summer plumaged bird on 17th April

Ringstone Edge – in May singles on 12th, 18th, and 31st, 2 on 3rd, 2 on 16th, 17th and 26th and 8 on 30th; in June 5/6 on 1st, 1 on 5th, 2 on 12th, 3 on 15th; in July an ad. on 26th/27th and 5 on 28th; 2 on 9th Sept and 3 on 1st Oct.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 10th May, 21st, 22nd and 29th July, and 27th Sept.

Elland GP – 2 on 12th May.

Blackmoorfoot – singles on 13th to 15th and 26th May, 13th, 20th and 28th July, 7 on 6th Sept, 2 on 3rd Nov and one on 10th Dec.

Cupwith Res – one flew from the moor on 28th May.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor.

A very disappointing year with just one record of a bird at **Ringstone Edge** on 7th Aug (SG via HBC)

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Singles reported from 6 sites.

Ringstone Edge – on 7th and 28th Feb, 9th April, 17th Oct and 29th Dec (HBC).

Elland GP – 29th Feb (HBC).

Scout Dike – 18th April and 18th Oct (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot – nearby on 18th Nov (CH).

Little Don Valley – 28th Nov (TM).

Honley – on 2nd, 3rd and 6th Dec at Knowle Top (CH).

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Resident breeder (1-2). Common passage and winter visitor, decreasing.

In the early months the species was scarce, being reported from only 11 sites and in very small numbers, the max being 6 at **Shepley** between Jan and March with the same number at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th March; 4 were at **Royd Moor** on 24th Jan and at **Blacker Beck** on 3rd April, 5 at **Scout Dike** on 17th April, otherwise no more than 2 anywhere.

Some birds had returned to breeding sites by mid-March, and included a total of 6 calling in the **Cupwith** area on 17th. The Peak District survey located 55 pairs in our area and included displaying/drumming birds at the following sites: **Adam Pasture**, **Broadstones** (2), **Back Clough**, **Cupwith** (an ad. with 3 large young on 19th June), **Deer Hill** (2+), **Digley** (2), **Far Owlers**, **Harden**, **Holme Moss/Heyden Moor** (4), **Issues Road**, **Meltham Moor**, **Little Don Valley** and **Buckstones**.

Birds began to appear at non-breeding sites from early Aug when there were 3 at **Dewsbury SF** on 3rd and up to 6 later in the month, 3 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th and 22 were counted at **Ringstone Edge** on 28th, but apart from 16 at the last site on 5th and 7 on 7th Sept, it wasn't until late Sept that birds became regular.

In contrast to 2003, double figure counts were achieved at 4 sites and included 11 flying W on 28th Sept at **Blackmoorfoot**, with grounded birds in fields to the W totalling 35 on 13th and 46 on 14th/15th Nov. Max at **Ringstone Edge** were 28 on 3rd Oct, 30 on 6th Nov and 24 on 29th Dec. 10 were in fields at **Shepley** on 21st Nov and 26th Dec, **Dewsbury SF** had max of 10 in Sept, 8 in Oct and 22 in Nov, whilst up to 12 were in fields at **Golcar** in Nov/Dec. Apart from 8 at **Denby Dale** on 29th Nov and up to 5 at **Deer Hill**, other sites held only single birds.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2) and uncommon winter visitor.

Roding birds were located between 15th March and 7th July at the following sites:

Stoneycliffe Wood on 15th March, **Woodsome Lees/Carr Wood** on 9th May (2), **Yateholme** (2) on 24th May (with a 3rd bird flushed from the ground), at least one on 7th July, and regularly at **Deffer Wood**. One was flushed at **Margery Wood** during daytime on 23rd May.

There were more reports in the early months than last year, with singles in the **Grimescar Valley** on 11th Jan, at **Elland GP** on 8th Feb, **West End GC** on 28th March and one in bracken in open moorland at **Oxygrains Beck** on 4th April. Towards the end of the year 2 were at **Denby Delf** on 22nd Oct and the rest were all singles: in Nov, at **Bretton** on 12th, at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th, **Deer Hill** on 27th and **Little Don Valley** on 28th; in Dec at **Deer Hill** on 5th, **Langsett Res** flying over the dam wall at dusk on 11th and at **Elland** on 26th. The keeper in the **Deffer** area reported that the season had been very productive with 33 shot between Nov and Feb 2005.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage visitor.

Reported from 2 sites in the summer months.

Ringstone Edge played host to an ad. in summer plumage that flew off W at 1824hrs on 17th July (DHP) and another bird was present on 6th Aug (SG Via HBC).

A remarkable occurrence was observed at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th Aug when a flock of 45 birds flew around over the water for a couple of minutes as if looking for somewhere to land, at times appearing to want to settle amongst the roosting gulls. The disturbance caused all of the gulls to rise and the godwits were lost in the melee in the fading light at 2100 hrs (PB). This is easily the highest count of this species in the club area, eclipsing the 14 that appeared briefly at Dewsbury SF on 23rd April 1996.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

After an excellent show last year, 2004 was something of an anticlimax, although the species did occur at 5 sites:

Broadstones Res – one on 22nd April (JMcL).

Blackmoorfoot – one on the N wall flew off SW on 26th April, singles flew W on 5th and 10th May, S on 31st July and a calling bird on 20th July that was not seen (PB, MLD, CH).

Ringstone Edge – singles on 12th May (DHP, AC, JB), 9th and 15th Aug (JB, HBC).

Deer Hill – one calling on 14th May (DMP).

Royd Moor – 3 flew S with a Curlew on 8th Aug (RJB).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (2) and common passage visitor.

The first returning birds were singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th W and 28th Feb, 1st (E), 4th (S), 13th and 14th (4W) March, and one over **Scammonden** on 7th March. Unusually no large parties were reported apart from 22 over **Castleshaw Res** on 27th March.

Birds were on territory in March at **Cupwith Res** on 17th, **Little Don Valley** on 18th and **Scammonden** on 21st, and breeding was proven at the last site with mobile yg present on 20th June. A pair also had full sized juvs at **Scout Dike** on 14th June. 23 birds were seen or heard in a circuit of the **Langsett** area on 23rd June. Apart from those sites already mentioned little information regarding breeding was submitted, with displaying pairs reported from **Deer Hill**, **Binn Edge**, **Digley/Bilberry**, **Swinden**, **March Haigh**, **Oxygrains Beck**, **Holme Moss/Heyden Bridge**, **Harden/Winscar**, **Isle of Skye Rd**, **Stocks Moor Common** and **Dovestones**, but the Peak District survey found 127 pairs on territory.

Two very experienced observers had contrasting comments on the fortunes of the species. In the **Harden** area only 2 pairs were present in an area where 6-8 pairs were normal and breeding appeared to have failed both on moorland and moorland fringe, whilst in the **Marsden** area there were considered to be more birds than in previous years.

Typically there were few reports after the end of June with just single flyovers at **Dewsbury SF** on 6th and 11th July (both W), **Shelley** on 22nd July and at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th (4) and 22nd July, 2 on 18th and singles on 22nd and 28th Aug with a very late bird flying NE on 1st Nov. A flock of 49 which flew over **Delph** on 10th Aug may have been outside our area.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Migrant breeder (1).

An exceptionally early bird flew up river over **Honley SF** on 18th Jan and one at **Scout Dike** on 8th Feb was also early, with no further sightings until 23rd March when one appeared at **Ringstone Edge**. Later that month a pair was on territory at **Harden** on 27th, singles were at **Thornhill Millbank** and **Horbury Strands** and 2 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 28th. Singles were at **Winscar** and **Boshaw Whams** on 31st with 2 on the latter site on 31st March and a pair displaying there on 2nd April.

Singles on **Snape Res** (with Golden Plovers) on 6th and at **Scout Dike** on 10th April were presumably passage birds, but one in damp pasture at **Flight Hill** on 2nd April is likely to have been one of the **Harden** birds, as was one at **Harden Res** on 2nd June. The only other spring records were of singles at **Ringstone Edge** on 10th and 12th May.

Although no breeding proof was obtained this year, a territorial pair alarming at **Black Moss Res** on 2nd June and 3 agitated adults at the same site on 13th are strongly suggestive of the presence of young. The Peak District survey reported 29 pairs within our area.

After the breeding season there were few reports, at **Ringstone Edge** one on 15th June and 3 on 26th July, 2 at **Dewsbury SF** on 30th Aug, in Sept one at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th and 2 at **Scout Dike** on 12th and finally one flew SW at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th Dec.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Uncommon passage visitor.



Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A below par year for the species with records at just 4 sites, one in spring.

Horbury Wyke – one flew up river on 20th April (Birdguides).

Ringstone Edge – one on 11th July, 2 on 9th Aug with one remaining until 10th (HBC).

Blackmoorfoot – singles on 2nd Aug and 24th Sept.

Dewsbury SF – 2 on 9th and 14th Aug (JH).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Dewsbury SF once again proved much to the liking of this species, with records in all months except May, otherwise a very poor year.

Dewsbury SF – up to 3 in Jan, 2 in Feb, 3 in March/April, then 1 from 24th to 28th June, up to 3 in July, a max of 8 in Aug, 3 in Sept and one from 1st Oct to the year end (JH, BA, PB).

Ringstone Edge provided the only other record of 2 on 31st May.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2).

The first returning bird appeared at **Scout Dike** on the fairly early date of 10th April followed by others at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th, **Langsett** on 16th and 2 at **Blackmoorfoot** on the same date, **Winscar** on 20th, **Digley** on 21st, **Ringstone Edge** and **Bretton** on 23rd, and **Harden Res** on 25th.

Territorial pairs were found at **Dovestones Res**, **Wessenden Head Res**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Langsett Res**, **Little Don Valley**, **Cupwith Res**, **Deer Hill** (at least 2), **Greenfield Res** (2), **Black Moss**, **Redbrook**, **Butterley** and **Wessenden Res's**, but the only breeding proof came from the **Wessenden Valley** between **Blakeley** and **Wessenden Res** where at least one half grown chick and 3 adults were present on 13th June, and at **Winscar** where 2 juvs accompanied 2 ads on 26th June. The Peak District survey reported 23 pairs in our area.

Autumn passage began in late June with singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th and 29th, and at **Dewsbury SF** 2 on 21st, 3 on 22nd and 5 on 30th. The latter site had another excellent series of records with peaks in July of 6 on 7th, in Aug up to 12 and a max of 6 in Sept until the last singleton on 19th. At **Blackmoorfoot** in July birds occurred on 6 dates with a max of 3 on 18th. **Scout Dike** had 3 on 24th July, one from 1st to 3rd Aug and on 2nd Sept, whilst one was at **Broadstones** on 28th Aug. One or two were present at **Ringstone Edge** regularly from June to Aug with the last on 13th Aug.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Uncommon migrant.

Singles on **Ringstone Edge** on 8th Aug (JB) and 5th Sept (DHP) were the first since 2000 at the same site.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor.

Fewer records than in some recent years and a possibility of overlap.

Ringstone Edge – 1st S. on 10th and 13th July (JB, DHP) and a juv. on 30th Sept (JB).

Blackmoorfoot – 1st S. on 22nd July (PB, PDB) may be the same as the Ringstone Edge bird and an adult on 31st Dec (MLD, JL).

Dewsbury SF – a 2nd year on 21st Nov (JH).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor.

The only records were of an immature flying W at **Dewsbury SF** on 27th May (JH) and at **Blackmoorfoot** 3 ads. on 29th Sept. (PDB, JKP) and an adult on 27th Oct which departed S at 14.05 hrs (MLD).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

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

Although no young were seen c. 20 pairs were nesting in rushes below **Little Black Moss Res** 24th April and on 2nd June 18 birds present included 3 sitting, presumably on nests. A pair was also reported nesting at **Chew Res** (DWY via GMOS).

There was a significant increase on the previous year in numbers roosting at **Blackmoorfoot Res**, but only low numbers elsewhere.

Max monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black moorfoot	5680	nc	106	nc	nc	18	73	314	1000+	4800	4700+	5500
Elland GPs	68	52	200	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	55
Ingbirch worth	17	28	18	3	nc	10	nc	nc	nc	43	72	c110
Ringstone Edge	nc	160	100	nc	nc	nc	300	266	80	nc	nc	nc
Scout Dike	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	c50	c550	c160	82

Combined counts for this species and Common Gull at **Blackmoorfoot** produced the following maxima – Jan 7150, Feb 6200, March 5800, Dec 6700.

At the **Langsett Res** roost 500+ were present on 4th Jan and c900 on 23rd Oct, but the site had been abandoned by late Dec in favour of **Broomhead Res**. The only other significant counts were 300+ at **Cooper Bridge** on 13th Jan, a max at **Royd Moor** of c140 on 25th Jan, 105 at **Dovestones** on 3rd Jan, 120 at **Scammonden** on 5th Sept and up to 50 in autumn/winter on **Woodsome GC**.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res was the only site at which regular counts were made with monthly maxima of: 1020 in Jan, 547 in March, 1 in June, 7 in July, 6 in Aug, 27 in Sept, 950 in Oct and 990 in Nov. (See Black-headed Gull for combined counts with this species.)

Elsewhere 8 were at **Boshaw Whams** on 1st Jan and 23 there on 3rd; c.190 were in the roost at **Langsett Res** on 4th Jan; **Ingbirchworth** had a max of 30 in Feb, 12 in Nov and 17 in Dec; **Ringstone Edge** had 60 on 15th Feb, 30 on 6th March, a 1st S. on 21st May and 9 on 2nd Aug; **Elland GP** had a max of 40 on 29th Feb, 70 on 14th and 125 on 22nd March, one on 18th April and 21 on 26th Nov; up to 30 were in the **Shepley** area in both winter periods; a 1st S. bird was at **Broadstones** on 2nd June with possibly the same at **Victoria** on 24th June.

The first of the autumn appeared at **Kirkheaton** on 16th Aug and increased to a max of 14 on 4th Nov, and there was a small influx at **Scout Dike** in Oct with a max of 14 on 10th. Apart from 64 at **Scammonden** on 14th Nov and 50 over **Shelley** on 15th Dec, only small numbers were reported from a further 5 sites.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor.

Once again numbers were typically low at the beginning and end of the year and there was a distinct peak from Aug to Oct, although failing to approach those of years ago.

At **Blackmoorfoot** birds were present in all months except April (surprisingly) and Nov (not so surprisingly) with peaks of 4 in Jan, 11 on 26th Feb, 22 on 13th March, 9 on 30th May, 7 on 4th June, 6 on 9th and 13th July, 91 on 17th Aug otherwise no more than 26, in Sept an isolated high count of 420 on 17th otherwise mainly less than 100 and usually much fewer, 37 in Oct and 11 in Dec.

In the **Scout Dike/Royd Moor/Thurlstone** area spring passage began with one S on 2nd March, but with a max of only 14 moving W on 13th April. The first large autumn count was 64 moving W on 17th Aug, but although only small numbers were noted at **Royd Moor** due to high water levels, when a max count of 94 was seen on 28th Sept, there were also 190 birds on fields nearby, 90 on 9th Oct which dropped in from S and 50 on 16th Oct. About 400 were briefly over fields between **Royd Moor** and **Thurlstone** on 26th Sept and 31 on 10th Oct at **Scout Dike** were unusual for this site, probably occurring there because fishing (and therefore disturbance) had been suspended due to the presence of blooms of blue-green algae. Birds were reported as being regular at **Elland GP** from Jan to May with a max of 13 on 3rd Jan, the only count at **Ringstone Edge** was 10 on 8th Aug, at **Broadstones Res**, once a very favoured site had 4 on 2nd June, a high count of 168 on 30th Sept, followed in Oct by c.50 on 23rd but none on 30th, and the **Langsett Res** roost held c.230 on 23rd Oct, down to c.80 by 6th Nov.

Apart from 10 moving E at **Dewsbury SF** on 30th Sept counts from 6 other sites were all in single figures and were mainly of birds passing over, with 9 moving N at **Harden** on the evening of 17th April on spring passage.

An ad. At **Langsett Res** on 4th Jan was considered to be dark enough to belong to the race *intermedius* (RJB).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

The species was reported in all months except June and July but was extremely scarce in April, May and August. Numbers were very low everywhere except at the **Blackmoorfoot** and **Langsett Res** roosts.

At **Blackmoorfoot** the Jan max was 563 on 27th with 3 other counts over 350, in Feb a max of 442 on 12th and 3 other counts exceeding 350, 106 on 5th March, one in April on 3rd then none until 2 juvs. on 13th Sept, followed by peaks of 6 on 28th Oct, 50 on 24th Nov after the first signs of an influx, 20 birds on 14th increasing to 383 on 15th Dec.

In Jan at **Langsett Res** the roost held 130 on 1st and c.470 on 3rd/4th but no further counts were received.

Elsewhere **Elland GP** had up to 12 in Jan, 10 in Feb, 7 in March, 4 in Nov and 5 in Dec. Singles were reported from **Ingbirchworth** and **Shelley** in Jan, when 11 were also found at **Victoria** on 10th and 5 flew W at **Dewsbury SF** on 15th.

The dates of 4 at **Hepworth** on 12th April, at **New Mill** on 8th May and 2 at **Ox Lee** on 12th May were unusual as was one at **Ringstone Edge** on 2nd Aug.

Late in the year singles were at **Broadstones Res** on 23rd Oct and at **Shepley** on 29th Nov.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

The now familiar pattern of occurrences continued, with all records in the period July to Sept with just 4 exceptions. Birds were recorded at 5 sites.

Langsett Res – single 1st W. in the roost on 10th Jan and 17th Oct with an ad. on 23rd Oct (RJB, MC).

Blackmoorfoot – a summer plumage ad. arrived from the N at 1400 hrs on 1st July but departed quickly. Apart from this individual, all the other records were of birds roosting, often not arriving until the light was fading. In Aug 2 ads. on 13th, one ad. on 14th to 17th, an ad. and a 1st W. on 20th, ad. 21st to 23rd, 1st W. on 24th, ad. on 27th, 28th and 31st with a 1st W. also on the last date; in Sept single ads. on 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th and a 2nd W. on 24th Oct. At least 6 different birds were involved – 3+ ads., 1 x 2nd W. and 2+ 1st W. (PB).

Royd Moor – an immature over on 18th July (BA) and an ad. on 15th Aug (RJB).

Ringstone Edge – up to 2 regularly between 12th July and 6th Aug, with 3 on 31st July and 3 from 5th to 9th Aug. All were ads (PDB, PB, DHP, HBC).

Scout Dike – an ad. in fields with LBB's on 7th and 12th Sept (RJB).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Scarce winter visitor.

The only record was of a 2nd W. on **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th Jan (PDB).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor.

A 1st W. at **Blackmoorfoot** left to the NW at 15.15 hrs on 25th Jan (MLD).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus Marinus*

Common winter visitor.

Reported from 8 sites but only regularly from **Blackmoorfoot**, where numbers at the year-end were much reduced in common with the other regular gull species. The site had monthly max. of:-

Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
137	109	28	0	0	0	0	1	nc	nc	15	47

At other sites **Elland GP** in Jan had 5 on 1st, 24 on 3rd, 5 on 4th, 1 on 17th, and 2 on 18th; in Feb 8 on 1st, 14 on 7th and 5 on 22nd, but there were no year end reports from here. 70 roosted at **Langsett Res** on 1st Jan with 90 on 3rd and 8 on 28th and 2 were at **Victoria** on 10th Jan. 2 flew over **Shelley** on 1st Jan, 35 W at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd Jan were unusual as to the date. 2 flying W at **Scout Dike** on 13th April, one at **Ingbirchworth** on 6th May and 2 flying E at **Dewsbury SF**. Apart from the **Blackmoorfoot** birds the only other record at the end of the year was of 2 in Dec at **Ingbirchworth Res**.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce passage visitor.

Most unusual was a record of a party of 25 adults flying NE over **Shelley** at 07.40 hrs on 22nd March after several days of severe storms (SRG). An ad. was at **Elland GP** on 10th April (JB) and a winter plumaged ad. in the **Blackmoorfoot** roost on 25th Oct (PB).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Scarce passage migrant.

One flew WSW over **Lindley** towards **Blackmoorfoot** at 09.00 hrs on 13th Aug (SP), the fifth consecutive year of this species' occurrence.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage and summer visitor, increasing.

Reports came from 7 sites again, mostly in the **Calder Valley**.

Scout Dike – one briefly on 18th April was the first of the year.

Horbury – 2 on 22nd and 25th April, one on 2nd May.

Elland GP – in April 2 on 24th, 4 on 27th and 2 on 28th, in June one on 13th and 2 on 21st, up to 6 in July (on 20th) then 2 to 7th Aug.

Dewsbury SF – 2 on 7th and one on 18th May, one on 4th and 3 on 29th June, and 2 on 13th July.

Ringstone Edge – singles on 30th May, 24th July and 8th/9th Aug.

Ravensthorpe GP – one W on 11th July.

Blackmoorfoot – in Aug a juv on 12th and an ad in mainly W plumage on 23rd.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon but annual migrant.

After 2 blank years there were at least 2 records.

Singles were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 29th April (MLD) and at **Ringstone Edge** on 30th May (JB).

A tern at **Horbury Wyke** on 27th April was also suspected to be this species, but the observer was not 100% certain (DHP)

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Rare visitor.

One which flew W at **Blackmoorfoot** at 11.00 hrs on 16th June (MLD) was the first record for the club area since 1998.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce migrant.

After two years absence the return of this species was most welcome.

At **Blackmoorfoot** 2 birds in summer plumage arrived from the North at 08.50 hrs on 16th April and remained to at least 14.30 hrs (CH), a juv on 12th Aug was first seen at 10.00 hrs but only remained for half-an-hour (PB) and an immature was present on 13th Sept (PB, MLD).

At **Ringstone Edge** one was present in the early morning of 9th Aug (JB).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3).

No significant records received.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (2-3).

Reports were received from 27 sites. Double figure counts were achieved at 6 locations in the early months. **Blackmoorfoot** had a max of 13 in Jan and Feb, 17 in March and 14 in April. Also, in the **Ingbirchworth** area there were 40 on 4th Feb, 65 in **Dearne Dike Lane** on 18th Feb, 11 at **Brown's Edge** on 7th March and, at **Annat Royd Lane**, 26 on 29th March and 70+ on 30th March. The only other site with double figures was **Bradley Hall Farm** which had 40 on 9th and 50 on 30th March.

Breeding was confirmed at **Nab House** (Meltham Moor), and in the **Wessenden Valley**, with further pairs at **Bretton Lakes**, **Redbrook Clough**, **Cupwith**, **Meal Hill**, **Lepton Great**

Wood, Penny Spring Wood, Lumb Lane, Emley, Shelley, Lower Stones Wood and Carr Wood.

The only gatherings of note in the second half of the year were at **Shelley** where up to 20 fed in stubble in October and at **Blackmoorfoot** where there were 6 double figure counts in Oct with a max of 27 on 27th, in Nov 35 on 1st and 31 on 30th, down to 7 in Dec.

Smaller numbers were reported from **Ringstone Edge, Lindley Moor, Elland, Lepton, Horbury and Dewsbury SF.**

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4) and numerous winter visitor.

The great majority of records referred to flyover birds, often of flocks going to and leaving roosting sites.

In the early part of the year 150+ were on **Bretton Roundabout** on 26th Jan, at **Dewsbury SF** 58 flew W on 15th Jan, with 420 also W on 29th. Large numbers again roosted in the **Storthes Hall/Woodsome** area at both ends of the year but no counts were received.

Although the species is widespread as a breeding bird throughout the area the only reports received were from **Shelley**, where a pair raised 2 birds in the observer's garden, **New Mill, Netherton** (failed at egg stage), **Ingbirchworth, Brockholes, Taylor Hill and Colnebridge.**

Most records related to the second winter period. At **Elland GP** 1370 moved S on 31st Oct and 1500 were observed leaving a roost on 28th Nov, a flock of c.500 flew SE at **Dewsbury SF** on 1st Nov, at **Golcar** 150 moved W in the morning of 8th Nov and 150 were seen going to roost on 1st Dec, at **Lindley Moor** flocks of 450 at 14.20 hrs on 27th Nov, 800 in 2 hrs on 18th Dec and 500 at 15.40 hrs on 19th Dec were all moving SW, and 2000 passed over to the NW there in 30 mins in the early morning of 26th Dec. Also in Dec 250+ were counted over **Lockwood** flying W after leaving a roost on 3rd, 550 moved W over the **Cawthorne** area in 3 flocks in the afternoon of 16th and were presumably going to roost, also on 24th 2000+ flew E over **Leeds Rd** after roosting. A flock was present all year in the **Cheesegate Nab** area, peaking at c.300. At **Fixby** 1000+ moved over to the SW between 09.15 and 11.30 hrs on 31st October.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3).

Encouragingly there was a significant increase in records received after under-reporting last year.

Breeding occurred at **Lindley Moor, Salendine Nook, Netherton** (3 prs in a small area), **Colnebridge SP** (2 prs), **Dalton, Almondbury and Elland GP.**

The largest gatherings seen were up to 17 in **Denby Dale** from Jan to April, then up to 8 until Sept, 20+ near **Victoria** on 27th Oct, up to 15 at **Shelley** in the second winter period, and in Dec 9 at **Wooldale** on 3rd, at **West End GC** 15 on 1st and 31 on 13th. Birds were also

reported regularly in gardens at **Lockwood**, **Big Valley**, **Taylor Hill**, and **New Mill** as well as at **Hepworth**, **Harden Moss** and **Bretton Park**.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rare feral visitor.

One of unknown origin was at **Edge Moor** near **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th April (DMO).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder .

There was a further slight but very welcome increase in the number of sites from which this species was reported.

The first didn't appear until 5th May and the last was on 26th June with only 9 records in the latter month. Most reports related to calling males.

The first was on 5th May at **Blackmoorfoot** (where the latest of the year on 26th June also occurred), followed by singles at **Almondbury** on 7th, **Scammonden** on 9th with 2 and the **Little Don Valley** on the same date, **Horbury Bridge** on 10th, a pair in the **Chew Valley** on 8th and 23rd, at **Shelley** from 13th (probably 2 birds), **Thornhill Millbank** from 18th, **Elland GP** from 22nd, **Margery Wood**, **Shiny Brook** (pair on territory) and **Crowden** on 23rd. In June a pair was above **Bilberry Res** and a male at **Oldfield Hill** on 5th, one in **Shepley** on 6th and 2 together over the **Little Don Valley**, the male singing in flight, on 16th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor, formerly resident breeder.

One was reported by someone considered to be reliable by the roadside between **Thunderbridge** and **Stockmoor** in early Oct, but the habitat doesn't seem very suitable (via SRG)

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2).

The species was again reported from almost 40 sites, but some areas where it has been most abundant (e.g. **Roughbirchworth/Oxspring** area) were not covered.

There was no proof of breeding, but pairs and individuals were present in the breeding season at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Lumb Lane**, **Scammonden**, **Brookfoot**, **Buckstones**, **Netherthong**, **Colnebridge**, **Bare Bones Road**, **Denby Hall Farm**, **Cartworth Moor**, **New Mill**, **Holme Styles**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Castle Hill**, **Farnley Tyas**, **Highburton**, **Broadstones**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Digley**, **Shepley**, **Bretton**, **Shelley**, **Shelley Woodhouse**, **Oldfield**, **Wilshaw**, **Holmroyd**, **Wood Nook** and **Ringstone Edge**.

Birds were located at a further 11 sites outside the breeding season.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*
Resident breeder (2-3).



Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

There was a reduction of about 25% in the number of localities from which reports were received and no proof of breeding was submitted. The majority of records, unsurprisingly, relate to calling birds.

In the breeding season birds were at **Bagden Hall, Bretton Park, Denby Dale, Fixby, Netherthong, Deffer Wood, Meal Hill, Cheeseigate Nab, Storthes Hall Woods, Mollicar Wood, Almondbury, Dalton, Lepton Great Wood, Farnley Tyas** (4 on 20th April), **Barkisland, Langsett, Upper Dearne Woods, Taylor Hill, Dunford Bridge, Holme Styes and Marsden.**

Additional localities where birds were noted in autumn/winter were **Lockwood, Crosland Moor, New Mill, Wooldale, Shelley** (up to 4) and **Shepley.**

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1).

Breeding was confirmed at 3 sites, including a new lowland breeding site, but this was perhaps disappointing after the excellent showing of the species in 2003. The new site discovered last year at which 3 yg were raised was not occupied this year.

At one of the established sites 2 pairs each raised 2 young. The first indication of occupancy was of a male calling on 13th Feb with yg calling on 26th June and 7th July and sightings of 2 birds on 22nd July. At the second traditional site one was seen going into a plantation in full daylight on 9th March, one was hunting and another bird calling on 20th April and from 22nd May into June a minimum of 4 juvs from at least 3 pairs were located. At the new lowland site a nest with 3 eggs was located on 10th April and was later successful. At a fourth site with suitable habitat and a potential breeding area one was hunting at 21.00 hrs on 25th April.

Away from the breeding season a roost at **Denby Delf** held 2 on 22nd and 3 on 25th Oct and one at **Bare Bones Rd** on 13th Nov.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Resident/migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage visitor.

This was a very successful year for the species in the area with reports from 8 general areas in the breeding season, but only one winter record of a bird at **Bare Bones Rd** on 13th Nov. The Peak District survey revealed 13 pairs in our area.

The first sighting of the year was on **Slaithwaite Moor** on 17th March when one pitched into heather before flying towards **Cupwith**. There were no further sightings here until 21st July when 2 ads were hunting hard, a sure sign of a late successful nest. A hunting bird on **Blake Clough** on 8th June could relate to this pair.

In the **Heyden Moor/Holme Moss** area one was seen on 21st April and there were 3 breeding pairs of which 2 raised 4 yg each in June but the third hatched only one egg from a clutch of 6 after atrocious weather in late April. 4 were hunting on 2nd and 3 on 13th June.

At **Winscar/Harden** one was displaying over the moor and reservoir on 25th April, singles were at **Harden** on 22nd May, at **Windleden** on 26th and 27th June and 2 free flying but brand newly-fledged juvs were at **Flight Hill, Harden** from 23rd to 27th July, (one of which had no tail, shed to avoid predation?).

Near Bilberry Res a hunting bird was seen on 22nd and 23rd May and one was taking food to separate spots on 19th June, presumably feeding dispersed yg and the same behaviour was noted on 28th June.

At **Meltham Moor** hunting birds were apparent on 5th (2) to 11th June, the observer was barked at and hovered over on 12th June and yg were obviously present and hunting was watched again on 1st and 10th July.

In the **Wessenden** area a pair was present in the **Little Butterley Hill/Blakeley Clough** area on 19th April, one was hunting on 31st May, singles seen on 5th May, 5th June, 6th July and 12th Aug and one unfortunately found dead caught in barbed wire on a fence on 25th April.

One was flushed from moorland at **Oxygrains Beck** on 19th June.

In the **Deer Hill/Meltham** area 2 pairs bred, having nests c. 2 km apart, both in beds of bracken. Each had 6 eggs, one hatching all 6, the other 5. Well-dispersed yg from both nests were seen from 7th June and the ads hunted well into July. Both pairs were amazingly secretive during the day. One at **Red Lane, Meltham** on 15th June and 2 on 17th June probably relate to one of these pairs.

In the **Salters Brook** area, a breeding site for at least 3 pairs in 2003, one was hunting widely on 29th June.

Swift *Apus apus*

Migrant breeder (2-3).

The situation for 2004 mirrored that for 2003 with regard to early arrivals, with birds being reported from 12 sites before the end of April.

The earliest were singles at **Elland GP** on 16th, 17th and 18th April, the earliest ever at this site, but the next was not until a week later at **Scout Dike** on 24th followed by reports at **Fixby** (1) and **Shelley** (4) on 26th, **Blackmoorfoot** (2) and **Dewsbury SF** (1) on 27th, **Lockwood** (1), **Denby Dale** (1), **Magdale** (2) and **Aspley** (3) on 28th, **Taylor Hill** (1) on 29th and the town centre (1) on 30th. 3 other sites **Dalton** (6+), **Lindley Moor** and **Holmfirth** had birds in the first week of May when at **Elland** numbers reached 40 on 1st and 30 on 8th.

Later in May westerly movements were noted particularly at **Dewsbury SF** where, after 80 on 1st, 10 passed through on 14th, 80 on 21st, 120 on 26th and 60 on 28th, but the only significant numbers elsewhere were at **Blackmoorfoot**, which had a max of 20+ on 5th/6th and 27 on 21st and **Lepton** with 30 W on 11th.

The only confirmed breeding came from **Crosland Moor** where birds nested at **St Luke's Hospital** with up to 30 present.

Numbers were higher in June with peaks at **Blackmoorfoot** of 40+ on 11th, 64 on 15th, 60+ on 17th and 20th, 40+ on 21st and 70 on 30th, at **Dewsbury SF** 65 moving W on 29th and 180 on 30th and 30 at **Elland GP** on 20th. There was a distinct drop in numbers in July, **Blackmoorfoot** having a max of only 25+ on 9th, 20 at **Scout Dike** on 25th, 45 at **Dewsbury SF** on 22nd, but 80 were at **Hullen Edge** on 8th. High counts in Aug came from **Ringstone Edge** with 48 on 10th, **Blackmoorfoot** with 63 in 2 parties of 40 and 23 moving W and **Kirkheaton** where 50+ were flying low in misty conditions on 23rd. Small numbers were reported from 5 other sites in the first half of the month and the only September records came from **Scout Dike** which had 3 on 1st, 2 on 19th and one on 22nd.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Resident breeder (1).

Reported from 23 sites with breeding evidence at 3 of them and display noted at a 4th, the majority of sightings being from outside the breeding season.

A pair was seen taking food to a nest hole on the **River Calder** near the **Old Corn Mill** on 9th May after an earlier sighting in the area of 3 birds on 9th March, a nest at **Stoney Battery** failed due to human disturbance and at **Dogley** a pair was displaying and seen to enter a nest hole in April. Display was noted near **Dewsbury SF** on 1st and 18th May, a pair was present in the **Horbury** area in April and May as well as in the late months, and there were regular sightings of up to 3 birds at **Elland GP**, but no proof of breeding this year. Birds seen in March in the **Colne Valley**, at **Waterloo** and **Bretton** could also indicate potential breeding sites.

At **Blackmoorfoot** single birds were noted on almost 100 days within the year, with 2 present on 12th Nov and 14th Dec and nearby on the catchment at **Brow Grains** on 29th Aug and 12th Sept. Occasional sightings were made outside the breeding season at **Colnebridge SP**, on the River Colne in the **Galpharm (McAlpine) Stadium**, **West Slaithwaite**, **Barkisland**, **Blacker Beck**, **Windybank Res**, **Totties** in Nov on an old mill pond, **Denby Dale** and **Gunthwaite Dam**.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Rare migrant.

One photographed in a garden at **Kirkheaton** on 22nd April was the first since 1991 (RR via RSPB).



Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (1-2).

Encouragingly once again the species was reported from over 50 localities; although breeding evidence was only obtained at **Carlecotes Ponds**, many of the sightings were in suitable habitat in the breeding season, but no juvs were reported, apart from one at **Scout Dike** from 10th Aug to 2nd Sept.

Sites which had breeding season records were **Addingford** on 13th March and 3rd April near an obvious nest hole from the previous year (additional news for 2003), **Blacker Beck**, **Bretton Lakes** (up to 3 birds), **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Carr Wood**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Coxley Valley**, **Dalton**, **Denby Dale**, **Digley**, **Elland GP**, **Grimescar Valley**, **Hey Wood**, **Harden Clough** (Meltham), **Honley Wood**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Kirkheaton**, **Longwood**, **Marsden area** (Wessenden Valley, Netherow, Hey Green, Tunnel End, Redbrook Clough, Sparth, Marsden Clough, Butterley), **Oldfield**, **Meal Hill**, **Molly Carr Wood**, **New Hall Wood**, **New Mill**, **Shelley**, **Taylor Hill**, **Thornhill Millbank**, **Woodsome Lees** and the **Woodsome Valley**.

Additional sites from which birds were reported outside of the breeding season were **Shepley**, **Scammonden**, **Windybank Wood**, **Fixby**, **Totties** and **Holme Styles**.

One was watched ground feeding in 2 inches of snow at **Windybank Wood** on 26th Dec (M&SW)

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2-3).

This species can be encountered almost anywhere in the club area with the exception of the high treeless moorlands and was reported from over 70 sites.

Confirmation of breeding was obtained at **Carr Wood**, **Digley Bottom**, **Grimescar**, **Hagg Wood**, **Meal Hill**, **Meltham** (3 pairs at least), **New Mill**, **Stocksmoor** (2 pairs), **Stocksmoor Common**, **Shelley** and **Windybank Wood**. Drumming individuals were heard at a further 10 sites and many others were reported in the breeding season from suitable habitats where breeding no doubt took place.

The species was a garden visitor to feeding stations at **Almondbury**, **Edgerton**, **Fixby**, **Lockwood** (2 sites), **Meal Hill**, **Netherthong**, **New Mill**, **Shelley**, **Taylor Hill** and **Thick Hollins**.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1).

This was another poor year in our area for this species with no confirmation of breeding.

At **Elland GP** single birds were reported on 3rd (F), 4th Jan and 1st June, at **Bretton Lakes** a pair on 10th and a male on 17th Jan, in **Elland Park Wood** a pair on 3rd and one on 11th April, at **Healey House** (a former breeding site) both male and female present in early April, a pair in the **Coxley Valley** on 16th May and a female at **Skelmanthorpe** on 24th Nov.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Partial migrant breeder (3).

Birds were present in January at **Thurgory, Lepton** on 10th when one briefly attempted to sing, numbers increasing then to c.30 on 25th to c.70 in Feb. At least 6 including a singing male were at **Crosland Hill Airfield** on 25th Jan, with several singing by 6th Feb. 18 fed near **Ingbirchworth** on 1st Jan. Feb saw up to 15 in fields to the E of **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 15th and 20 at **Shepley** on 27th where there were also 12 on 11th March. The only other count indicative of a spring influx was of 30 at **High Hoyland** on 3rd March.

Singing males were reported from **Deer Hill, Dewsbury SF, Ingbirchworth, Black Moss, Crossleys Plantation, Hullock Bank, Issues Rd, Harden Moss, Harden, Annat Royd Lane, Wessenden Head, Carlecotes Ponds, Snape Res/Dean Rd, Blakeley, Adam Pasture, Pule Hill, Hey Green, Bradley Hall Farm and Cromwell Bottom** with singing last reported on 16th June.

The Peak District survey reported 397 individuals in our area.

Small numbers were noted on autumn passage at several sites: at **Shelley** up to 6 on 2 dates in late Sept and 24th Oct, **Dewsbury SF** 5 on 23rd Sept, 14 flying S on 26th Oct and 10 on 7th Nov, at **Thurlestone** 30 moving S on 24th Oct and 18 over **Annat Royd Lane** on 31st Oct and small numbers were moving over **Royd Moor** on 16th and 31st Oct.

Grounded birds at the end of the year were few, at **Blackmoorfoot** 2 on 9th Nov and 1 on 11th Dec, at **Thurgory** 50+ from 18th Oct onwards, at **Shepley** 20 on 20th Nov to 5 on 21st.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder (2).

Birds were late in arriving this year with only 2 March records and at 2 of the established breeding colonies occupancy appeared to be much reduced on recent years.

The first one was at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th March with the next not until 2 weeks later when 5 flew W at **Dewsbury SF**. Later arrivals in April included 4 at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th, singles on 3 dates at **Blackmoorfoot** with large numbers from this site of 15+ on 17th April, 8 on 18th, 2 at **Scout Dike** on 11th and 17th, when 4 were at **Ingbirchworth** and 6 at **Boshaw Whams**, on 7 dates at **Elland GP** with peaks of 15 on 16th and 18th and 12 on 27th, **Horbury** had 7 on 24th. In May **Blackmoorfoot** had one on 1st, **Dewsbury SF** 20 on 1st, 12 on 16th, 20 feeding on 21st and 35 on 26th, **Elland GP** had 2 on 1st, and **Ringstone** had one on 12th.

The newly discovered (in 2003) breeding colony on the River Calder at **Horbury** had 30/40 occupied holes on 2nd May, well down on the 2003 figure and the picture was the same at 2 other known sites. At **Ravensthorpe GP** there were 60+ nest holes but very few birds and a new stretch of cliff had been excavated; on 20th June c.40 birds were present, but only c.10 of the nest holes looked "clean" with yg visible in 3 of them. Only c.12 birds were present at the **Sands GP** site, with an estimate of c.30 occupied holes on 30th May and 20th June; on the latter date only c.10 ads were present, 6 holes being visited and yg visible in just one. A fourth and new colony was reported at an artificial site at **Dewsbury** in pipe works in a stonewall at the side of the River Calder opposite the Asda superstore.

After the breeding season the only reports were of singles at **Blackmoorfoot** from 5th to 9th July, 1st Sept and 13th/14th Sept, 40 at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th Sept, 17 at **Ringstone Edge** on 15th July with one there on 10th Aug, with the last of the year being singles at **Scout Dike** on 21st/22nd Sept.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4).

Single birds at **Scout Dike Res** on 26th and 28th March were very early and preceded the next (6) at **Elland GP** on 4th April by more than a week. Five were at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th April after which birds appeared at **Boshaw Whams** (2) on 9th, **High Hoyland** and **Lindley Moor** (2) on 10th, **Wessenden** on 11th, **Oldfield** (3) on 12th, **Denby Dale** (3), **Emley Moor**, **Blackmoorfoot** and again at **Scout Dike** (10) on 13th, **Meal Hill** on 14th, **Ingbirchworth** on 17th, **Crosland Hill**, **Digley** and **Middlestown** on 19th and at 9 other sites by the end of the month.

By far the largest spring gathering was at **Elland GP** where there were 200 on 27th, 320 on 28th and 600 on 29th April, with the highest numbers elsewhere 50 on 16th, 40+ on 28th and 60+ on 29th/30th April at **Blackmoorfoot**, c.40 on 18th April and 50+ on 21st May at **Scout Dike**, with 25 feeding at **Dewsbury SF** on the last date.

Breeding was reported at **Balk Lane Stables**, **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Emley Moor**, **Lindley**, **Lower Green Owlers**, **New Mill**, **Shelley**, **Upper Hardron**, **Wessenden** and **Salendine Nook**. At this last locality 3 farms had breeding birds but numbers were reported to be down on previous years at all of them. Birds were on territory at many other sites.

There were scarcely any post-breeding gatherings of note, the highest being at **Scout Dike** where there were c.70 on 6th and c.80 on 17th Aug and 100+ on 22nd Sept. 20 were at **Ringstone Edge** on 15th Aug, c.100 feeding in the **Clayton West/Emley** area on 16th Sept, c.20 over **Kirkheaton** on 22nd Sept, when 3 juvs were still being fed by ads at **Lindley** and 3 moved NW over **Lindley Moor** on 27th Sept.

More Oct records were received than usual. **Blackmoorfoot** had 27 on 1st when one was at **Salendine Nook**, 2 at **Kirkheaton** and 2 flew E at **Dewsbury SF** which also had 8 around on 2nd and 2 on 5th. One was at **Lindley** and 4 at **Pule Hill** on 3rd, one at **Broadstones** on 4th and 5 at **Holme Styes** on 5th. On 6th singles were over **Shelley** and **Lindley Moor**, 2 flew S over **Dalton** and 3 were at **Blackmoorfoot** which also had 7 on 7th, one on 9th and 2 on 12th. Remarkably the last of the year was a count of 40+ flying W over **Golcar** in the early morning of 21st Oct.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Migrant breeder (3).

Early individuals were at **Elland GP** on 4th and **Bretton Lakes** on 6th April but the next didn't appear until 16th, 2 more at **Bretton**, and 17th when 5 were at **Blackmoorfoot** and 4 each at **Ingbirchworth** and **Scout Dike**, then 4+ at **Elland GP** on 18th. Reports were received from only 2 further sites, **Lindley** and **Meal Hill**, before the end of April, indicating a late general arrival.

Breeding was reported only from **Dalton** (c.15 nests at one site), **Elland** (2 occupied nests), **Holly Bank Rd** (on 3 adjacent houses) **Lumb Lane**, **Ringstone Edge** (c.5 pairs) **Shelley** (at 2 sites) and **Sowood** (5 pairs).

There were few sizeable congregations or movements in spring, the highest counts being at **Blackmoorfoot**, only 17 in April and 14 in May, at **Elland GP**, 50 on 27th April, at **Dewsbury SF** in May, 30 on 1st, 20 on 4th, 25 on 16th, 150 W on 21st and 48 on 26th, 70 at **Scout Dike** on 21st and 20 at **Ringstone Edge** on 31st.

Max post breeding numbers were at **Royd Moor** 50 on 18th July and 5th Sept, **Scout Dike** c.50 on 25th July and 40 on 13th Sept, 50 at **Elland GP** on 30th Aug, 20 at **Ringstone Edge** on 15th Aug, at **Blackmoorfoot** in Aug 104 flew S on 19th, 50+ on 28th, 30+ on 29th and 39 flew S on 31st, c.40 at **Lindley** on 24th Aug, up to 20 all moving SE regularly at **Colnebridge SP** from 18th to 29th Sept. By far the largest numbers though were at **Dewsbury SF** in Sept where c.2000 moved SE between 07.30 and 09.30 hrs on 18th, c.800 E in the same time period on 23rd, 32 on 25th, 65 W on 26th and 8 W on 27th.

There were 3 Oct records, 3 at **Kirkheaton** and one at **Scout Dike** on 1st and at least one at **Dalton** on 5th.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (1).

The first arrival was on 20th April and the last a migrant on 17th Sept. Males were on territory in 6 potential breeding areas.

The Peak District survey located 7 singing males.

Cheesegate Nab – singing male on 20th to 24th April.

Holme Styes – 2 on 1st May, a pair and 2 other singing male on 16th May and 3 territorial males on 3rd June, including a bird carrying food.

Carlecotes Ponds – singing male from 24th April increasing to at least 4 in the area on 11th June.

Little Don Valley – 2 singing males on 9th May and a nest with 6 eggs on 22nd May; singing male still on 16th June.

Yateholme – singing male on 13th June.

Swinden Plantation – male in song briefly on 25th June.

Scout Dike – single migrants moving S on 22nd Aug and 5th Sept.

Kirkheaton – one S on 15th Sept.

Denby Dale – a migrant on 17th Sept.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (4-5).

The familiar pattern of recent years was again repeated with wintering birds at both ends of the year, in the first winter period territorial and passage birds overlapped.

In Jan 17 were in **Maythorn Lane** on 1st, up to 20 were at the former landfill site at **Honley Wood** remaining into Feb, at **Dewsbury SF** there were 23 on 9th, 11 on 14th, and 38 on 29th,

one at **Horbury SF** on 18th and up to 2 at **Emley Moor**. February saw one at **Harden** on 5th, 15 at **Black Moor** on 16th, 40 at **Castle Hill** (migrants?) on 23rd and 6 at **Ingbirchworth** on 29th.



Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Passage arrival became more obvious in March with 100+ on newly ploughed land at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 7th, 14 at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th then 32 on 17th, the first at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th followed by 54 moving N there on 17th, a flock of 14 at **Elland GP** on 14th, up to 50 birds moving over **Shelley** on 22nd, c.20 at **Digley** on 28th and 50 at **Royd Moor Hill** on a newly manured field on 29th. Breeding areas at **Buckstones** and **Scammonden** were occupied from mid-March. Further arrivals were indicated by a flock of 20+ at **Carlecotes** on 17th April and a count of 34 at **Digley** on 18th.

Breeding proof was obtained at **Broadstone**, **Buckstones**, **Lower Green Owers**, **Meltham** and **Wessenden** and many other sites held birds in the breeding season, although several observers considered that numbers had declined in recent years. The Peak District survey revealed 1740 birds in our area.

Dispersing breeding and passage birds were noted from mid-July. Probably the former category were c.20 at **Scout Dike** on 11th July and c.40 at **Royd Moor** on 22nd Aug. Presumed passage birds were over **Shelley** from 24th Aug to early Oct. At **Dewsbury SF** in Sept 70 on 5th, 14 on 15th, 120 on 26th, 50 on 27th, 60 on 28th and in Oct 75 on 2nd and 100 on 5th, with 6 presumed "winterers" on 14th Nov. 28 were counted in the **Harden/Snailsden** area

on 2nd Sept. About 100 drifted S over fields at **Cheesegate Nab** on 18th Sept, at **Kirkheaton** there were 10+ on 22nd Sept and 3 on 1st and 30th Oct, 2 flew S over **Dalton** on 6th Oct, 10+ were at **Royd Moor Hill** on 16th and at **Scammonden** on 17th Oct and at **Scout Dike** in Sept c.30 passed S on 1st, 20 were grounded on 10th, 180 moved S on 19th and c.90 were down on 25th. At **Thurlstone** c.40 moved S on a vmw on both 24th and 26th Oct.

What were probably wintering birds were at **Blackmoorfoot**, one on 10th, 6 on 24th and one on 30th Nov and in Dec one or two daily with 13 on 6th, 31 on 9th, 19 on 10th and 14 on 28th/29th, at **Dewsbury SF** 6 on 14th Nov, **Scout Dike** 18 on 23rd Nov and **Kirkheaton** 20+ on 23rd Nov, 5 on 4th, one on 28th and 10 on 29th Dec.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Scarce visitor.

Dewsbury SF again provided the only record, 2 on 2nd Nov, a typical date (JH).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare winter visitor.

There was an excellent series of records from **Dewsbury SF** in both winter periods. In the early months birds were present from the beginning of the year to at least 13th Feb, with a remarkable peak of 5 together on 15th Jan, and 3 on 5th and 14th Jan and 10th Feb. At the year-end one was present from 1st to 31st Dec (JH, PB).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Occasional migrant breeder (1) and passage migrant.

Reported from 6 sites, with evidence of breeding, but no indication of success at one.

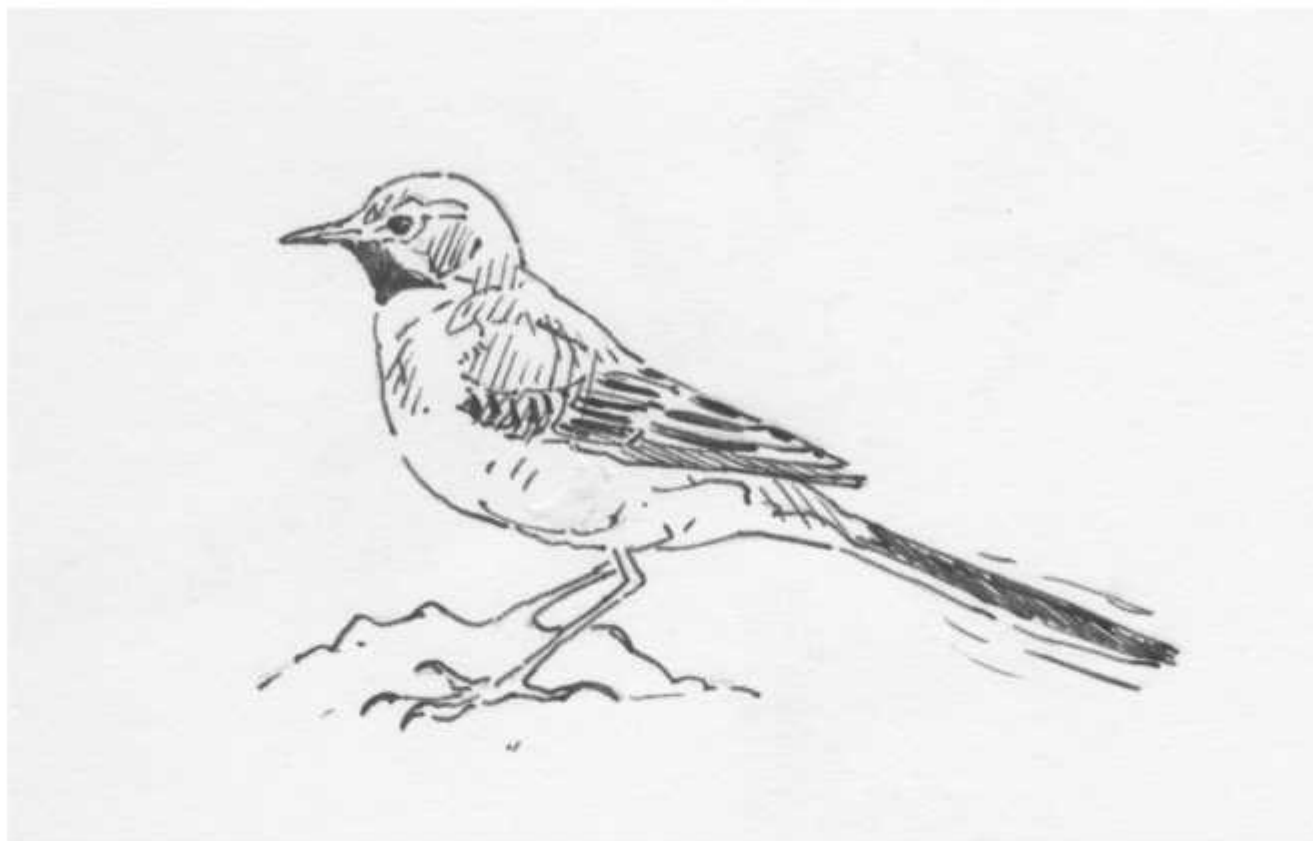
The first, at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th April, was a female showing characteristics of the blue-headed race *Motacilla flava flava*. (See the article on page 105 for a full account.) (PB).

At **Dewsbury SF** three males were present on 4th May, display was observed on 24th and 2 birds were carrying nest material on 26th. The male was seen again on 28th and a female on 30th but there were no further sightings until Aug when passage birds were present on 20th, 24th and 30th (JH, BA, DM).

Ringstone Edge – one on 12th May (HBC).

In autumn further records were a male at **Boshaw Whams** on 8th Aug, singles at **Baitings** on 1st and 22nd Aug and 2 on 5th Sept (HBC), and one with Meadow Pipits at **Royd Moor** on 22nd Aug (RJB).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
Resident breeder (2).



Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

There were reports from c.40 sites covering most parts of the area from the lowlands to the moorland fringes.

Breeding was confirmed by the River Calder at **Bradley Hall** (at least 4 juvs) on 11th June, **Golcar** (yg being fed at the canal on 12th May), **Heyden Bridge**, **Horbury Wyke** (5 yg had left the nest by 17th May), **Scout Dike** (2 juvs with an ad on 11th July), **Sparth Res** (2 ads food carrying on 6th June), **Tunnel End** (2 food carrying on 9th May) and presumably at **Jackson Bridge** where a juv was at a garden puddle on 11th Sept.

Pairs were also observed in the breeding season at **Almondbury**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Cliff Wood**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Dogley NR**, **Elland GP**, **Honley Bridge**, **Horbury Bridge**, **Little Don River** above **Langsett Res** (3), **Penny Spring Wood**, **Ramsden Res**, **Shelley Brook**, **Thornhill** on River Calder, and on streams above **Tunnel End Marsden** (3 pairs), with singles at this time at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Digley**, **Holmfirth**, **Milnsbridge** on River Colne, and **Stockmoor**. The Peak District survey located 16 pairs.

Birds were reported from a further 10 sites outside of the breeding season. One frequented a **Lockwood** garden on unspecified dates. Excluding family parties the only counts of more than 3 was of a flock of 9 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd Sept, which was presumed to be a pre-roost gathering.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Resident breeder and passage migrant/winter visitor.

This remains an under-reported species, with records from less than 30 sites.

In the early months a count of 20+ at **Horbury SF** on 18th Jan was comfortably the highest until passage birds began to appear in March when one flew S at **Harden** on 5th, 10 were at **Bradley Hall** on 10th and 20+ on a recently mowed field at **Royd Moor Hill**.

Breeding was confirmed at **Emley Tx, Harden, Jagger Lane (Emley), Scout Dike** and at several farms in the **Lindley Moor, Outlane, Pole Moor** areas. Additional pairs were at **Boshaw Whams, Bradley Hall Farm, Dovestones, Eastergate, Elland GP, Holme Styas, Ingbirchworth Res, Langsett and Upper Maythorn**.

Few post-breeding season counts were received and numbers were relatively low, **Dewsbury SF** having the largest congregations with 14 (including 10 juvs) on 9th Aug, at least 38 on one bed with others present on many others on 30th Aug, and in Sept 32 on 4th, 38 on 6th and 30+ on 19th. Elsewhere 12+ at **Ringstone Edge** on 20th July was the only double figure count. Light passage was noted over **Shelley** in late Sept/early Oct max 6 and at **Scout Dike** where 18 moved S on 19th Sept.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Uncommon passage migrant.

Following the very good year in 2003, this year was just the opposite, the only records being of 3 at **Scout Dike** on 17th (MC, RJB) and male and female at **Shepley** on 18th April (SRG) and one at **Ringstone Edge** on 7th May (HBC).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Eruptive winter visitor, rare to uncommon,

The small influx at the end of 2003 continued into 2004 in increased numbers. Nine sites had birds in the early months:

Dalton – 60 on 2nd Jan.

Holmfirth – present from Jan to March, max count 30.

Marsh – 50 in Jim Lane on 9th Jan.

Folly Hall – at Hotshots in Jan 60 on 15th, 65 on 16th and 60 – 70 on 17th.

Birkby – one was rescued from a cat on 21st Jan.

Paddock – 4 were seen from a train near the Gledholt tunnel on 6th Feb.

Aspley – c.20 in an ash tree near Kwiksavé on 3rd March.

Shepley – c.15 on 26th March.

Leeds Rd – 35 in MacDonald's car park on 25th March.

A much bigger influx occurred at the year end with birds occurring at 15 sites, although this was probably an interchange of birds between several of these, especially in the **Marsh, Paddock, Oakes, Salendine Nook, Lindley Moor** areas.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in Nov 27 flew W at 09.25 hrs on 11th and 13 also W at 14.40 hrs on 12th. This was a new species for the site, the 204th to be recorded there (MLD).

It was not until 3 weeks later that the next birds arrived:

Denby Dale – 5 on 1st Dec.

Town Centre – single near the Fire Station on 3rd and 14th Dec.

Shelley – one in the observer's garden on 4th Dec.

Marsh – 80 on 7th and c.50 on 20th Dec in Jim Lane, one at the junction of Trinity St and Mountjoy Rd on 14th Dec, 80 in Heaton Rd on 28th.

Oakes – in Dec 200+ near the Merrie England, 60 in Goldington Ave on 10th and 200+ near the Merrie England again on 11th and 12th.

Lindley Moor – 200+ flew W low over the observer's garden at 13.20 hrs on 10th Dec, probably the same birds as above.

Burnlee – 25+ flew towards Holmebridge on 28th Dec.

Wooldale – one at Ford Mill on 28th Dec.

Brighouse – 70 on 30th Dec.

Folly Hall – 50+ at Hotshots on 30th, c.30 in Victoria Rd on 31st.

Shepley – 2 on 31st Dec.

Thornton Lodge – 32 behind the Junction Inn on 31st Dec.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2).



Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

After what was considered to be a very unhealthy situation in 2003 the status of this species seems to have deteriorated even further in 2004. Evidence of breeding was obtained from only 5 sites and only 4 other pairs were located. However no reports were forthcoming from some known sites in the S of the area. The Peak District survey revealed 7 pairs in our area.

Nests were found at **Oxygrains Beck** and **Heyden Bridge**, young were observed at **Eastergate** and food carrying in **Hey Green** and **Tunnel End**, and a bird was carrying nest material at **Elland GP**. A pair was copulating on the **Fenay Beck** at **Fenay Bridge** on 29th May and further pairs were present at **Chew Brook**, **Dovestone Clough**, **Meltham** and **Thunderbridge**. A singing male was near **Wessenden Res** on 16th Jan and singles were present in the breeding season at **Holmfirth**, **Milnsbridge**, **Raikes Dike** and **Sparth Res**.

Extra-breeding season birds were located at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Deer Hill**, **Golcar Canal**, **Marsden Clough**, **Morton Wood**, **Shelley Brook**, **Shepley** and **Windybank Wood**.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Resident breeder (4).

Considerably more information for this species was received compared with recent years particularly in the form of number counts. A circuit in the **Langsett** area produced 8 singing males on 18th March and 26 singing male on a different route on 22nd June, at **Elland GP** 15 were counted on 11th April and in May 11 on both 2nd and 30th, at **Scholes** 8 on 12th April and on 5th May 5 in the **Holme Moss** area and 7 at **Heyden Moor**. The Peak District survey reported 207 birds in our area.

Breeding was reported from **Lindley Moor**, **Meal Hill**, **Shelley**, **Colnebridge SP** (at least 3 pairs with a pair + 7 newly fledged yg on 8th June), **Harden** (juv on 14th June) and nest building at **Taylor Hill**. This under-reported species was also recorded at a further 25 sites.

There were no significant counts in the second half of the year the max being 8 at **Elland GP** on 20th July and 5 there on 19th Dec.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*
Resident breeder (4).

Despite last year's request for more records of this species in view of its national decline in woodland of 58% between 1966 and 1999, information was again very sparse.

Breeding was reported only from **Lindley Moor**, **New Mill**, **Meal Hill**, **Shelley**, **Emley Tx**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Dalton** and probably at **Almondbury**.

The only other reports come from **Wooldale**, **Holmfirth**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Taylor Hill**, **Lockwood**, **Bretton Lakes** and **Elland GP**.

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



Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Once again a much under-reported species.

Attempted breeding was reported from **Almondbury** (2 juvs), **Blacker Beck** (failed at egg stage), **Colnebridge SP** (at least 3 pairs), **Fixby** (successful), **Lindley Moor** (juvs present), **New Mill** (juv on early date of 12th April), **Emley Tx**, **Shelley**, with counts of singing males of 4 at **Dovestone**, 6 at **Scholes** and 5 in **Magdale** in March/April.

No significant numbers were reported and there was no indication of an autumn influx.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Migrant breeder (1-2).

Birds were located at 10 sites, 4 of them involving passage individuals. 7 singing males were involved, present between 19th April and 29th Aug.

Horbury Strands –male on 19th/20th April. but not subsequently.

Dovestones –male on 15th May.

Little Don Valley – 2M on 9th May.

Chew Piece –male on 11th and 15th May.

Crossley's Plantation – singing male on 16th May.

Holme Styes area – 2 singing males on 16th May, then on 8th June 5 birds present including 4 singing males and a female in a different area.

Denby Dale – male on 9th July.

Scout Dike – a moulting male from 24th July to 29th Aug, a “spotty” juv on 18th July and 2 1st W F on 25th July – probably different birds.

Baitings – one on 22nd Aug.

The Peak District survey reported 2 pairs in our area.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor.

This appears to be one of our summer migrants doing well. There were no early arrivals, the earliest a male in the **Wessenden Valley** on 3rd May followed by males at **Ingbirchworth** on 6th, **Scout Dike** on 8th, **Denby Delph Quarry** on 9th, **Royd Edge** on 12th, **Harden** on 13th, **Scammonden** on 16th and at a further 6 sites by the month end, with 4 additional sites in June.

A total of 24 singing males were located as follows (singles unless stated otherwise):- **Back Clough**, **Blakeley** (2), **Buckstones**, **Deer Hill** (2+), **Denby Delph**, **Hardron** (2), **Ingbirchworth**, **Lower Don Valley**, **Oxygrains**, **Pule Hill** (2), **Royd Edge**, **Scammonden**, **Wessenden Valley**, **Windleden** and **Winscar**. Breeding was confirmed at **Buckstones**, **Wessenden**, **Deer Hill**, **Winscar** and **Windledon**. A pair still had young probably from a 2nd brood, at **Wessenden** on 1st Aug. The Peak District survey revealed 24 pairs in our area.

Presumed passage birds were at **Scout Dike** on 8th May and in autumn on 12th (2) and 24th Sept (the last of the year), at **Ringstone Edge** on 6th Aug, and at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th, 19th and 28th Aug and 1st and 23rd Sept.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Occasional breeder (1) and passage and winter visitor, increasing.

The species was again scarce in the early months, the only Jan record being a male at **Scammonden** on 4th, then none until late Feb when a pair was at **Broadstones** and a male and female at **Oldfield Farm** on 26th and 2 near **Blackmoorfoot** on 28th.

Sightings increased in March with a pair at **Harden** on 6th and one in the observer's garden on 8th, a female at **Wilshaw** on 16th, 4 at **Blackmoorfoot** and 2 pairs at **Scammonden** on 17th, **Blackmoorfoot** again on 23rd (female) and 25th (male and female), **Digley** 2 males on 27th, **Winscar** a pair on 28th and a pair at **Buckstones** on 29th.

The species appeared to have a successful breeding season, confirmation being obtained at 11 sites, as follows:-

Broadstones – a pair with 2 juvs on 25th May and 4th June.

Buckstones – a pair with young out of the nest on 25th May and up to 3 large young in June/July, and young being fed in the nest on 23rd July (2nd brood or 2nd pair?).

Chew Hills – a pair food carrying on 17th May.

Deer Hill – at least 3 pairs bred successfully.

Green Hill Farm, Marsden- broods of 1 and 2 juvs on 22nd June.

Redbrook Clough – 2 pairs with yg on 5th June.
Meltham Moor – pair with yg on 12th June.
Shiny Brook – 2 pairs with yg out of the nest on 23rd May.
Slaithwaite Moor – yg out of the nest on 26th June.
Wessenden Valley – pair nest building on 11th April.
Winscar – pair March – June and a juv on 26th June.

Birds were also present in the breeding season at **Chew Valley**, **Dovestones**, **Little Don Valley**, **Oxygrains** and **Scammonden**, without any proof of breeding being obtained.

There were no high post-breeding numbers and no obvious autumnal influx. Max at **Deer Hill** was 5+ on 16th Sept and 7+ on 17th Oct with small numbers to the year-end, at **Scammonden** there were 7 (including 5 males) on 3rd Oct and a pair on 24th Oct and 19th Dec. The only other records were in the **Wessenden Valley** with 2 on 5th Sept, one at **Windleden Edge** on 19th Sept, a male at **Wood Nook** on 7th Oct, a pair at **Ingbirchworth** on 27th Oct, male and female in **Ramdsden Clough** on 13th Nov, an imm female at **Whitley Common** on 27th Nov, a female at **Blackmoorfoot** from 9th Aug to 31st Dec and male and female on the **Meltham** catchment on 11th Dec.

The Peak District survey revealed 13 pairs in our area.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Migrant breeder (1-2) and passage visitor.

Three males on **Meltham Cop** and 3 (2 males) at **Scammonden** on 17th March were almost a week earlier than the next on 22nd/23rd when 4 (3 males) were near **Blackmoorfoot**. After this birds appeared at 5 new sites with 4 near **Ingbirchworth** on 24th, 13 in groups of 8 and 5 at **Digley** on 26th and 11 (7 males) here on 28th, “several” males at **Winscar** on 27th and 4 there on 28th, a male at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th and 2 females on 29th, a singing male at **Pule Hill** on 28th and a male at **Pule Hill** on 29th. The high proportion of males in these early arrivals is typical.

Birds were reported from 28 sites in April but the first half of the month saw only small numbers arriving at **Meltham**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Denby Dale**, **Digley**, **Wessenden**, **Lower Don Valley**, **Scammonden** (5 including 1 male on 4th), **Oxygrain**, **Black Hill**, **Dovestones**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Deer Hill**, but it was not until late in the month that weather conditions enabled a further large influx to take place.

On 17th April 2 were at **Scout Dike** with 7 the following day and 8 on 22nd, whilst at **Blackmoorfoot** fields to the W held 13 on 17th, 21 on 20th and 13 on 24th. The 18th April also saw 5 at **Winscar**, 14 at **Broadstones** and 4 at **Scammonden**. 11 were at **Ingbirchworth** and at least 17 at **Broadstones** on 20th, 10 at **Ingbirchworth** on 22nd, 8 in one field at **Broadstones** on 23rd, a flock of 7 at **Carlecotes**, 2 at **Ringstone Edge** and 5 at **Harden** on 24th, 5 at a different site in **Harden** and 4 at **Broadstones** on 25th. One observer (MC) counted 28 on 18th, 13 on 24th and 11 on 25th April. Some of these birds were of the Greenland race *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa* (**Winscar** on 18th, 1 at **Scout Dike** on 22nd, some at **Broadstones** on 18th and 25th) and considered to be of this race at **Ringstone Edge** on 24th as were probably many of the others.

Passage birds continued to be encountered in the first two weeks of May with, at **Dewsbury SF** a male on 2nd, 2 males and 3 females on 4th and a female at **Scammonden** on the former date. **Blackmoorfoot** had a good series of records with 2 on 3rd, 6 on 4th, 8 on 5th, 6 on 6th, 3 on 7th and 4 on 10th/11th all in fields to the W. At least 6 were on plough land in **Spicer House Lane** on 8th when one was at **New Mill** and 3 Greenlanders remained at **Scout Dike** from 8th to 11th. A female was at **Broadstones** on 9th and a male, probably on territory, at **Elysium** on the 16th and singles were reported regularly from **Ringstone Edge**.

Breeding was confirmed only at **Buckstones** and **Pule Hill**, with further pairs in suitable habitat in the **Chew Valley**, at **Deer Hill**, **Oxygrains**, near **Scammonden** and in the **Wessenden Valley**, and a juv, perhaps having been bred nearby, was at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th/21st July. The Peak district survey reported 16 pairs in our area.

There were few post-breeding records apart from a good showing in well-watched fields W of **Blackmoorfoot** with 6 on 21st Aug and singles on a further 11 dates during the month from 18th, singles on 11th to 14th, 16th to 18th and 20th Sept with 2 on 15th, 3 on 19th and finally 2 on 1st Oct, when one was also at **Deer Hill**, which also had one on 9th Sept. Elsewhere one was at **Royd Moor** on 15th Aug, up to 5 at **Scout Dike** between 10th and 18th Sept, one on the roof of the clubhouse at **Kirkheaton CC** on 15th Sept, male and female Greenlanders at **Windleden Edge** on 19th Sept and the last of the year was a female in the **Isle of Skye** quarry on 6th Oct.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage migrant.

The dire situation of the previous few years showed a slight improvement with breeding proved at 2 sites and singing males at 6 other locations. Birds were present in the area from 26th March.

Digley area – a male on 26th, 30th and 31st March, male and female on 9th, 7 feeding together on 12th April (and 4 reported on the same date which may have been different birds) and a male and 2 females on 14th April.

Saltergate – 1 on 27th March.

Deer Hill/West Nab – a male near Wessenden Head Res on 2nd April and a pair later bred in the area.

Oxygrains Beck – a male on 4th April.

Dovestones – a male on 17th April.

Cheesegate Nab – 3 passage birds flew high towards Broadstones on 18th April, one on 20th April.

Heyden Moor – singing male on 21st April and 7th May.

Wessenden Valley – a singing male and a female at Wessenden Lodge on 25th April and a singing male at **Shiny Brook** on 15th and 23rd May.

Meltham Moor – a pair with yg out of the nest on 11th and 12th June.

Red Lane, Meltham – a male on 17th June.

Winscar – a male in the S car park on 26th June.

There were 2 autumn records, one calling at **Blakeley** on 3rd Oct and an imm in the **Little Don Valley** on 5th Nov

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor.

The only counts received at the beginning of the year were 5 at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th Jan, 11 in an **Almondbury** garden on 18th Jan and then on 13th March, and 8 in a garden at **Taylor Hill** on 21st.



Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Song was noted at **Lindley** from 4th March and at **New Mill** from 20th. Successful breeding occurred at **Lindley Moor**, **New Mill**, **Taylor Hill**, again at altitude at **Harden**, **Almondbury** and **Fixby**. Worryingly 4 nests in the **Horbury/Blacker Beck/Stoneycliffe Wood** area all failed as did 4 attempts in the observer's back garden at **Lindley Moor**, but a pair in the front garden raised 2 yg. There was a count of 13 from **Elland GP** on 30th May.

Autumn influxes were reported from **Colnebridge SP** where 30/40 were present on 21st Oct, at **Scout Dike** where 19 were counted on 9th Nov and also in Nov at **Shelley Whins** where up to 30 moved through with up to 20 remaining to the year end. Other counts came from **Lindley Moor** with 10+ feeding in a garden from Sept to Dec and **Elland GP** with 23 on 31st Oct, and in Dec 14 on 6th and 18 on 19th. High numbers were reported at **Bretton Lakes** in Dec, but no counts were made.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

In the early months the highest numbers as expected were in March and April as birds returned to their continental breeding grounds. The last sighting was a significant flock on 26th April. Three figure counts were achieved in each of the first four months.



Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

January – Two sites, **Cartwoorth Moor** with c.500 on 18th and **Blackmoorfoot** with 180 on 27th, had three figure counts. The highest counts elsewhere were c.70 at **Broadstones** on 19th, 95 at **Deer Hill** on 26th, 50 at both **Bretton** on 17th and **Shepley** on 22nd and up to 40 at **Oldfield/Honley Moor** all month. 4 other sites had double figures and single figures only were at 3 other sites.

February – birds were reported from only 3 sites. **Blackmoorfoot** had 36 on 6th, 29 on 11th, 107 on 12th/13th, 65 on 15th and 7 on 27th; 200+ were near **Ingbirchworth** on 7th and c.130 at **Scout Dike** on 21st.

March – the number of sites reporting birds increased to 11 with 3 figure counts at 7 of these. The **Ingbirchworth** area had the highest numbers with 600+ on 19th and 800+ on 24th; the other 3 figure counts were 100 at **Harden** on 13th, c.100 NW at **Far Swinden** on 18th, c.200 at **Scout Dike** on 21st, 230 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd, c.150 at **Digley** and 300+ at **Wilshaw** both on 28th. Interestingly, with the exception of the **Harden** birds and c.50 at **Bretton** on 7th,

all records were from 18th onwards. The remaining counts were 30 N over **Shelley** on 20th, 4 at **Crosland Hill** on 22nd, 65 at **Scout Dike** on 27th, 33 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 28th and c.25 at **Oldfield/Honley Moor** at the month end.

April – the great majority of sightings were in the first half of the month, but the highest numbers were also on the latest dates. 100 were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st, 120 at **Oldfield** and c.100 at **Horn Lane, Ingbirchworth** on 2nd, 140 at **Snap Res** on 5th, 75 at **Bretton** on 6th, 40+ NW over **Dalton** on 15th, c.60 at **Scout Dike** on 18th, the last of the year there, 300+ near the **Victoria, Hepworth** on 26th and 320+ at **Flight Hill** on 25th, these last two sightings possibly involving the same birds. Singles at **Shelley** on 18th and 24th were the only other sightings reported.

The forerunner of the autumn arrival appeared on the fairly typical date of 3rd Oct and by the end of the month reports had been received from 15 sites. Very atypically large numbers were moving at the end of the year and included the highest count for some years.

October – after 2 at **Scammonden** on 3rd and 3 over **Shelley** on 7th a high count of 280+ was made at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th that also had 8 on 10th and 28 on 12th. Four were at **Honley Moor** on 11th, 14 at **Scout Dike** on 12th and c.12 at **Lindley** on 17th, when 27 were also at **Scammonden**. A significant increase was obvious on 18th when c.120 were at **Scout Dike**, 150 at **Baitings** and 60+ at **New Mill**. After double figure counts at 5 sites there was a further surge in numbers with c.250 at **Scholes** on 23rd and a large movement there on 31st, 80+ at **Crosland Hill** and 100 S over **Fixby** on 28th, with 250 SSW at the latter site on 31st, 140 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 29th, c.400 at **Scout Dike** on 30th and 247 moving S at **Baitings** on 31st.

November – reported from only 6 sites, with just 2 counts in 3 figures, 100 flying W to roost at **Ringstone Edge** on 5th and c.220 at **Scout Dike** on 7th reducing there to 44 on 23rd. Elsewhere 70 were at **Royd Edge** on 1st, a max of 63 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th, 60+ at **Netherthong** on 28th and “many” at **Oxspring** on 27th.

December – the only records in the first 3 weeks of the month were small numbers at **Windybank Wood** on 1st and **Meltham Catchment** on 11th, 1 at **Brown Knoll** on 8th and 100 W over **Lindley Moor** on 10th and 8 there on 19th. From 25th onwards small numbers were noted at **Bradley Hall, Colnebridge SP, Marsh** and **Blackmoorfoot**, and much larger numbers from 28th at 5 sites. On 28th 150+ were at **Netherthong** and 100+ there on 31st, 22 flew W at **Dewsbury SF** on 29th, 3-400 were at **Scholes** and c.300 dropped in at **Scout Dike** on 31st, but all these numbers were dwarfed by a count of c.6000 moving W at **Thornhill Millbank** between 07.20 and 08.30 hrs on 30th.

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

The pattern of previous years was repeated again with reports from about 50 sites and after the first at **Taylor Hill** on 29th Jan, just over 70 singing males recorded, including 12 in the **Marsden** area, up to 6 at **Elland GP**, 5 around **Almondbury, Salendine Nook** and **Langsett Res**. The numbers in the **Salendine Nook/Lindley** area signalled a distinct increase.

Most records were in the breeding season, but evidence of successful breeding was only obtained at **Shelley, Salendine Nook** and **Lindley Moor** and probably at **Colnebridge SP** (3

pairs present). As with Blackbird, a worrying feature was the failure of 4 nests in the **Stoneycliffe Wood/Blacker Beck** area, all at the egg stage.

Outside the breeding season three at **Dewsbury SF** on 5th and 14th Jan were unusual and 6 in **Norman Park** on 14th coincided with an arrival of Redwings; otherwise no autumn influxes were apparent.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Numbers at the end of 2003 were very low and their presence was only reported at 7 sites. The situation improved in Jan but birds became very scarce in Feb. Migrants were noted at 4 sites in March, but none remained into April.

January – reported from 11 sites with double figure counts as follows: 20-30 throughout at **Oldfield**, c.12 by the **Ring Road** in the **Town Centre** on 2nd, 10 at **Elland** and **Golcar SF** on 10th, c.20 briefly in a garden at **Meal Hill** on 18th, when c.30 including a bird with a white head were at **Horbury SF**, 30 at **Shaw Wood** on 25th, 13 in a **Fixby** garden on 31st. Single birds occurred at 3 other sites.

February – apart from a flock of 250 moving SW over **Fixby** on 29th only 5 sites had low single figures, max 8 at **Fixby** on 22nd and 6 at **Colnebridge SP** on 14th.

March – movements were noted at 3 sites. At **Fixby** 60 flew W on 3rd, 30 S on 9th, 30 W on 16th and 9 were grounded on 14th. 15 grounded migrants were in the observer's garden at **Harden** on 13th, 38 at **Hullen Edge** on 14th, and some found as part of a mixed flock of c.100 with Fieldfares over **Far Swinden** on 18th. The only other report was of a single bird at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th, this site's sole record in the early months.

After 2 reports in Sept the next was not until the more typical date of 7th Oct and birds appeared at a further 7 sites in the next week, and included a huge movement at one site on 10th, though numbers elsewhere were very modest. There were many more reports in Nov/Dec than in previous years.

September – 18 over **Colnebridge SP** on 12th and 3 S at **Dewsbury SF** on 27th.

October – 2 over **Shelley** on 7th, 3 over **Dalton** on 8th 100+ at **Scout Dike**, 80 S at **Upperthong** and 20+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th, with the last site having birds on a further 6 dates during the month, max 27 on 15th. A massive movement took place over **Baitings** on 10th, involving 5000 birds, but this was not reflected anywhere else, with just 8 at **Scammonden** and 1 at **Birkby** on the same date and no more until c.100 flew NE over **Dalton** at midday on 12th. In fact the highest counts later in the month were 30 at **Scout Dike** on 20th and 100 at **Denby Dale** (first in that area) on 25th. Five “new” sites had small numbers. On 16th 1 flew into a window in **Lindley** and fortunately recovered.

November – sightings were made at 15 locations during the month, mainly in single or low double figures, the exception being 50 at **Golcar** on 10th, “hundreds” at **Miry Lane**, **Holmroyd** on 13th, 74 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 14th, 100 at **Thunderbridge** on 23rd, “high double figures” at **Squirrel Ditch** on 25th and many in a mixed flock numbering 500 with

Fieldfares at **Ozzings** on 27th, 20 moved W to roost at **Ringstone Edge** on 5th and a general increase was noted in the **Birkby** area.

December – in contrast to 2003, when birds were reported at only 7 sites, records were received this year from 13 localities, mainly at the month end, although numbers did not exceed 50 anywhere. The highest counts were up to 50 regularly at **Shelley Whins**, 28 at **Brown Knoll Wood** on 8th, 30 at **Bretton** on 5th, c.20 at **Bradley Hall** on 25th, 50 feeding on holly at **Old Lindley** on 26th and 31st, 35 at **Scout Dike** on 27th, 30+ at **Colnebridge SP** and a similar number at **Kirkheaton** on 29th, and 40+ at **Blackmoorfoot** from 29th to 31st. Five other sites had single figures.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3).

Reports were received from 35 sites, a 25% increase on 2003.

The only sizeable count before the breeding season was of 10 at **Shaw Wood** on 25th Jan.

There was little or no proof of breeding. A pair was reported to have been at **Emley Tx** and a pair was nesting at **Hepworth** on 26th April. At **Ossett** a nest failed with young. Other pairs were at **Netherthong**, **Oldfield**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Shelley**, **Lower Stones Wood** (2) and singing males at **Black Beck**, **Colnebridge SP**, **New Mill**, **Penny Spring Wood** (2) and **Taylor Hill**, and a pair was giving alarm calls at **Stoneycliffe Wood** on 23rd May.

Post-breeding counts were an improvement on 2003, with at **Dewsbury SF** 12 on 1st and 3rd Aug, 13 on 7th, 74 on 9th, 25th and 26th and 14 on 28th Sept, 16 in **Outlane** on 12th Aug, at **Lindley Rec** in Aug 20 on 9th, 17 on 20th, 26 on 23rd and c.40 on 25th, 25 at **Waterloo** on 24th Aug, 13 at **Scout Dike** on 29th Aug, 10 at **Kirkheaton** on 7th Sept and 15th Oct and 8 at **Taylor Hill** on 12th Nov as maxima.

Song was reported in Dec from **Colnebridge SP** and **Shelley**.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Occasional migrant breeder (1).

There were just 2 records of reeling birds on single dates, at **Scammonden** on 24th April (JB) and **Elland GP** on 12th May (HBC).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1).

Another very disappointing year, with breeding proved at only one site and reduced numbers at other formerly reliable localities. Birds were present between 19th April and 9th Sept.

Scout Dike – 1 briefly on passage on 19th April and a singing male on 16th May only.

Colnebridge SP – a singing male on 25th April and a second on 10th May. One was carrying nest material on 2nd June and one food carrying on 5th Aug.

Horbury Strands – 1 on 2nd May, a below par showing at this site.

Dewsbury SF – a singing male from 10th May with 2 on 16th and 18th.
Elland GP – singles on 11th and 30th May only, extremely disappointing.
Blackmoorfoot – a singing male on 24th May.
Tunnel End – a singing male on 27th June only.
Ringstone Edge – one in a nearby garden on 9th Aug.
Scammonden – a passage bird on 9th Sept.



Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Rare breeder (1) and passage migrant.

Observed at 3 sites, with breeding evidence from just one.

Elland GP – a singing male from 5th May onwards increased to 2 on 11th. 2 pairs probably nested and the last record was on 20th July.

Colnebridge SP – 2 singing males on 30th May and 13th June and one still singing on 27th June, but there was no breeding evidence. Last record on 21st July.

Ravensthorpe GP – a singing male in a small phragmites bed on 20th June and 11th July.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3) and scarce winter visitor.



Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

In contrast with the previous species Blackcap seems to be going from strength to strength in the area, with c.75 singing males in 2002, c.90 in 2003 and at least 112 this year. Despite this, successful breeding was reported from only 2 sites.

Wintering birds were at only 5 sites, three of which had the species in late 2003, in the early months. A female visited a feeder at **Edgerton** on 1st Jan, at **Fixby** male and female were present at a garden feeding station from 1st Jan to 30th March and were joined by a second female on 22nd Feb and 12th and 22nd March, a male was in a **Shelley** garden on 18th and 28th Jan and a female was there on 16th Feb, and a male drank from a garden bird bath at **Lockwood** on 23rd Feb.

A most remarkable series of records came from a garden at **Taylor Hill** (where a female had been present on 31/12/03). Birds were recorded on 75 dates between 1st Jan and 8th April with 3 on 18 dates, 4 on 7 dates, 5 on 20th Jan (including 4 females) and included 2 males and 2 females on 7 dates. A singing male (one of the winterers ?) was present from 9th April (MJW).

Presumed spring arrivals began with a male at **Elland GP** on 9th April, followed by singles at **Blacker Beck** on 12th, **Shelley** and **Shepley** on 18th, **Horbury Wyke** on 19th, **Colnebridge SP** on 22nd, **Dewsbury SF** and **Bretton Lakes** on 24th, **Bradley Hall** on 25th, **Hepworth** and **Lockwood** on 26th and **Windybank Wood** on 27th.

At least 112 singing males were reported from c.40 sites and several held up to 4 males, with even higher numbers at **Bradley Hall Farm** (6), **Horbury Wyke** (6+), **Marsden** area and **Elland GP** (10 each) and the remarkable total of 25 was reported from **Bretton Lakes** on 24th April. Breeding was proven at **Blackmoorfoot** (but predated), **Carr Wood**, **Jenkinson Wood**, **New Hall Wood**, **Scout Dike** (probable only), **Shelley** and **Stockmoor Common**.

There were scarcely any records after the end of July. **Elland GP** recorded its last on 18th, **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st and **Thunderbridge** on 30th July. In Aug 2 were at **Scout Dike** on 8th, with the last on 9th Sept, males were in gardens in **Wooldale** on 8th Oct, **Shelley** on 10th Nov and **Birkby** on 19th Nov, but the **Taylor Hill** garden held none.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2).

There was a further decline in the number of singing males reported from c.60 in 2002 to 41 in 2003 to only 36 this year, although the number of sites remained broadly the same at 22. Birds were reported from 24th April to 13th June only.

The first arrival was a singing male at **Bretton Lakes** on 24th April, followed by 2 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 25th and 3 at **Elland GP** on 28th, as the only others during that month. Single singing males were located at **Clough Wood** and **Smith Wood** on 1st May with the next at **Shelley** (which did not stay) and **Royd House Wood** on 7th and **Orange Wood** on 8th. Singing males were recorded at a further 10 sites in May.

The only report of successful breeding came from **Stockmoor Common** where a nest and eggs were located on 5th June.

At most sites only one or two singing males were present, but **Elland GP** had up to 8 in mid May, when 3 were also located at **Bretton Lakes** with "several" reported there in early June. The last records for the year came from **Elland GP** (3) and **Colnebridge SP** (1), all singing males on the very early date on 13th June.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1) and passage visitor

The number of sites from which the species was reported was down from 11 in 2003 to just 6, but there was no proof of breeding.

Bullcliffe Colliery – a probable passage bird on 24th April (SRG).

Thornhill Millbank – a singing male on 27th April, 14th May, 25th May to 4th June and 25th June, with 3 singing males on 3rd May (JH).

Denby Dale – a passage bird on 30th April (TM).

Flockton – the pair at a regular site had returned by 30th April (SRG).

Scout Dike – at least one, probably 2 singing males from 9th to 16th May, 2 on 22nd May, in July 2 on 7th, 1 on 17th and 2 on 27th, in Aug 4 on 1st, 2 on 8th, 1 on 10th and 22nd (RJB, MC, BA).

Shelley – a singing male in mid-May (SRG).

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2).

A minimum of 54 singing males were reported at 21 sites, but breeding evidence was obtained at only 3 localities – **Colnebridge SP**, **Scout Dike** and **Shelley**. The first arrival was on 17th April and the last on 10th Sept, just one day later in each case than in 2003.

The first to arrive was a singing male at **Elland GP** on 17th April followed later in the month by 4 at **Scout Dike** and 1 at **Colnebridge SP** on 24th, 5 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 25th, 1 at **Horbury Wyke** on 27th and at **Shelley** on 30th. 4 other sites had birds in the 1st week of May. By mid-May 8 singing males were present at each of **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Dewsbury SF** and **Elland GP** with 6 in the **Horbury** area. Elsewhere singing males (singles unless otherwise stated) were located at **Blacker Beck** (1+), **Brockholes**, **Brownstones** (2), **Colnebridge SP** (2), **Cowcliffe**, **Dalton**, **Deane Dike Lane**, **Denby Dale**, **Langsett**, **Lepton**, **Linthwaite**, **Ravensthorpe GP**, **Royd Moor** (2), **Scammonden** (2), **Scout Dike** (4+), **Shelley** (2), and **Tunnel End**. Song was reported until mid July.

Breeding was proved at only 3 sites however. At **Colnebridge SP** there was a pair and at least 3 yg on 6th July; at **Scout Dike** there were 2 juvs on 25th July; and at **Shelley Whins**.

Records after the breeding season were very scarce, with a passage bird at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd July, in Aug at **Dewsbury SF** 1 on 1st and at least 2 on 30th and in Sept 3 on 4th, 2 on 5th, 1 on 8th/9th. 1 or 2 remained at **Scout Dike** until 10th Sept.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Migrant breeder (1).

There was no improvement in the species status after last year's disastrous showing, with again just one report of a singing male in **Yew Tree Wood, Shepley** on 3rd May only.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder (3) and passage visitor.

Two individuals were reported in the first winter period, at **Bretton Lakes** on 3rd and at **Jim Lane, Marsh** on 8th Jan.

The earliest spring arrival was a male at **Golcar SW** on 19th March. By the end of the month birds were seen or heard at a further 14 sites as follows (singles unless otherwise stated):

Blacker Beck and **Elland GP** on 20th, **Bretton Lakes** (2) and **Scout Dike** (2) on 24th, **Ingbirchworth** (several) on 27th, **Horbury**, **Marsden**, and 2 additional sites at **Golcar** on 28th, **Lumb Lane** (4) on 29th, **Colnebridge SP** and **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th, and **Dalton** on 31st. 5 more sites held birds by the end of the first week in April. This constitutes a considerably later arrival than in 2003 when a minimum of 34 sites were occupied by the end of March, but represents a good total compared with other recent years.

During the breeding season just over 60 sites held a total of at least 122 singing males, but records from other sites where birds are known to occur weren't forthcoming. In 2003 over 150 singing males were recorded from c.70 sites. The highest counts of singing males were at

Elland GP with 17 on 11th April and **Bretton Lakes** with 10+ on 15th May, while **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Denby Dale** and **Carr Wood** each held 5, and 4 were in each of the **Fixby** and **Lumb Lane** areas. In addition the species was widespread in the **Blacker Beck/Horbury** area, but no counts were made.

Breeding was reported from **Dogley NR** and **Woodsome**, but attempts at **Horbury Wyke** and **New Hall Wood** both failed at the young stage.

Birds were still widespread to the end of Aug, and in Sept were at **Marsden** and **Colnebridge SP** (3) on 1st, **Scout Dike** (several) on 5th, **Blackmoorfoot** (singing male) on 16th, **Horbury** (2) on 19th and in a **Taylor Hill** garden on 17th and 29th. Some lingered into Oct (or were continental migrants) with a singing male at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st to 7th, one at **Shelley** on 4th, singles at **Royd Moor** on 9th and 18th, 2 at **Bretton** on 10th, 1 at **Colnebridge SP** on 16th and the last of the year was a singing male at **Elland GP** on 31st.

Once again there were no records of wintering individuals at the year-end.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Migrant breeder (4-5).

Typically, the first birds arrived during the early days of April, with two at **Scout Dike** and a single at **Horbury Wyke** on 3rd. These were followed by singles at **Horbury Bridge** on 4th, **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 7th, **Colnebridge SP** on 8th, **Elland GPs** on 9th and **Crosland Hill** on 11th.

The main arrival took place around the 20th, and the maximum counts of singing males during April and May at favoured localities were 39 in the **Hey Green/Netherwood** area, 25 at **Scout Dike Res**, 21 at **Elland GPs**, 18 in the **Wessenden Valley**, 10 at **Scammonden**, 8 at **Tunnel End**, 6 at **Blackmoorfoot** and only 6 at **Bretton Lakes**. Twenty-one singing males were counted at **Langsett Res** on 22nd June. A club area total of at least 260 was a 28% decrease compared to 2003, although whether this signifies a decline rather than a case of under-recording is open to debate; the situation will become clearer over time.

The only records of successful breeding came from **Stockmoor Common**, where five young were fledged by 18th June, and two pairs bred at **Colnebridge SP**. Unreported breeding doubtlessly occurred at many other sites, though.

Although no accurate counts were submitted, many adults and juvs. were present at **Scout Dike Res** in July and many at **Gunthwaite** on 21st July were indicative of a healthy post-breeding dispersal. In Aug up to six were seen daily at **Blackmoorfoot**, whilst one was still in song at **Dewsbury SF** on 15th. Birds lingered into Sept only for a short time, with two in the **Wessenden Valley** on 2nd, singles at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 1st, 2nd and 9th, and the last of the Year at **Scout Dike Res** on the relatively early date of 10th.

The species was recorded in gardens at **Harden**, **Taylor Hill** and **Thick Hollins** during April and early May.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

There were reports from 37 sites, which is a slight increase from last year, with most sightings in the winter months.

Although there was no confirmed breeding, a bird carrying moss was observed at **Healey House** on 23rd April, with a singing male also here on 18th April. Singing males were present at **Beaumont Park** (4 throughout the spring and summer), **Fixby**, **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Carr Wood**, **Coxley Valley** and **Jenkinson Wood**. It was present during the breeding season at **Deffer Wood**.

The only double figure counts received were 10 at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 12th Jan, 10 at **Bretton Lakes** in Oct and Nov, 10 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 11th Dec, 12 at **Elland GPs** on 4th Jan, 10 regularly at **Golcar SW** in March, and 15 + at **Squirrel Ditch** on 25th Nov. **Blackmoorfoot** had a site maxima of 6 from 24th to 26th Oct.

The species visited gardens at **Dalton**, **Fixby** (4 on 28th Oct), **Lockwood**, **Meal Hill** ('several' on 16th Oct), **Shelley**, **Taylor Hill** and **Wooldale**.

There was an interesting occurrence at **Fixby** on 23rd Nov when 4 were seen mobbing a Tawny Owl.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Rare visitor.

The only record was of an elusive male at **Golcar** from 10th to 13th March (PDB, PB, JED, SP, DMP).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder (1) and passage visitor.

A poor year for this species with reports from just nine sites compared to seventeen last year. Birds were present at seven of these during the breeding season, however, and confirmation was obtained from four.

Present in the area between 8th May and 4th September.

Blackmoorfoot – after the first sightings of 2 on 8th May (one in Orange Wood, one on the south bank) a pair first seen on 27th June were feeding a spotty juv two days later. Two from 3rd to 5th July and one on 6th were the last.

Eastergate – one seen on a nest, with possibly a second bird nearby, on 28th May.

Hazelhead – once again a pair bred at Little Rannah Farm.

Swinden Plantation – one bird was observed carrying food to a nest on 25th June.

Bretton Lakes – a single calling on 10th June.

Dovestones – three on 31st May.

Windybank Wood – one on 26th May.

The remaining September records probably refer to post-breeding dispersal or migrants – three at **Denby Dale** on 3rd, and two at **Scammonden** from 2nd to 4th.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Migrant breeder (1).

This species' disastrous run continues with just two reports – both from the same sites as in 2003. Of further concern was the lack of breeding evidence this year.



Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A singing male was at **Carr Wood** on 11th May, and a female at **Cliffe Wood, Langsett** on 12th May.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (2-3).

Records were received from forty-two sites, which is slightly down on last year, with birds present at sixteen in the breeding season. Breeding activity was reported from just five, however.

There were few double figure counts in the early months, with up to 50 at **Bretton Lakes**, 32 at **Elland GPs** on 4th Jan, 17 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th Jan and 26 at **Shaw Wood** on 28th Jan.

Breeding evidence in the form of nest building was recorded at **Horbury Wyke** (4 nests – 3 successful), **Ossett** (2 nests – one successful) and **Stoneycliffe Wood** (3 nests – one successful). Pairs also bred at **New Hall Wood** and **Dogley NR**.

Birds were present in the breeding season at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Dalton** (19+ moved through a garden here on 27th May), **Dewsbury SF**, **Longwood**, **Netherwood**, **Stockmoor**, **Taylor Hill**, **Tunnel End**, **Waterloo** (birds were prospecting nest sites on 15th March) and **Yateholme**.

After the breeding season, double figure counts came from several sites with 18 at **Scout Dike** on 3rd Aug, 21 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th Aug, 15 at **Golcar** on 21st Sept, 28 at **Dewsbury SF** on 28th Sept, 27 at **Crosland Moor** on 20th Nov, 16 birds mobbed a Tawny Owl in a garden at **Fixby** on 23rd Nov and 40 were at **Elland Gps** on 28th Nov.

Gardens at **Almondbury**, **Dalton**, **Fixby**, **Lindley Moor**, **Lumb Lane**, **Netherthong**, **Taylor Hill** and **Thick Hollins** were frequented during the year.

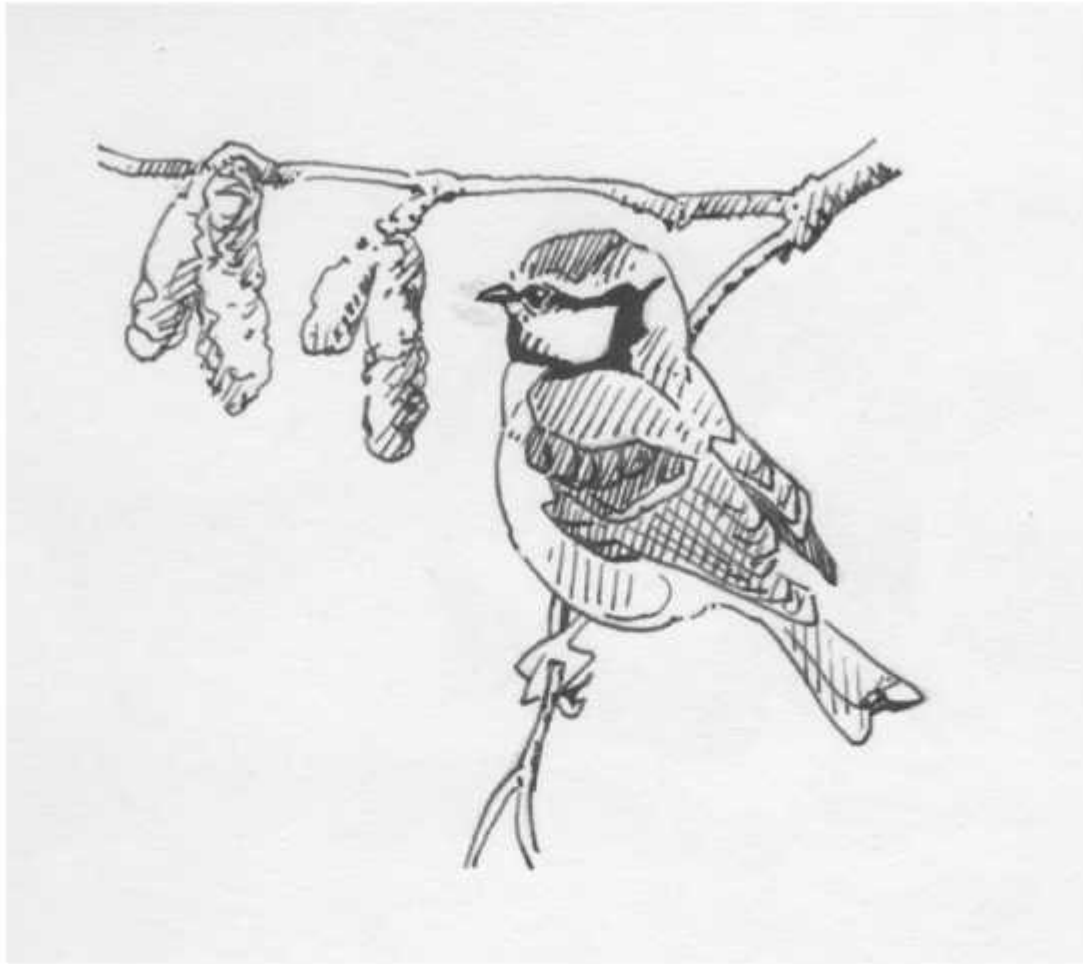
Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5).

An extremely common bird in the area, but few observers submit records and few counts were received.

Successful breeding occurred at **Wooldale**, where two broods were raised, and in gardens at **Netherthong**, **Shelley** and **Taylor Hill**. It was reported as a 'common breeder' at **Colnebridge SP**.

The highest counts received were from **Elland GPs**, which had 20 on 4th Jan, 27 on 11th April, 15 on 7th July and 20 on 6th Dec. Ten were at **Lindley Moor** on 22nd Jan, 15 were at **Shaw Wood** on 25th Jan and 20 at **Scammonden** on 17th Oct. Ten (including 8 young) were at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd July. Twelve were at **Bretton Lakes** on 22nd Feb and it was numerous here during Dec.



Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Great Tit *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4).

Although not so common as the previous species, it remains very numerous and widespread.

It bred successfully in nest boxes at **Fixby**, **Lumb Lane**, **Newmill** and **Shelley**. Juveniles were seen in a garden in **Almondbury** during June and July. A nest with young was noted in the air vent of the chapel at **Salendine Nook** on 18th May. Like Blue Tit, it was described as a 'common breeder' at **Colnebridge SP**.

The only significant counts received were from **Elland GPs**, where there were 12 on 4th Jan, 11 on 28th March, 16 on 11th April and 15 on 19th Dec. 'Many' were adjudged to be at **Bretton Lakes** on 12th Dec.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3).

With reports from twenty-three sites, the situation was very similar to 2003. Although the species is widespread, it is probably most common in the larger tracts of coniferous and mixed woodland.

Breeding occurred in gardens at **Lindley Moor** and very likely in ones at **Almondbury** and **New Mill**, where juveniles were seen during the summer months. A pair bred at **Crosland Heath GC**. Birds also frequented gardens at **Dalton**, **Fixby**, **Lockwood** and **Taylor Hill**.

Although no actual counts were received, the species was described as 'numerous' at **Golcar** on 20th Dec, with 'many' at **Bretton Lakes** on 12th Dec.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Resident breeder (1).

Recorded from about the same number of localities as in 2003, with breeding confirmed at only two sites, although it was present at six others during the breeding season.

Ingbirchworth Res – first recorded on 24th Jan. Two present on 29th March were probably the same pair seen on 7th April and 12th April, when they were excavating a nest hole. Two were seen taking food to the nest on 18th May with fledged young seen on 5th or 6th June. Singles here on 18th July, 8th Aug and 31st Oct.

Royd Moor Res – one on 2nd March and at least one on 31st Oct.

Broadstones Res – one near the dam on 20th Nov.

Scout Dike Res – one on 23rd May.

Shelley – reported to have bred at the Whins for the first time. A pair was in a garden on 13th May.

Elland GPs – two on 1st Jan, with singles on 4th Jan and 21st Feb.

Horbury Wyke – present on 13th and 20th March, 12th April and 4th Sept, with one at the sewage farm on 19th Sept.

Blacker Beck – one on 12th and 20th March.

Stockmoor Common – present on 12th April and 5th June.

Bretton Lakes – one on 24th March.

Bullcliffe Wood – three, including a pair, were here on 13th April.

Cromwell Bottom – one by the canal on 2nd March.

Denby Dale – singles reported on 22nd and 25th Oct.

New Hall Wood – present on 23rd May.

Wilderness – present on 12th April.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder (2-3).

Reported from forty sites, which is a significant reduction from last year. This is probably due to fewer observers reporting birds rather than any indication of decline, although once again an observer did report a slight decrease compared to previous years in the **Grimescar Valley**. The species is well established at **Meltham Mills** and was regular throughout the year in **Butterhead Wood**.

Although there were no confirmed breeding records, pairs were located at **Hagg Wood**, **Healey Greave Wood**, **Healey House**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Mollycar Wood**, **Royd House Wood**, **Squirell Ditch**, **Woodsome Lees** (2) and **Woodsome Road** (3+). Birds were also present during the breeding season at **Bankfoot Lane**, **Carr Wood**, **Meltham Park**, **Stockmoor** – where an ad and juv were seen on 19th June, **Smith Wood** and **Windy Bank Wood**.

The largest numbers reported were from **Bretton Lakes** where there were up to 12 during the winter months. Other counts were 5 in the **Lower Grimescar Valley** on 1st April and 4 each at **Brown's Knoll Wood** and **Thick Hollins** on 3rd Oct.

At **Blackmoorfoot**, where the species was formerly very rare, but has now been annual since 2001, singles were in **Orange Wood** on 29th Feb and 22nd July and at the south bank on 27th Nov.

Gardens were visited at **Almondbury**, **Lockwood**, **Meal Hill**, **Shelley**, **Stockmoor**, **Taylor Hill** and **Thick Hollins**.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (2-3).

Reported from twenty nine sites, with many records consisting of just one to three birds, but six were seen at **Bretton Lakes** in December and five, including four together, were in the **Coxley Valley** on 16th May.

Breeding evidence was obtained from **Blackmoorfoot**, where a pair was feeding three fledglings in **Orange Wood** on 12th June, and at **Burn Wood**, **Cumberworth**, where a pair was seen carrying food on 4th June. Pairs were located at **Dogley NR**, **Lepton Great Wood** and **Penny Spring Wood**. Other sites occupied during the breeding season were at **Cliffe Wood**, **Gunthwaite**, **Hagg Wood**, **Hartley Bank Wood**, **Hepworth**, **Stockmoor** and **Windy Bank Wood**.

Birds visited members' gardens at **Meal Hill**, **New Mill**, **Taylor Hill** and **Thick Hollins**.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2).

This species was reported from thirty-eight sites with records spread throughout the year. There was evidence of movement in April and a slight influx into the area from October onwards.

There were no confirmed breeding records, but 10 birds seen at **Elland GPs** on 19th June may well have included locally reared juvs. Sites occupied during the breeding season were at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Brockholes**, **Deffer Wood**, **Dogley NR**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood** and **Sands Gps**.

Four birds were at **Shelley Whins** during the first winter period, and **Blackmoorfoot** recorded one to two birds on a total of 18 dates with a site maximum of 7 on 13th April and 3 on 15th Oct. Seven were at **Elland GPs** on 26th Nov and 12th Dec, 5 to 6 were at **Foster Place Lane** during Nov and Dec and it was noted to be more frequent from 18th Oct onwards at **New Mill**.

Gardens were visited at **Almondbury**, **Meal Hill**, **Shelley** and **Taylor Hill**.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4-5).

Very few records are received for this species.

Breeding was reported from **Almondbury**, **New Mill**, **Shelley Whins** and **Wooldale**.

The only counts submitted were from **Cromwell Bottom** where there were 12 on 18th Jan, 10 on 7th Feb, up to 9 regular in spring and autumn and 11 on 19th Dec, and **Almondbury** where there were 11 in June.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4).



Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

A common and widespread bird throughout most of the area, although few observers report the species.

Breeding reports came from **Holly Bank Road**, from **New Mill** where, again, it bred in the chimneys of old cottages, and **Meltham** where a pair nested in a chimney. Nesting was also reported from quarries at **Pule Hill**.

Counts of birds flying to and from roosting areas were submitted from **Dewsbury SF** which had 53 on 2nd Jan, 91 on 5th Jan and 48 on 3rd Sept all moving E, from **Huddersfield Town Centre** where 200 + moved N at 07.30 on 9th Dec, and **Lindley Moor** where, at the year end, 200 were regularly moving SW to roost. Other counts received were 60 at **Baitings** on 11th June, 40 at **Colnebridge** on 23rd Sept, 64 at **Golcar** on 28th Feb, 60 at **Shepley** on 28th Aug and 300 at **Uppermill** on 20th Nov.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*
Resident breeder (5).

There was a slight reduction in the number of nest counts received compared to 2003. Counts from the six rookeries reported on were as follows: **Colnebridge** – 18, **Crosland Moor** – 11, **Lower Stones Road** – c.50, **Meal Hill** – 10, **Mount Road** – 2 and **Tunnel End** – 5. No counts were received from rookeries at Berry Brow, Honley and New Mill.

Away from rookeries, notable counts came from **Broadstones Road** where there were c.200 on 10th Jan, **Dewsbury SF** where there were 18 on 9th Jan, **Holme Styes** which had 62 on 3rd Jan, **Penistone** where there were 200 + on 22nd Dec, and **Whitley Common** which had c.600 on 7th Feb.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*
Resident breeder (4).

Widespread throughout the club area where it can be seen in any habitat, but very few records are received.

Nesting was reported from **Bradley**, **Cooper Bridge**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Meal Hill**, **Lumb Lane** and **Wakefield Road**.

Blackmoorfoot had a maximum of 36 on 20th May, and 33 were counted at **Cromwell Bottom** on 11th April.

Raven *Corvus corax*
Resident breeder (1).

Reported from seventeen sites, with birds seen in every month, although most sightings fell within the period January to May. The majority of records this year came from the **Dovestones/Chew Valley/Greenfield Res** area. There were fewer reports than usual from the **Deer Hill/Meltham** area and the **Winscar/Harden** area.

Dovestones – two first seen on 25th Feb were almost certainly the same birds seen visiting last year's nest the following day. Singles were then seen on 1st April and 31st May (PB, RO, SS). In the **Chew Valley** two on 25th Feb were probably the same birds seen at Dovestones, a single was present on 17th March, five (possibly a family party) were seen on 18th May with a single the following day, and two were present on 8th June (AC, TM, SS). One was observed on crags above **Greenfield Res** on 25th May (GMOS).

Deer Hill area – only seen in the final quarter of the year, with one over **Meltham Cop** on 28th Aug (CH), two in the **Wessenden Valley** on 31st Oct (KW), and two at **Deer Hill** on 14th Nov and 26th Dec on which date they were seen to be mobbed by a Peregrine before leaving towards Marsden (DMP).

In the **Winscar/Harden** area the only records were two at **Harden Moor** on 24th April (MC) and a single at **Snailsden Moss** on 29th June (PB). At **Yateholme** during March three were seen on 9th, a pair on 13th with perhaps the same pair again, including one bird performing a tumbling display, on 28th (BA, PDB, DMP, SP). Elsewhere singles were at **Heyden Bridge** on 6th Jan (DHP), over **Shepley** on 22nd Jan (SRG), over the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 23rd April (DHP), over **Shelley** on 24th April (SRG), over **Black Hill** on 23rd May (DHP) and 18th July (HQ), two were in the **Little Don Valley** on 29th May (TM), two were watched in a dogfight with 5 crows at **Cheesegate Nab** on 15th Sept (HQ), with possibly the same two at **Royd Moor Wind farm** on 19th Sept (TM).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5) and numerous winter visitor.

A common bird throughout the area, especially in the more built-up environs. Most records received related to the autumn and winter months with very few reports of breeding, although it is obviously under-recorded.

The **Ingbirchworth** area is often favoured during March and 600+ were counted here on 24th. These were presumably returning continental birds, as were c.300 at **Wills' o' Nats** on 10th April and c.400 at **Flight Hill** on 11th April.

The only reports of breeding came from **Fixby**, **Holly Bank** and **New Mill**. One observer reported a party of 100 juvs at **New Hall Wood** as the largest here for some years, whilst at **Potato Lane**, near Blackmoorfoot, roughly half of c.400 birds here on 11th July were juvs, which is another indication of a successful breeding season. A flock of c.200, presumably holding many juvs, was at **Ringstone Edge** on 12th June.

Autumn/winter counts comprised 350 on wires at **Dewsbury SF** on 26th Sept, 900 flying W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 29th Oct, c.1200 in fields at **Scout Dike** on 7th Nov and 200 at **Ringstone Edge** also on 7th Nov.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5).

With reports from sixteen sites, which is similar to 2003, and no reports of a decline, the species seems to be holding its own in the area.

Forty plus birds frequently in a **Lindley Moor** garden during Aug and Sept is the highest here for five years, and at **New Mill** there was no sign of decline, with up to 20 birds daily in May and June.

Breeding reports came from **Crosland Moor**, where at least six pairs nested in Hawthornes, **Hollybank Road**, **Fixby**, **Penny Spring Wood** and **Shelley**. In an **Almondbury** garden the species was ever present with a maximum of 24, including many young, on 8th Aug.

Other double figure counts were 30 at **Crosland Moor** during July, 20 at **Broad Oak Farm, Gunthwaite** on 12th Dec, 30 at **Shepley** on 1st Aug, 25 at **Shelley** in the post-breeding period and 13 at **Wooldale** on 19th Jan.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder (1).

There appears to be no significant change in status with birds reported from eleven sites, the same as 2003. Breeding was proved from only one site, which was new, and birds were present during the breeding season at four other sites. Encouragingly, there was a sighting from the formerly reliable site at **Emley**, which was the first for four years.

All records are listed:

Stockmoor Common – a singing male was by the farm at the roadside on 12th April. Birds were seen entering a nest hole in a wall on 19th and 30th May, carrying food into here on 5th June and young were seen 13th June (J Hod).

Almondbury – one at Sharp Lane on 23rd Feb, probably four birds present at Lumb Lane on 19th May with two more nearby (DSI).

Belle Royd Farm – eight on 31st Dec was, regrettably, the only count made here (RJB). It still appears to be doing well, however, as a good number were here early in 2005. A single was at nearby Folly Farm on 1st July (PB).

Scout Dike Res – a juv with Goldfinches on 25th July was probably indicative of nearby breeding (RJB).

Dewsbury SF – eight on 23rd June (JH), birds were heard calling on 30th May and three, including two singing males, were seen on 11th July (BA).

Emley – two at Tyburn Lane on 11th Aug were the first at this locality since 2000 (CH).

Gunthwaite – two were with House Sparrows at Broad Oak Farm on 12th Dec (PB).

High Hoyland – a single noted on 23rd March, at least two on 7th April and two on 24th Dec (PB).

Shelley – two first seen on 23rd Nov had increased to four by 27th and these then stayed for 10 days. A single was at the Whins on 6th April (SRG).

Thurgory, Lepton – a single was noted at Thurgory on 16th June (BA), and it was reported as 'frequent' in gardens at Lepton and Highburton (via SRG).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor.

A very common and widespread species that is much under-recorded. There was only one particularly large flock reported and, unusually, none were documented on autumn visible migration watches.

In the first winter period, 90 counted at **High Hoyland** on 23rd March was the largest number reported in the club area this year, 20 were at **Ingbirchworth** on 20th Feb, up to 10 reported in gardens at **New Mill** and **Shelley** and 18 were at **Wooldale** on 21st Jan.

During the breeding season at **Langsett** one observer (CDA) reported counts of 12 singing males on 18th March and 28 on 22nd June, when three broods were being fed, from around the reservoir. Good numbers were reportedly on territory at **Crossley's Plantation** on 16th May.

Two pairs bred at **Colnebridge SP** and breeding was also reported from **New Mill** and **Shelley**.

In the latter part of the year the only double figure counts recorded were 30 +, which were mostly females, at **Colnebridge SP** on 24th Oct, 40 at **Bretton Lakes** on 20th Dec, 30 + by the canal at **Golcar** on 24th Dec and 30 were at **High Hoyland** also on 24th Dec.

A female with one foot visited a **New Mill** garden from 16th Jan to the end of Feb and again from 23rd Sept to 31st Dec.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common winter visitor

The small numbers witnessed during the latter part of 2003 reflected the situation in the early part of the year, with birds reported from only twelve sites. Most sightings were made during the first half of Jan and during March, when birds were presumably beginning to move back to the continent. After the usual October influx, numbers were again very poor with only one double figure count received.

In January most records concerned birds visiting gardens, with four at **Shelley** on 1st and 2nd, singles at **Moreton Wood** on 1st and **Wooldale** on 8th and up to two at **Taylor Hill** on 12 dates between 1st and 28th. The only other reports were eight over **Dalton** on 10th and a single at **Hey Green** the following day.

The only February records came from a garden at **Taylor Hill**, which had up to three on 12 dates between 1st and 29th, and **Bradley Park GC** where birds were reportedly present.

During March two birds continued to visit the **Taylor Hill** garden on six dates between 1st and 28th. Singles were also noted in gardens at **Almondbury** on 4th and 11th, at **Fixby** on 22nd and **Wooldale** on 28th. At **High Hoyland** a count of 25 + was made on 3rd and c.180 on 23rd was easily the highest number seen in the club area this year.

An estimated forty birds were still present at **High Hoyland** on 7th April and a female lingered at **Taylor Hill** until 6th.

The first returning birds were 18 passing over **Lumb Lane** on the typical date of 8th Oct. Also in Oct a single was near the school at **Newsome** on 15th, **Blackmoorfoot** recorded singles on 18th, 26th, 27th and four on 28th, singles were at **Scout Dike** on 18th and 26th, two or three were at **Deer Hill** on 26th and 12 at **Elland GPs** on 31st. Singles visited gardens at **Jackson Bridge** on 16th, **Meal Hill** on 16th and **Fixby** on 23rd.

In November 12+ birds at **Krumlin** on 4th was the only double figure count of the month, two to four were almost daily at **Blackmoorfoot**, with 8 present from 15th to 18th and 6 on 22nd and 27th, two were at **Elland GPs** on 28th and only singles were noted at **Marsden** on 3rd, **Bradley Park GC** on 11th and **Bretton Lakes** on 22nd.

Numbers remained very low in December with the only reports being one with Chaffinches at **Meltham** on 6th, one at **Bretton Lakes** on 10th and two at **Windy Bank Wood** on 21st.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4).

A little more information was submitted this year for what remains a rather under-reported species.

In the early part of the year **Blackmoorfoot** reported up to fifty birds roosting during January, these falling to twenty the next month. Forty plus were counted in conifers at **Leeds Road** on 30th Jan and 23 were at **Hullen Edge** on 18th Jan. Once again it was reported to be the commonest species of the year in an **Almondbury** garden, with an early year max of 13 on 11th Jan.

Breeding was reported from **Colnebridge SP**, **Shelley Whins** (3 broods) and a **Wooldale** garden (2 broods). Juvs were seen from 29th May at **New Mill**, where three used nests were found during August. A family party was at **Thurgory** on 16th June and juvs were also in a garden at **Almondbury** during this month.

There were no reports of the large post-breeding flock at **Dewsbury SF** this year, and the only double figure counts during the latter part of the year were in December with 30 at **Blackmoorfoot**, although not roosting, on 7th, c.90 at **High Hoyland** on 24th and gardens at **Almondbury**, **New Mill** and **Shelley**, which held up to 18, 12 and 40 respectively.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (2-3).

Typically numbers were very small during the early months with no more than five birds reported from several sites, exceptions being 30 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th Jan, 21 at **High Hoyland** on 7th April and up to 25 in a **Shelley** garden.

Breeding activity in the form of singing males was recorded at **Bretton Lakes**, **Golcar** and **New Mill**. The only juvs reported were from an **Almondbury** garden and at **Shelley Whins**, which cannot be a true reflection of the rate of success during the breeding season. Post-breeding flocks were fairly numerous and must have held many juvs.

The first reported post-breeding flock of any significance was 42 at **Dewsbury SF** on 18th Aug. Numbers here increased to an impressive c.460 by 25th Sept, with c.400 birds attracted to a set-a-side field, and c.400 still here on 27th. Sixteen were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th July, with other monthly maxima of 20 on 26th Aug, 40 on 6th Sept, 25 on 1st Oct and only single figures to the year end. A flock of thirty plus birds flew over **Deer Hill** on 31st Aug.

During September, flocks reported from other sites were 23 at **Dunford Cycle Track** on 9th, 50+ at **Kirkheaton CC** on 17th, 70 at **Scout Dike** on 21st and 32 in a **Fixby** garden on 27th. Much smaller numbers were reported from the ensuing period, with the only double figure counts coming from **Elland GPs**, which had 42 on 28th Nov and 22 on 12th Dec.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1) and winter visitor.

Reported from thirty sites, but unlike last year, numbers were more typical with flock sizes not exceeding fifty birds. The species seemed scarce at the year-end and, unusually, none were reported on visible migration.

In the early months **Bretton Lakes** had 25 on 3rd Jan and 30 on 5th Feb, and at **Elland Gps** there were 20 on 11th Jan and 45 counted on 28th March. At **Shelley** up to 15 were present in a garden from 17th Jan to 1st April, there was an early year max of 9 at **Golcar** on 10th Jan, and up to 15 were at **Grimescar** in mid-Feb. At **Yateholme**, where there were impressive numbers last year, only 20 were counted on 1st March, 10 were still present on 8th April, four of these being singing and displaying males. At **Almondbury** eight on 1st Feb increased to 23 on 15th and peaked at 28 on 11th March, but none were seen thereafter. **Blacker Beck** held 35 on 13th March and 30 on 12th April, and 50, the area's highest count, was at **Horbury Wyke** on 3rd April. Up to five visited a garden at **Taylor Hill** on 29 dates from 6th Jan to 8th April. Other sites to attract one to six birds during January to April were **Digley**, **Hey Green**, **Lindley Moor**, **Lumb Lane**, **Meal Hill**, **New Mill**, **Thick Hollins** and gardens at **Fixby**, **Lockwood** and **Netherthong**.

There were few reports from the breeding season, these being one to two at **Thick Hollins** on 7th May and 9th June, a singing male at **Crossley's Plantation** on 16th May, one at **Butterley** on 30th May, a male at **Scammonden** on 20th June and one at **Swinden Plantation** on 25th June.

Numbers reported during the latter months of the year were even lower than those in the first winter period. In October, singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and 26th were the only ones reported here this year, four were at **Wessenden** on 3rd, three were at **Scammonden** on 17th, four at **Winscar** on 18th, six were at **Thick Hollins** and 15 at **Elland Gps** on 31st. The only record received for November was a single at **Shelley** on 27th. In December, singles were at **Harden Clough** on 8th, five were at **Lindley Moor** on 19th and one at **Thick Hollins** on 31st.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3).

Typically scarce in winter, the only records were of two at **Shepley** on 22nd Jan, a single at **Shelley** on 13th Feb, which was the local observer's earliest ever sighting there of the species, and five were at **Thurgory** on 5th Feb, these increasing to c.40 on 16th.

As spring arrived more birds appeared, with 20 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 30th March and two over **Dewsbury SF** the following day, while in April a single was at the moorland edge at **Lindley Moor** on 4th, c.90 were at **High Hoyland** on 7th, 20 were at **Shelley Whins** mid-month, three were at **Honley Moor** on 15th, a pair were at **Bradley Hall Farm** and 20 had now arrived at **Meltham Cop**.

Breeding was confirmed at **Meltham Moor** (2 nests found in July – one on 11th, the other on 17th, both were successful), although another twenty pairs were thought to be present in the area, where they were intermingling with Twite, and at **Slaithwaite Moor** (a nest found on 18th July which was successful). Six pairs were reported to have bred at **Shelley Whins** and another at **Colnebridge SP**. Nesting was also reported from **Cheesegate Nab** and **New**

Delight Farm. Birds were present during the breeding season at **Broadstones, Crossley's Plantation, Dearne Dike Lane, Red Lane, Ringstone Edge, Thurgory and Swinden.**

Post breeding flocks began to form in late July with 80+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 22nd and c.30 at **Scout Dike** on 24th. Flock sizes typically increased during August when c.100 were at **Hoylandswaine** on 10th, 300+ were **Lepton** on 23rd and 300+ were at **Emley Moor** on 24th and 25th. Sixty-seven birds at **Dewsbury SF** on 19th was an unusually low autumn maximum there, this doubtless due to food availability.

More flocks appeared in September, with 30+ at **Cheesegate Nab** and 50 at **Scout Dike** on 9th, c.200 at **Thurgory** on 26th, c.130 at **High Bank, Thurlstone** also on 26th and 46 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th. Numbers began to fall in October, with nine at **Lindley Rec** on 11th, 50+ still at **Thurgory** on 18th, two with Twite at **Deer Hill** on 24th and two at **Annat Royd Lane** on 31st. Only very small numbers were present at a couple of sites in November, and the only report in December was a flock of c.30 feeding in stubble at **Shepley**.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*
Partial migrant breeder (1-2).

This species' decline has been well documented and it continues to be undoubtedly the most important breeding species in the club area. Successful breeding was reported from three sites, although encouraging numbers seen during the early autumn probably suggests other pairs reared young unnoticed within the area. An important feeding programme continued at one site.

At **Deer Hill**, the foremost site in the area during the winter months due to the provision of seed, up to nine were present in January and February. Among these were three colour-ringed birds the origins of which can be traced to part of a ringing scheme carried out in the South Pennines of West Yorkshire: one ringed as a juv at Rishworth on 12th June 2003; an adult male ringed at Lighthazzles, Halifax and one ringed at Cant Clough, Lancashire on 1st Nov 2003.

Birds began returning to known and potential breeding areas from mid-March when two were at **Blakeley** on 17th, a singing male was at **Owlers** on 28th, two were at **Oxygrains** on 29th (with seven here on 4th April), and five were at **Cupwith** also on 29th. In April two flew NW over **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd, and six were in fields to the west of the reservoir on 7th, on 13th twenty were back at **Deer Hill**, two were at **Cupwith** and two were at **Buckstones**, with two again here on 25th when there were four at **Wessenden**. There were further sightings in May when six were at **Wessenden** on 2nd, six were again in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th, two flew over **Mill Moor Road** on 7th, a single was at **Eastergate** on 10th and five were at **Deer Hill** on 17th. Also in May were five at **Shiny Brook** on 23rd, three at **Blake Clough** on 26th and two at **Pule Hill** on 31st.

At least forty pairs were located during the breeding season, with population estimates being 6 + at **Meltham Moor**, 6 + in the **Wessenden** area, 4 at **Slaithwaite Moor**, 12 + at **Buckstones** and 10 + at **Oxygrains** (Jhod). Breeding was well monitored at five sites, with mixed outcomes: two pairs were successful and one failed at **Buckstones**; a pair was successful at **Meltham Moor**; a pair failed at **Shiny Brook**; one pair was successful and another failed at **Slaithwaite Moor**; and a crag-nesting pair failed in the **Wessenden Valley**. One of the breeding males at **Buckstones** and **Slaithwaite Moor** had been colour-ringed at

Blackstone Edge (Jhod). On 22nd June at **Green Hill Farm, Marsden** a pair were watched feeding two fledglings, and a party of eight birds were also in the vicinity, these possibly coming from adjoining areas. Other sites with birds present in the breeding season were **Bradshaw Clough**, where three were seen collecting nest material, and **Blake Clough**. A flock of c.60 birds, which were mostly juvs, counted at **Cupwith** on 21st July was probably indicative of successful breeding within the club area and further afield.

As autumn encroached, a build-up of birds began in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot** in August with three on 9th, c.40 on 21st and 26th, and 53 on 29th had fallen to 32 on 31st. Twenty one were present here on 18th and 19th September. At **Deer Hill** there were 40+ on 31st Aug, and in October there were 60+ on 3rd and 16 on 28th.

During the late winter period up to eight birds, including three colour-ringed individuals, visited the feeding station at **Deer Hill**. On 25th Dec the importance of winter feeding was illustrated in rather enchanting fashion when all eight birds landed at the observer's feet as he cleared snow from the site (DMP).

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder (1-2) and winter visitor.

Records were received from twenty-five sites, which were well down on the 2003 total, and none were reported from July to September. Several double figure counts were made, but only four sites drew such numbers.

In the early months at **Elland GPs** up to nine were present in January, just a single in February and 16 were counted on 22nd March. At the favoured **Golcar** site there were 40+ birds here between 19th Feb and 13th March. One to two were noted at **Grimescar** in Jan and Feb, a small number were with Siskin at **Bretton Lakes** on 10th Jan and one visited a garden at **Shelley** on 17th. Two were at **Crosland Heath GC** on 31st March.

Birds began to move around in April with three at **Horbury Wyke** on 12th, 10 at **Colnebridge SP** and 30+ at **Elland GPs** on 17th, and six at **New Hall Wood** on 19th. In May 'several' were calling over **Blacker Beck** on 1st, a single was at **Blakeley** on 2nd, singles were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and 3rd, at **Inglees** on 16th and **Crossley's Plantation** on 16th, where display was observed. Birds were present at six sites in June, with a singing male at **Windy Bank Wood** on 5th and another at **Hades** on 8th, singles were at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 11th, **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st and another singing male was at **Swinden Plantation** on 25th. Birds were present by the car park at **Winscar** on 26th but no numbers were submitted.

There was a noticeable influx in October with five at **Ringstone Edge** on 9th, singles at **Scout Dike** on 12th, 18th, and 26th, seven flew S over **High Bank, Thurlstone** during a v.m.w on 24th and five were in birches here on 26th, a single was at **Blackmoorfoot** from 24th to 26th and a flock of 30 flew over the observer's house at **Shelley** on 29th.

The only records received for the second winter period were 11 at **Elland GPs** on 24th Nov, four at **Harden Clough** on 6th and **Brown's Knoll Wood** on 8th Dec, and 11 at **Golcar** on 9th Dec.

Mealy (Common) Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor.

The only reports came from **Golcar** where there were good numbers associating with Lesser Redpolls. The first was on 19th Feb (JKP), then up to six between 21st Feb and 18th March (BA, PB, DHP, DMP, SP) and at least twelve on 19th and 20th March (PDB).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1) and uncommon passage visitor.

In stark contrast to 2003 there were just three reports.

Dewsbury SF – two circled before leaving N on 20th May and two came in from the N and left SE on 30th Dec (JH).

Swinden Plantation – a female/imm on 25th June (PB).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3).



Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

This species was reported from 45 sites, the same as in 2003, with most holding one to four birds.

Breeding evidence was obtained from **Colnebridge SP** where a young juv was noted on 27th June, and **Shelley** where two broods were raised and juvs seen in the observer's garden. Additional pairs were successful at **Hill Top Res** and **Stockmoor Common**. Birds were present during the breeding season at **Blacker Beck**, **Carr Wood**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Dogley NR**, **Holme Styes**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Scout Dike**, **Stoney Cliffe Wood**, **Thick Hollins**, and in gardens at **Almondbury**, **Fixby**, **Lockwood** and **Taylor Hill**, where birds were recorded on 29 dates between 1st Jan and 1st June.

The highest count of the year was nine at **Bretton Lakes** during both winter periods and nine at **Elland GPs** on 12th Dec. Seven were at **Harden Clough** on 6th and 8th Dec and counts of six came from **Dunford Bridge** on 7th Jan, **Scout Dike** on 23rd Oct and **Brown's Knoll Wood** on 8th Dec, whilst five were in a garden at **Shelley** on 7th Jan and at **Denby Dale** on 25th Oct.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Resident, probable breeder (1).

The three reports all came from **Bretton Lakes** and are related to single birds. A female/imm on 30th Nov (PB), one near the Low Lake inlet on 5th Dec (BA, DM) and one seen in flight on 20th Dec (PB).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

Resident breeder (3) and partial migrant.

Worryingly, only nineteen singing males were reported, which is under half the total of 2003, and, further to this, no breeding evidence was submitted.

Five singing males were at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 7th March and from 25th April to 9th May, four were at **Castle Hill** on 9th May, two each at **Addingford** and **Horbury**, and singles at **Broadstones**, **Colnebridge SP**, **New Mill** (near to the houses), **Scout Dike**, **Stockmoor Common** and **Stranstry Wood**. The species probably bred at **Emley Moor**, **Farnley Tyas**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood** and **Royd House Wood**.

In the early months c.50 were feeding in stubble at **Shepley** on 23rd Jan, with 43 here on 14th March. At **Thurgory** there was c.40 in Jan and 50+ regularly during Feb. Sixty plus were at **High Hoyland** on 3rd March and 20 + fed in stubble at **Ingbirchworth** on 20th Feb.

At the year-end, apart from an impressive c.150 at **Shepley** on 18th and 21st Nov, the only notable counts were 20+ at **Royd Moor Res** on 25th Sept and 30 at **High Hoyland** on 24th Dec.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Resident breeder (2) and partial migrant.



Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

A total of sixty pairs/territorial males were located which is consistent with 2003, although this maybe an under-representation of the species' breeding status, as there was no repeat of the successful Marsden Moor Survey. The majority were located in the **Ingbirchworth** area, with a further concentration in the Calder Valley.

Breeding evidence was obtained from three sites in July, with young being fed at **Colnebridge SP** on 6th, two juvs at **Buckstones** on 11th and a female carrying food at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 11th. A pair nested in rushes at **Meltham Moor** during June but the outcome was unknown.

Eight occupied territories were located at **Scout Dike** in May, up to six singing males were counted at **Elland GPs**, four males were on territory at **Wessenden** and three each at **Broadstones**, **Buckstones**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Pule Hill** and **Ravensthorpe GPs**. One to two males were reported from a further twenty-six sites.

Outside the breeding season one to four birds were noted at several sites, with only five plus at **High Hoyland** on 3rd March, five at **Shepley** on 21st Nov and five at **Dewsbury SF** until late Oct, the highest numbers reported.

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

One at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26th October (D. Sykes).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

One at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 30th April (MLD, DHP).

Reeve's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii*

Adult male at **Swinden Plantation** (Langsett) on 25th June (PB).

FIRST AND LAST DATES OF SUMMER/WINTER MIGRANTS 2004

SUMMER	FIRST	LOCALITY	LAST	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	Dewsbury SF	27/7	Isle of Skye Quarry
Common Sandpiper	10/4	Scout Dike	19/9	Dewsbury SF
Common Tern	18/4	Scout Dike	23/8	Blackmoorfoot
Cuckoo	5/5	Blackmoorfoot	26/6	Blackmoorfoot
Swift	16/4	Elland GPs	22/9	Scout Dike
Sand Martin	17/3	Blackmoorfoot	22/9	Scout Dike
Swallow	26/3	Scout Dike	21/10	Golcar
House Martin	4/4	Elland GPs	5/10	Dalton
Tree Pipit	20/4	Cheesegate Nab	17/9	Denby Dale
Yellow Wagtail	26/4	Blackmoorfoot	5/9	Baitings
Common Redstart	19/4	Horbury	29/8	Scout Dike
Whinchat	3/5	Wessenden Valley	24/9	Scout Dike
Northern Wheatear	17/3	Meltham Cop & Scammonden	6/10	Isle of Skye Quarry
Ring Ouzel	26/3	Digley	5/11	Little Don Valley
Grasshopper Warbler	24/4	Scammonden	12/5	Elland GPs
Sedge Warbler	19/4	Scout Dike	9/9	Scammonden
Reed Warbler	5/5	Elland GPs	21/7	Colnebridge SP
Lesser Whitethroat	24/4	Bullcliffe Colliery	22/8	Scout Dike
Common Whitethroat	17/4	Elland GPs	10/9	Scout Dike
Garden Warbler	24/4	Bretton Lakes	13/6	Elland GPs & Colnebridge SP
Blackcap	9/4	Elland GPs	9/9	Scout Dike
Wood Warbler	3/5	Shepley		No autumn records
Chiffchaff	19/3	Golcar	31/10	Elland GPs
Willow Warbler	3/4	Scout Dike	10/9	Scout Dike
Spotted Flycatcher	8/5	Blackmoorfoot	4/9	Scammonden
Pied Flycatcher	11/5	Carr Wood		No autumn records

WINTER	LAST	LOCALITY	FIRST	LOCALITY
Pink-footed Goose	24/4	Scout Dike	25/9	Scout Dike
Goldeneye	27/6	Winscar Res.	3/10	Blackmoorfoot
Waxwing	26/3	Shepley	11/11	Blackmoorfoot
Fieldfare	26/4	Hepworth	3/10	Scammonden
Redwing	18/3	Far Swinden (Langsett)	12/9	Colnebridge SP
Brambling	7/4	High Hoyland	8/10	Lumb Lane

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Birdguides

Bird Line NorthEast (BLNE)

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In Focus, Denby Dale

RSPB Denby Dale Office

THE WHITE STORK STORY

When two White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) appeared at Bretton Park on 16th April it was assumed that they were wanderers from the Harewood colony, but this assumption was quickly dispelled when they were both found to be carrying foreign rings. They took up residence in the Sculpture Park and on the roof of the College buildings, where they displayed and carried sticks. During the afternoon they flew off to the east, briefly visiting Cannon Hall, but returned to the original site, displaying and bringing more nest material until c.10.30 hrs on 17th, before flying off again.

Two White Storks, presumably the Bretton birds, were reported flying over Elland GPs to the northwest at lunchtime that day and a farmer then reported them on his land between Middlestown and Thornhill Edge in the valley of the Smithy Brook during the afternoon. They were relocated in a field off Beck Lane, Netherton (Wakefield) on 18th and then moved the short distance to Horbury Strands adjacent to the Calder and Hebble Navigation, where they displayed and again began nest building on a pylon carrying high tension cables in a pasture field, roosting overnight on the pylon.

This behaviour continued on 19th, when engineers from Yorkshire Electricity removed the beginnings of the rudimentary nest, in the interests of both the birds, which would have been electrocuted if they had touched two cables simultaneously, as well as of members of the public using the towpath very close by. The birds were not deterred however and immediately carried on to build a nest in the same place, only to have their newest efforts thwarted again on 20th.

In the meantime, RSPB officers consulted with the landowners, informing them of the enormous significance of what might have been about to happen, with a view to erecting a "safe" nesting pole in the field adjacent to the storks' chosen pylon, but permission was refused on the grounds that "agricultural activities" would be compromised and substantial compensation would be required. Since the only agricultural activity was the grazing of a few head of cattle this excuse was indefensible, but could not be countermanded. In view of the reputation of the landowners, who shall remain nameless, but are well known to the local community, their attitude was not surprising.

As a last resort, on 20th April a pole surmounted by a nesting platform was erected on the towpath itself, but was obviously not to the birds' liking and they did not add to the nest material that had been provided. They returned to Bretton Park, where they began nest building again in a dead tree near the heronry during the afternoon, but both were back at Horbury at 1800hrs.

At least one bird remained at Horbury on 21st April and the male was seen intermittently in the area to 29th, before appearing at Clitheroe, Lancashire on 30th.

Both birds carried rings that enabled their origins to be traced by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) ringing unit. The female had a French ring P6222 and had been found in poor condition in Calais in September and been taken into care before being ringed and released at Villeneuve d'Ascq near Lille in Northern France in February 2003. So, although it had been released from captivity, this individual could have had a wild origin. The male, ringed with metal M5638 and dark blue Darvik 027, had been ringed as a full flying adult at an animal park in Belgium in April 2002. When originally caught it was also wearing a blue

“chicken ring”, since lost, so was presumed to be an escaped individual. It was seen in Suffolk in April 2003 in the company of another, un-ringed White Stork.

Because of the distinctive combination of rings, both birds had been tracked via Hampshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and West Midlands before arriving in West Yorkshire.

The only recorded breeding by this species in Britain took place on St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh in 1416. Who knows what might have happened had “our” birds chosen a safer site at Horbury where they could have remained undisturbed. A historic opportunity denied ?

Brian Armitage

A BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL ?

The following notes were written by Paul Bray in 2004 concerning a bird seen feeding in grass and at the water's edge on the North wall of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 26th April showing characteristics of a bright female Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*, a race of Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*:

"The identification of this bird rests on the premise that although females are often indistinguishable so that "most birders do not bother to identify them racially", a proportion of females in spring plumage show the same characteristics as males in a less pronounced, duller form and this is "generally sufficient to distinguish them from *flavissima* Yellow Wagtails" (Popular Handbook).

The Blackmoorfoot female was very different to the female of the breeding pair at Dewsbury SF, the latter bird having been watched closely, specifically for comparison, on 4th June. Both females had overall similar plumage, having bright yellow under parts, from under tail coverts to breast, and greenish mantle. Both had a yellow-brown smudge in the centre of the breast (and in addition the breeding bird had a yellow-brown smudge at each side of the breast, near the bend of the wing). The all-important differences between the females concerned the colours of the head.

The breeding female at Dewsbury SF had a greenish crown, similar to the mantle, only slightly browner than the mantle (and with only the faintest hint of grey, if any). The ear-coverts were very much the same as the crown or slightly darker, hence also slightly brownish green. The throat, chin and supercilium were pale yellow-buff, with no white anywhere on the head.

By contrast, the head of the Blackmoorfoot female was wholly grey and white, lacking all colour, there being no brown, green or yellow, the only hint of colour on the forward portions of the bird being a hint of yellowish creeping up the sides of the breast and fading out as pale cream on the sides of the neck under the ear-coverts. Instead, the throat, chin and supercilium were white, the supercilium in particular being noticeable due to its length, being broad, conspicuous and pure white behind the eye, narrower and slightly duller in front of the eye. These features in total made the head a differently coloured entity to the rest of the bird, whereas in the breeding female at Dewsbury SF the head was integrated with the rest of the plumage. The grey in the head of the Blackmoorfoot female was clearly plain grey (not blue-grey as in a male), say something like the grey on the head and back of a Grey Wagtail.

The opportunity was taken to examine female *flava* Wagtails in Cyprus from 27th April to 11th May. Not many were seen because most passage of this species takes place earlier in April. The races that were seen were *flava* (Blue-headed), *thunbergi* (Grey-headed) and *feldegg* (Black-headed): no *flavissima* (Yellow). Only females accompanying males were taken into account. Most female *flava* and *thunbergi* were similar to one another, being dull greyish green on the crown and ear-coverts, not dissimilar to the mantle, with well-marked near-white supercilium. There was some variation among the *flava* (Blue-headed) and one bright female was seen that was the same as the Blackmoorfoot female in having a colourless head of grey and white.

When the Blackmoorfoot bird was first seen, the degree of difference between the head and the rest of the plumage brought thoughts of male Blue-headed Wagtail to mind, but then the colours were seen in more detail to discount an adult male and so thoughts turned to the

possibility of a dull male, perhaps a first-summer bird (but none of the literature makes any mention of such a plumage). Instead, after further examination, it was seen that the plumage fitted breeding female. Hence the Blackmoorfoot bird was concluded to be one of the proportion of females that show a head pattern that comprises a duller version of that seen in males, in the same manner as the Blue-headed Wagtail in Cyprus. Although females are variable, it seems unlikely to me that a female *flavissima* would show characters like the Blackmoorfoot bird that takes appearance a significant way towards the appearance of a female Blue-headed Wagtail.”

Paul Bray
2004

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY OF THE PEAK DISTRICT MOORLANDS 2004

In the Classified List, frequent reference is made to the Peak District Breeding Survey. This survey, a publication of *Moors for the Future*, received support from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, whose partners were English Nature, The National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority, United Utilities, Severn Trent Water, Yorkshire Water, Sheffield City Council, the Peak Park Moorlands and Tenants Association, defra, Country Land and Business Association and the National Farmers' Union.

The survey was a repeat of an earlier breeding bird survey of the South Pennine Moors by Brown and Shepherd in 1990. The area surveyed is defined as the unenclosed uplands between Edale in the south and Marsden in the north. Survey work was carried out between 1st April and 30th June 2004. Non-moorland within survey squares (e.g. plantations, improved pasture, reservoirs) was not surveyed, hence numbers of some species may appear fewer than might be expected. A total of 503 square kilometres in 578 OS kilometre squares, of which approximately 125 are in the Huddersfield recording area, were surveyed.

Two visits were scheduled to each kilometre square, the first between early April and mid-May, the second between mid-May and late June. Some squares could be visited only once and access was denied to some estates, notably in the area to the west of Winscar Reservoir, comprising SE1301, SE1302, SE1303, SE1304, SE1401, SE1402, SE1403 and SE1603.

Nine very experienced and highly competent field workers were employed on a full-time basis to carry out the survey, and were supplied with 1 square kilometre 1:25000 OS maps, a handheld geo-positioning system (GPS) and field recording forms. All breeding species were recorded, unlike the 1990 survey. Standard BTO Common Birds Census codes were used, ranging from the lowest category, "single bird in suitable habitat", to the highest "fledged young present". For most species, pairs were mapped and counted, but for the most numerous species, Red Grouse, Skylark and Meadow Pipit, counts of individual birds were recorded. In assessing the records for population estimates the methodology employed in the 1990 survey was strictly adhered to, so that direct comparisons could be made.

The populations of the majority of the species given in the Huddersfield Report for 2004 are derived from the maps included in the survey and can be considered to be accurate as each breeding pair was given its own symbol and merely involved counting each one. For the most common species however, individual pairs/territories could not be mapped and a series of different size dots is used to denote relative abundance. For example, in the case of Red Grouse, four different sizes of dots are used, indicating respectively 1 to 5, 6 to 10, 11 to 15 and 16 to 99 birds present in that one kilometre square. In assessing the numbers of birds for the Huddersfield report, the median figure has generally been used in each case, i.e. 3, 8, 13 and 50. Hopefully this represents a reasonably accurate picture of the species for which this method was used, i.e. Red Grouse, Skylark and Meadow Pipit.

The Peak District Moorland Bird Survey is a mine of information and should appeal to anyone with an interest in moorland birds or the Peak District. Not only does it show the status of all moorland species in the area in 2004, but also makes comparisons with the results of the earlier survey carried out in 1990. Maps showing changes in distribution of many species between 1990 and 2004 are included and provide food for thought. To give one example, in 1990 in the Huddersfield recording area, 80 pairs of Twite were mapped in 1990; in 2004 this figure was reduced to eight!

It is difficult to praise this publication too highly and I can recommend it wholeheartedly. It is available at a cost of £10 plus £1 for postage from Moors for the Future, Moorland Centre, Fieldhead, Edale, Hope Valley, S33 7ZA. Alternatively it can be downloaded on the internet from www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk.

Brian Armitage

References:

Brown, A.F. and K.B.Shepherd (1991). Breeding birds of the South Pennine Moors. JNCC.

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SURVEY OF THE SOUTH WEST OF THE CLUB AREA

Members may recall that in the spring of we announced a plan to survey the southwest of the Club area and asked for volunteers. The Committee felt that the Club, especially now we are a charity, should undertake at least one survey or piece of research each year. Although a few members do contribute records from the SW, in general it is much under-reported and it was therefore felt timely to organise a survey to coincide with the breeding season in 2004.

The area chosen runs from Redbrook Reservoir, Standedge heading south along the western boundary of the Club area, through Dovestones and Chew Valley areas, then along the southern boundary to Withens Clough which lies south-east of Holme Moss. It includes some difficult terrain, peat bog and rough grassland and presents access problems in parts, hence perhaps the limited normal coverage.

The survey was divided into twelve areas as summarised below:

- 1 Redbrook Reservoir to Featherbed Moss
- 2 Diggle / Diggle Edge
- 3 Dick Hill / Kinder Stones
- 4 Saddleworth Moor (South of A635)
- 5 Yeoman Hey Reservoir / Greenfield Reservoir
- 6 Dovestones Moss / Chew Reservoir
- 7 Dovestones Reservoir / Chew Valley
- 8 Alphin Pike / Hoarstone Edge
- 9 Laddow Rocks / Black Hill
- 10 Hey Moss / Black Hill
- 11 Withens Clough / Withens Moor
- 12 Heyden Brook / Holme Moss

The method employed was as follows:

1. Each area to be surveyed twice during the period 1st May to 20th June, the visits to be spaced at least three weeks apart.
2. The area to be walked slowly, spending time scanning all potentially productive habitats along the way.
3. Early morning start.
4. Record and count all species (Meadow Pipits optional) and where possible sex the birds and record evidence of breeding activity (breeding pair, singing, nest or nest building, food carrying, etc.)
5. Results for each visit to be plotted on an expanded sketch map of the area.
6. Special look out to be kept for colour-ringed Twite and, if possible, ring details to be recorded (at the request of the RSPB).

The method means that the survey should be repeatable in the future and so enable any changes to be monitored.

The survey produced a wealth of data, with the detailed returns and sketch maps available for future reference. Overall, some seventy species were found and in addition to the 'usual suspects' a passing Marsh Harrier made one lucky observer's day. The bird populations varied widely between the areas surveyed and are summarised in the table below. The table

shows the maximum numbers recorded in either of the two visits. In the case of area 1, only one visit was possible, all other areas receiving the planned two visits.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for their willingness to 'bog trot' in the interests of science: Chris Abell, Peter Bell, Paul Bray, Stephen Frost, David Holloway, Alf King, Gary Pearson, Dave Pennington, Dave Pogson, Hugh Quarterman, Michael Rayner.

Michael Wainman

Results summary
Total all areas
Max, visit 1, visit2

	Species		Adults (not sexed)	Males	Females	Pairs	Juvenile	Total no birds
			No	No	No	No	No	No
1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	145	-	-	8	61	222
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	5	15	9	2	28	61
3	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	17	3	1	-	7	28
4	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	9	16	7	7	-	46
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	4	-	2	3	-	12
6	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	-	-	1	-	-	1
7	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	-	-	-	-	2	2
8	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	-	4	-	1	1	7
9	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1	1	-	-	-	2
10	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	2	-	-	-	-	2
11	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
12	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	4	-	-	-	-	4
13	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	15	5	1	6	-	33
14	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	18	1	-	3	-	25
15	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	5	-	-	-	-	5
16	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	8	-	-	-	-	8
17	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
18	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	36	3	1	4	-	48
19	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	-	-	-	2	-	4
20	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	16	-	-	-	-	16
21	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	9	-	-	-	-	9
22	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	2	-	-	-	-	2
23	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
24	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	34	-	-	-	-	34
25	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
26	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2	-	-	-	-	2
27	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
28	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	2	-	-	-	-	2
29	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
30	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
31	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	14	27	-	1	-	43
32	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	12	1	1	2	-	18
33	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	5	-	-	-	-	5
34	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	-	-	-	1	-	2
35	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	' many '	-	-	-	1	' many '
36	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	8	2	1	-	6	17
37	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	10	9	6	1	8	35
38	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	5	-	-	-	-	5
39	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	17	36	-	-	2	55
40	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	2	-	-	-	3
41	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	10	15	-	-	-	25
42	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	-	1	-	-	-	1
43	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	-	8	-	2	2	14

	Species		Adults (not sexed)	Males	Females	Pairs	Juvenile	Total no birds
			No	No	No	No	No	No
44	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	-	2	1	1	5	10
45	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1	5	1	2	2	13
46	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
47	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	10	2	1	-	16
48	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	24	1	-	3	1	32
49	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
50	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	13	19	-	-	-	32
51	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	3	-	-	-	-	3
52	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	4	-	-	-	4	8
53	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	5	3	-	-	2	10
54	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	8	2	-	-	-	10
55	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	4	-	-	-	-	4
56	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	4	-	-	-	-	4
57	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	21	-	-	1	-	23
58	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	38	-	-	-	-	38
59	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	25	-	-	1	2	29
60	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	11	-	-	1	3	16
61	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	9	-	-	-	1	10
62	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	-	-	-	-	2
63	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	7	21	8	-	-	36
64	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	6	3	-	-	-	9
65	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	10	2	-	-	-	12
66	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	4	4	3	-	-	11
67	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	3	-	-	-	-	3
68	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	-	1	-	-	-	1
69	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	-	-	-	1	-	2
70	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	-	8	-	-	-	8

CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES NAMED IN THE CLASSIFIED LIST
(Use O.S. Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Ainley Top	116193	Brown's Edge	195058
Almondbury	170155	Buckstones	010140
Annat Royd Lane	211053	Bullcliff Farm	290156
Appleyards, Golcar	101152	Bullcliff Wood	292152
Armitage Bridge	130135	Bunny Wood, Golcar	095173
Ashway Gap	023043	Butterley Res.	050103
Aspley	151163	Butternab Wood	122138
Baitings Res.	006188	Cannon Hall	275085
Bank Wood, Emley	263138	Carlecotes	178034
Banks Hall	282066	Carr Wood	180133
Bare Bones Road	144043	Cartworth Moor	138060
Bargate	096147	Castle Dam, Penistone	255022
Barkisland	055197	Castle Hill	152141
Bartin	091072	Cawthorne	285080
Beaumont Park	130147	Cawthorne Dike	295089
Belle Royd Farm	228048	Cheesegate Nab	175065
Berry Brow	141138	Chew Hills	023030
Big Valley	130136	Chew Valley	025025
Bilberry Res.	102070	Choppards	142064
Binn Edge	053105	Cinderhills	147075
Bird's Edge	202077	Clayton West	260110
Bird's Nest Lane	187066	Clayton West S.F.	266118
Birkby	140183	Cliff, Holmfirth	145082
Birks Moss	056078	Cliff Wood, Langsett	215002
Black Brook	060177	Clock Face Quarry	044173
Black Hill	078047	Clough Lee	046116
Black Moss	040085	Clough Wood	175114
Blacker Beck	297161	Cockley Hill	188179
Blacker Pit	299164	Colnebridge S.P.	175207
Blacker Wood	240111	Colne Valley	070140
Blackley Tip	102195	Cooper Bridge	166206
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127	Cowcliffe	139187
Blakeley Res.	054096	Coxley Bank	275168
Booth Dam Quarry	018161	Coxley Valley	271165
Boothroyd Wood	183118	Cranberry	247008
Booth Wood Res.	026163	Crimble	085145
Boshaw Whams	151057	Crosland Heath GC	110142
Bradley	165205	Crosland Hill	115145
Bradley Park GC	157207	Crosland Moor	120150
Bradshaw	052144	Crossley's Plantation	125050
Bretton Lakes	280127	Crow Edge	188046
Broadstones Lodge	200065	Cubley	245023
Broadstones Res.	195065	Cupwith Res.	038141
Brookhouse Bridge	198007	Dalton	163162
Brownhill Res.	114050	Dean Clough	080067

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Deanhead Res.	038152	Greenfield Res.	030054
Dean Wood	119134	Greenfield Road	103080
Dearne Dike Lane	195075	Green Gate Road	113080
Dearne Head	185076	Greetland	085215
Deer Hill Res.	070115	Grimescar Valley	130190
Deffer Wood	260090	Gunthwaite Dam	246062
Deighton	167191	Hade Edge	146053
Denby Dale	225084	Hades Green Clough	141052
Dewsbury SF	260198	Haigh	294120
Digley Bottom	115068	Haigh Clough	023127
Digley Res.	107070	Hall Bower	145140
Dogley NR	187137	Hall Dike	115128
Dovestones Res.	018040	Hall Ings Lane	162115
Drop Clough	048133	Harden	153037
Dunford Bridge	158024	Harden Clough	144039
Eastergate, Marsden	029121	Harden Edge	158038
Edge Hill	235016	Harden Moss	100083
Edge Moor	104125	Harden Res.	150037
Elland GPs	125222	Hard Hill	056111
Ellentree Brow	140044	Hartcliff Hill	221017
Elysium Fields	133055	Hazlehead	195028
Emley Moor	225135	Healey Greave Wood	198116
Emley Tx	223130	Healey House	115124
Farnley Tyas	166128	Healey Mills	268193
Farnley Wood	164134	Helme	101118
Featherbed Moss	044067	Hepworth	164066
Fenay Beck	183152	Heyden Moor	092024
Fixby	139196	Hey Green	032122
Flight Hill	153042	Highburton	193133
Flockton	245151	High Hoyland	273102
Flouch Inn	198016	High Wood	290106
Folly Hall	142159	Hill Top Res.	074141
Ford Inn	114084	Hinchliffe Mill	127072
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring	276027	Hingcliffe Common	194001
Fox Clough	136057	Holmbridge	120068
Fox Clough, Langsett	190006	Holme	108060
Fox House Moss	165042	Holme Moor West	062114
Fullshaw	210012	Holme Styes	136054
Fulstone	175095	Holme Styes Res.	141055
Garside Hey	032133	Holme Woods	105045
Gawthorpe Green	193168	Holmfirth	143082
Gilbert Hill	210007	Holt Head	080123
Gledholt	133170	Honley	138118
Golcar	096160	Honley Moor	116115
Golcar Tip	104156	Horbury Strands	288177
Grain's Moss	125025	Horbury Wyke	297172
Grange Moor	220160	Horn Lane	204060
Great Dovestone Rocks	025038	Houses Hill	199169

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Hoylandswaine	265047	Marsh	125171
Huddersfield	145165	Mathewman Wood	182098
Hullen Edge	100208	Maythorn	196057
Hullock Bank	172075	McAlpine Stadium	155176
Ingbirchworth Res.	215060	Meal Hill	168070
Isle of Skye quarry	088079	Mellor Wood	158144
Issues Clough	082053	Meltham Cop	093120
Issues Road	095061	Meltham Moor	080093
Jackson Bridge	165075	Meltham SF	112115
Jebb Lane	280112	Middlestown	267172
Jenkinson Wood	184116	Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Jubilee Quarries	103128	Millhouse Green	218032
Kaye Lane	160147	Millmoor, Meltham	088107
King's Mill Lane	150161	Milnsbridge	113158
Kirkburton	198128	Molly Carr Wood	160137
Kirkheaton	185185	Morton Wood	158067
Kirkroyds	156091	Myers Wood	188125
Krumlin	056183	Mytholm Bridge	154102
Langsett	212005	Netherthong	139097
Langsett Banks	205003	Netherton, Wakefield	283170
Langsett Res.	210001	Nether End	124081
Law	158047	Nether Moor	117133
Law Slack Ponds	156047	Netherwood	054127
Lepton	193157	Nettleton Hill	094170
Lepton Great Wood	195145	New Hall Wood	270150
Lindley	120182	New House Wood	210082
Lindley Moor	095185	New Mill	164088
Linthwaite	095145	Nont Sarah's	048152
Liphill Brook	129078	Nopper Road	107135
Litherop Lane	273123	Oakes	120174
Little Black Moss Res.	032087	Oldfield	136103
Little Don Valley	195005	Orange Wood	102123
Lockwood	135152	Ossett	280200
Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150	Outlane	085180
Longwood	108167	Ox Lee	168055
Lower Cumberworth	223095	Oxygrains Beck	003159
Lower Hopton	202191	Paddock	125161
Lower Maythorn	187056	Park Mill	258118
Lower Stones Wood	187106	Paul Lane	184203
Lower Windleden Res.	157017	Penistone	245033
Lowfields, Elland	117219	Penny Spring Wood	160155
Lumb Lane	160140	Pole Moor	067158
Magdale Dam	135124	Potato Lane	089122
Magdalen Clough	090082	Pule Hill	033104
March Haigh Res.	015130	Ramsden Res.	115055
Margery Wood	275096	Ravensthorpe	222202
Marsden	045115	Ravensthorpe GPs	233202
Marsden Clough	094072	Redbrook Res.	027098

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Reynard Clough	136050	Swinny Knoll	125097
Riding Wood Res.	117050	Taylor Hill	135145
Ringstone Edge Res.	050182	Thornton Lodge	135161
Ripponden	040197	Thorpes	235095
Rishworth	032182	Thongsbridge	151097
Roughbircworth	264016	Thunderbridge	188115
Round Wood	157101	Thurgory	191158
Royd Edge	095097	Thurlestone Moor	175020
Royd House Wood	162133	Thurstonland	165104
Royd Moor Res.	222048	Tinker Hill	163048
Ryburn Res.	020188	Totties	157082
Salendine Nook	105178	Townhead	166028
Salters Brook	137002	T. P. Wood	132166
Sand Ridge Moss	158032	Tunnel End Res.	039120
Sands GPs.	217196	Tup Stones	096018
Sands House	116145	Underbank	144076
Scammonden	050160	Upper Clough	095095
Scissett	248104	Upper Cumberworth	210087
Scout Dike Res.	233049	Upper Denby	238072
Shelley	204113	Upper Greetland	075212
Shelley Woodhouse	218110	Upper Longdendale	095005
Shepley	193098	Upper Stones Wood	185104
Shore Head	148166	Upper Windleden Res.	152012
Silkstone	290059	Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Silkstone SF	295065	Waring Bridge	065131
Skelmanthorpe	233105	Waterloo	177166
Slaithwaite	080140	Way Stones Edge	004142
Slaithwaite Moor	040143	Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Smith Wood	179115	Wessenden Valley	055088
Snafe Res.	117088	West Nab	077088
Snailsden Moor	135035	West Slaithwaite	060132
Snailsden Res.	135040	West Wood, Honley	151123
Snittle Road	149050	Wetshaw Edge	147032
Snowgate Head	179085	Whitegate Lane	128055
South Crosland	115126	Whitley Common	192056
Sparth Res.	055125	Whitley Willows	196166
Spicer House Lane	205055	Wholestone Moor	077167
Spring Wood	130124	Will's o' Nats's	090121
Square Wood Res.	217078	Wilshaw	118100
Squirrel Ditch	152154	Windle Edge	152017
Stainland	077194	Windleden Edge	142010
Standedge	016098	Windmill Lane	195072
Stockmoor Common	275152	Windybank Wood	112104
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158	Winscar Res.	150025
Storthes Hall Moor	173128	Wolfstones	124092
Storthes Hall Woods	183118	Woodhead Res.	095002
Stubbin Clough	124072	Wood Nook	122106
Swinden Plantation	190002	Woodsome Lees	186134

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Woodsome Road	185146	Yateholme	115050
Wood Top	046113	Yeoman Hey	033050
Wooldale	155090		

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION OR ACCOUNT

Divers - all	Phalaropes - all
Red-necked Grebe	Skuas - all
Black-necked Grebe	Mediterranean Gull
Slavonian Grebe	Yellow-legged Gull
Fulmar	Iceland Gull
Shearwaters and Petrels - all	Glaucous Gull
Gannet	Terns - all except Common
Shag	Auks – all
Bittern	Barn Owl
White-fronted Goose	Hoopoe
Brent Goose	Wryneck
Garganey	Woodlark
Red-crested Pochard	Shorelark
Eider Duck	Rock Pipit
Long-tailed Duck	Water Pipit
Velvet Scoter	Nightingale
Harriers - all	Bluethroat
Goshawk	Black Redstart
Osprey	Yellow-browed Warbler
Hobby	Firecrest
Avocet	Marsh Tit
Dotterel	Shrikes – all
Little Stint	Hooded Crow
Curlew Sandpiper	Raven (lowlands)
Purple Sandpiper	Lapland Bunting
Wood Sandpiper	Snow Bunting

Reports of the above species, in addition to all British Birds Rarities and YNU species (see next page) requiring a description, must be supported by a description or account and should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation. For some of the more frequently occurring species an account of the occurrence will be sufficient.

Inexperienced observers may like to contact a member of the Records Sub-committee at the time of the sighting to obtain help if they are confronted with a “mystery” bird:

Brian Armitage	Tel. 01484 305054
Russ Boland	Tel. 01226 281827
John Dale	Tel. 01844 652453

Details may also be requested of unseasonal records and well-defined races.

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION

Cory's Shearwater	Roseate Tern
Great Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull
Balearic Shearwater	Black Guillemot
Storm Petrel	Bee-Eater
Leach's Petrel	Short-toed Lark
Little Egret	Richard's Pipit
Purple Heron	Tawny Pipit
Bean Goose (including race)	Cetti's Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Savi's Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Aquatic Warbler
Surf Scoter	Marsh Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Icterine Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Melodious Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Dartford Warbler
Golden Eagle	Barred Warbler
Spotted Crake	Pallas's Warbler
Corncrake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Common Crane	Woodchat Shrike
Kentish Plover	Serin
Temminck's Stint	Common Rosefinch
Pectoral Sandpiper	Cirl Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Little Bunting

Plus all *British Birds* Rarities and all Escapes

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST

Starting opposite is a checklist in the newly revised Systematic Order of the 263 wild species that have been accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2006. Additional distinct races that have been recorded are shown unnumbered and highlighted below the nominate race of the relevant species. See the earlier Notes on the Classified List for an explanation of the changes in the order.

For those species that have been recorded once or twice only or are new since 2003, the year(s) in which the birds appeared are listed. There were no new additions to the list in 2004 or 2006. New species to the list since 2004, both in 2005, are White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* has been removed from the list, in view of doubts about the origin of such birds. Caspian Gull *Larus cachinanns*, formerly listed as a race of Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*, is now shown as a species in its own right.

You may wish to use the list, or a copy, as a checklist of your own year and lifetime sightings in the Club area.

The list is also available for sale as a separate publication from the Treasurer – see page 128 for contact details.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	1996
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	
9	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	
10	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2002
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	2002
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	
23	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	
24	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	
25	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	
26	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	1983, 1985
27	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	
28	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	
29	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	
30	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
31	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	
32	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	
33	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	
34	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	
35	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	
36	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	
37	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	
38	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	
39	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
40	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	
41	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	
42	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	
43	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	
44	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
45	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	
46	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	
47	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	
48	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	
49	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	
50	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	
51	European Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	
52	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	
53	Gannet	<i>Morus bassana</i>	
54	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
55	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	
56	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	
57	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
58	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1989
59	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
60	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	
61	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	
62	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	
63	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	
64	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005
65	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	
66	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	
67	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	
68	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	
69	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	
70	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	
71	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	
72	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982
73	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
74	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	
75	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1983, 1994
76	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
77	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	
78	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
79	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	
80	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	
81	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874
82	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	
83	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
84	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	
85	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	
86	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005
87	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	
88	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedecnemus</i>	
89	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
90	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
91	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
92	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	
93	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
94	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	
95	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
96	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
97	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	
98	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	
99	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990
100	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	
101	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	
102	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
103	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	
104	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	
105	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	
106	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
107	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	
108	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	
109	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	
110	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
111	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
112	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
113	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	
114	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
115	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
116	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
117	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	
118	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989
119	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
120	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	1983, 1990
121	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
122	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978
123	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985
124	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	
125	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	
126	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	
127	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988
128	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992
129	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	
130	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	
131	Sabine's Gull	<i>Larus sabini</i>	
132	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	
133	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	
134	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	
135	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>	
136	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
137	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	
138	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	
139	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	
140	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	
141	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	
142	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	
143	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	
144	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
145	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	
146	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	
147	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	
148	White-winged (Black) Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998
149	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964
150	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	
151	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	
152	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	
153	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>	1888
154	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (feral)</i>	
155	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	
156	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
157	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
158	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	
159	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	
160	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	
161	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	
162	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	
163	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	
164	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	
165	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	
166	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
167	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	
168	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	
169	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968
170	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	
171	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	
172	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	
173	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	
174	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	
175	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947
176	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	
177	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000
178	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
179	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
180	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989
181	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	
182	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	
183	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
184	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	
185	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>	
186	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	
187	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
188	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	
189	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	
190	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	
191	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	
192	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	
193	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	
194	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	
195	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	
196	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	
197	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	
198	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	
199	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	
200	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	
201	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
202	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	
203	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	
204	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	
205	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
206	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	
207	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	
208	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
209	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	
210	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	
211	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	
212	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	
213	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977
214	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985
215	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	
216	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000
217	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	
218	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	
219	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	
220	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	
221	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	
222	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	
223	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	
224	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
225	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	
226	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	
227	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	
228	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	
229	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	
230	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	
231	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	
232	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	
233	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	
234	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	
235	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	
236	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
237	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	
238	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
239	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
240	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	1859
241	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
242	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	
243	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
244	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	
245	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	
246	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
247	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	
248	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	
249	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	
250	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	
251	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	
252	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	
253	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983
254	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	
255	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	
256	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	
257	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	
258	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	
259	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	
260	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999
261	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	
262	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998
263	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	

NOTES

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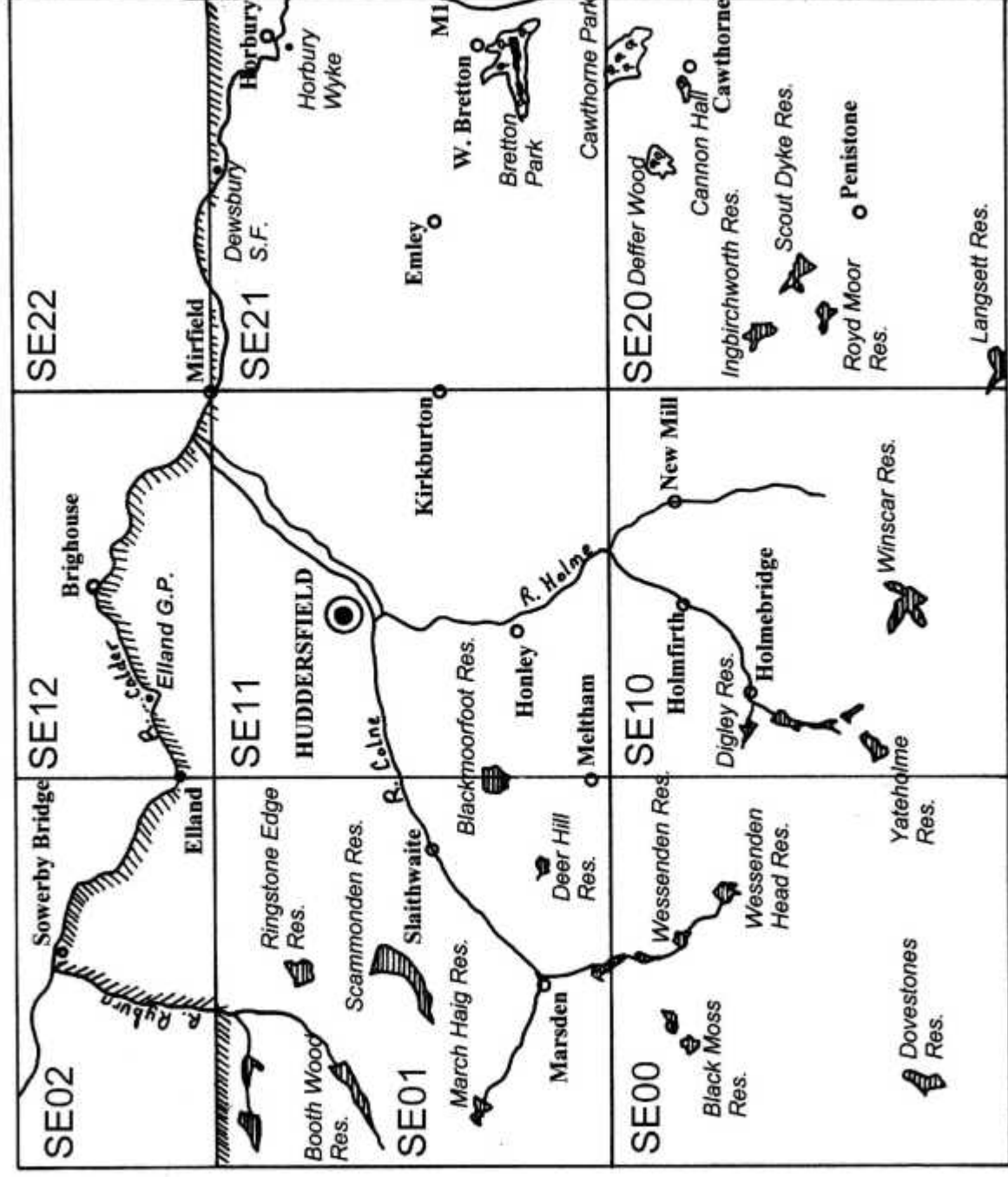
Mavis Murphy

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Meg Dunford
Terry Piggott

David Holloway

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club: Boundaries of Club Area





Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

INTERESTED IN BIRDS ?

DID YOU KNOW ...

- **The Huddersfield area**
 - **has nationally important breeding habitat for some of Britain's most endangered birds.**
 - **attracts rare and scarce birds every year.**
 - **offers interesting birding all year round, if you know where to look.**
- **Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, a registered charity, has been studying the birds of the area since 1966.**
- **Through recording and surveys, the Club helps conserve these important habitats and birds.**
- **"Birds in Huddersfield", published annually, shows all the latest local trends in bird populations and what birds have been seen where and when.**
- **Sales help fund the charity's work.**

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk

Registered charity no 1098296