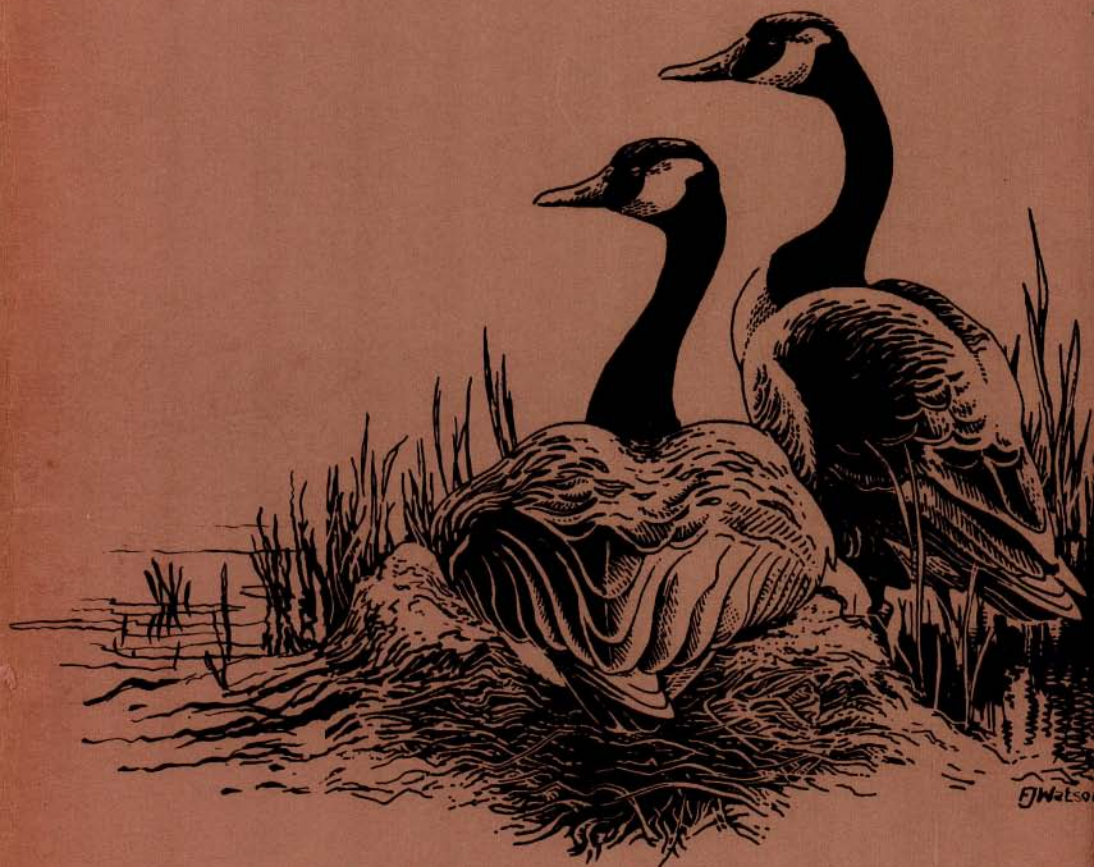


HBWC

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 1982



ANNUAL REPORT

BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1982 Additions and corrections:

SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

Line 6 Grimescar Valley on 20th February; one at Horbury Wyke on 12th February, three. . .

RED GROUSE (*Lagopus lagopus*)

Resident breeder (3)

29 on Snailsden Ridge on 20th November was the highest count reported.

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*)

Line 7ends 16th December.

FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*)

Line 2 Ingbirchworth Res on 7th.

MAGPIE (*Pica pica*)

Lines 2-3 Blackmoorfoot on 9th February and 83 on 5th December.

WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

Migrant breeder (1)

For fifth successive year a substantial number of records received. Single males at Hagg Wood on 2nd May; Derby Dale on 6th and Deffer Wood on 8th. Breeding proved at Hagg Wood although outcome not known; at a small wood near Holmfirth; at Windy Bank Wood and at Stocks Wood, Stockmoor. Singing males also at Grimescar Wood, Royd House Wood, Woodsome, Hall Dike (three), New Mill, Hoyland Bank Wood (two) and Swinden Plantation. Last one at Hagg Wood on 1st August.

CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

Migrant breeder (2)

First at Bretton Park on 27th March, and next at Elland Gravel Pits on 2nd April. Singing males at five localities during April where they did not occur later. Probably bred at the following places where singing males were heard regularly from April to July:- Bretton Park (three), Cawthorne Park (two), Deffer Wood (two), Healey House (two), Yateholme (two), Elland Gravel Pits, Bank Wood and Wilderness Plantation near Bretton (two each), and at Thongsbridge. Two pairs bred at Hall Dike where there were up to eight singing males. One feeding alongside the canal near Milnsbridge on 11th December.

BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1982

Report of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 1982

On this occasion I am breaking with tradition to include the text, slightly abridged, of my address to the Club at the meeting of March 12th 1983, under the auspices of the YNU. It contains a brief history of the Club which I feel is worth putting on record.

The Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club grew out of the Naturalists' branch of the Huddersfield Naturalists, Photographic and Antiquarian Society, when a nucleus of members of the Naturalist Section, concerned about its uncertain future, and in particular its failure to replace the Section Secretary, had called a meeting of all those interested in the Tolson memorial Museum on June 22nd 1966. At this inaugural session of the HBWC, Douglas Bisiker became President, Brian Cocking Secretary and Malcolm Palmer Treasurer, under a constitution which had been prepared by these three. There were 41 people at the first meeting; by the end of the year, Club membership had increased to 59 and continued to grow steadily so that by 1972 it numbered 100. In the last ten years it has averaged about 112: a pattern therefore of about 7 years' growth followed by 10 years' consolidation.

The Club was founded at a happy time for birdwatchers and natural history in general, when the conservation movement was expanding rapidly, when the increased affluence and leisure of the 60's, with the rapid spread of television and the private car, the tremendous growth in publications, in the quality and availability of birdwatching knowledge, skills and equipment, were transforming the ornithological world. The Club's development has reflected these economic, social and ornithological trends.

The aims of the Club, embodied in the original constitution, brought up to date earlier this year, were and remain "to promote the study and protection of wild birds" and from the start a pattern of activities was established which has, in varying degrees, fulfilled these aims. The fortnightly meetings in winter months has provided the opportunity for members to meet, exchange views and learn about birds from many angles. Secondly, through its fieldtrips, the Club has provided the opportunity for members to visit well-known ornithological sites, at a reasonable cost.

Within a friendly and relaxed framework, new and young members have been encouraged to appreciate the endless variety and fascination of birds. Thirdly, through our regular, almost annual film shows, the Club has promoted the interests of birds to the people of Huddersfield, and through these and other activities, supported and promoted - often with cash - both county and national organisations such as the YNT, the Wildfowl Trust, the RSPB and the BTO. The Club's existence would be justified on social and perhaps ornithological grounds for these things alone, but of course they represent only the most obvious of our activities.

From any 'objective' or scientific point of view, a club such as ours must be judged by the extent and quality of our contribution to ornithological knowledge, by the accuracy and consistency of our records. In this respect the Club has done much. A nucleus of members - between a quarter and a third, but never enough perhaps - have added their contributions to our knowledge of the most intensively and extensively studied bird population in the world. Since 1966 these members have contributed to the three major BTO surveys: the Breeding Atlas of 1968-72, the Habitat Atlas and the current Winter Atlas Project; and to 11 individual BTO surveys, from the Gull Roost and Black-headed Gull surveys of 1973 through to the recent Breeding Wildfowl and Wintering Lesser Black-backed Gull surveys, as well as smaller ones. The Club's ringers, though few in number, have since 1960 ringed some 37000 birds of over 100 species, producing important results in for example Blackbird, Greenfinch and particularly Twite recoveries, not to mention the third inland record of Pallas's Warbler and several Firecrests.

Most important of all, the Club's coverage of our local area has increased in consistency and quality, as shown in the club reports - the most important product of our activities. After the first report, for the latter half of 1966, the Club has produced, promptly and without faltering, sixteen annual reports (including the present one) which have grown in fullness and quality of presentation, despite the alarming escalation of costs in recent years. Much of this has been due to the efforts and influence of John Dale who became our recorder in 1970. As a member of the YNU Ornithological Committee, Vice County 63 Recorder and now as the YNU's Report Editor, John has played a

crucial part in the development and consolidation of the Club - may he do so for many years to come!

Mention must also be made of the work Club members have done at our prime birding site, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. Between 1959 and 1966, coverage was in the region of 100+ days per year but grew steadily with the growth of membership until it reached 325 days in 1973 and has remained well into the 300's since, with an all-time high of 355 in 1977. Such coverage, mainly by a small but dedicated band, led by our resident ringer, Mike Denton, has brought its rewards: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Stone Curlew, Mediterranean Gull, Sabine's and Ring-billed Gulls, to name but a few of the outstanding records; while ringing there has produced the third inland record of Pallas's Warbler, several Firecrests and Twite recoveries of national importance, as well as providing information on Greenfinches used by others in their investigations. A short paper on sex-ratios among the common ducks at Blackmoorfoot by Paul Bray was published in our 1977 Report, the same member being responsible for the Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Report 1959-73 which I hope will soon be updated in a 25 year report. Such work points to a healthy commitment to bird study in the area by a core of committed members.

The birdwatching at Blackmoorfoot has undoubtedly been facilitated by the replacement in 1970 of the dilapidated hide belonging to the HMPA Society, undoubtedly the best £40.00 investment the Club has made. Conceived by Andrew Riley, designed by Malcolm Palmer, built by members under the expert supervision of Denis Manchester, it has been a major factor in encouraging round-the-year, almost all-weather coverage of this site of country-wide significance.

I cannot leave this subject without reference to the agreement with the Yorkshire Water Authority, concluded by the Club on 3rd February 1982, reserving the west bank of the Reservoir for exclusive use by Club members. The successful completion of this agreement after many months' negotiation represented another important step in the Club's development. After the reservoir had been opened to the public in response to new government-directed policy, some four years earlier, producing an alarming disturbance to the birds by the general public, this agreement has done much to regularise and reduce, though not

entirely eliminate, such disturbance, and may provide an example for other societies facing similar problems.

In conclusion, therefore, it may be said that the first seventeen years of the Club's existence have given us reasons for satisfaction, but not for complacency. Support for club trips has not always been forthcoming and the coverage of the area is done by about half of the members. Despite improved equipment, more accurate and handier aids to identification, the quality of a record depends ultimately on the skill, knowledge and critical awareness of the observer, as it always has done. We should all, at whatever level, continue to exercise and develop these skills if the Club is to continue to thrive, since both birds and birdwatchers seem likely to face many challenges in the years to come, from the economic situation, the increasing pressures for recreational facilities and from environmental factors.

May I, on behalf of the Club, thank the officers, committee members and others for their efforts in support of the Club

Martin Yates
President

CLASSIFIED LIST introduction & notes

The area under consideration comprises Ordnance Survey ten kilometre squares SE00, 01, 11, 20, 21 along with parts of SE02 and 12, south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder.

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

Resident Breeder
Migrant Breeder
Partial Migrant
Winter Visitor
Passage Visitor

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

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

The passage and winter visitors have each been allocated a category stating their degree of frequency of occurrence. For passage visitors, the category indicates the number seen during the year, whereas for winter visitors, an estimate has been made of the maximum number present in the area on one day during the year:-

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

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

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

Many of the more common breeding species have been listed without further comment than an indication of their status. For further details of these and their habitat preferences readers should refer to the 1975 report. A complete list of all species recorded in the area up to the end of 1980, and notes on their status, appeared in the report for that year.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

During the year, 172 species were recorded, including a Golden Eagle on 11th April, which was the first for the Huddersfield area. This bird had apparently been seen a few days earlier at Holme Moss, but full details of that sighting have not been received. Other species that are rare in the area were Slavonian Grebe, Fulmar, Long-tailed Duck, Ruddy Duck, Mediterranean Gull, Sabine's Gull and Firecrest. Also the second record of Ring-billed Gull, which at the time of writing is still awaiting acceptance by the British Birds Rarities Committee. The drake Smew appeared for a fourth winter in the Ingbirchworth area and Otterel seem now to be annual visitors on passage during the spring.

At least 92 species bred successfully and a further nine attempted to do so or may have succeeded. Grey Heron, Grasshopper Warbler and Crossbill were amongst the successful breeders, but Lesser Spotted Woodpecker remains difficult to prove and no reports were received of Sand Martin colonies. Merlin and Stonechat remain as winter visitors only, at present.

Winter Atlas survey work continues, and many members have also responded to the request for information on the Fieldfares.

The Wildfowl Count at local waters was again organised and supported by Denis Manchester. Martin Yates summarised the data from the Blackmoorfoot log, thereby reducing the Recorder's work considerably and Michael Denton and other committee members

examined descriptions of less-common species which are also submitted to the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Recorders' Committee.

Many thanks to all observers who have submitted records, and particularly to those who work hard on their own favourite areas throughout the year.

John E Dale
Recorder

CLASSIFIED LIST

LITTLE GREBE (*Tachybaptus rufficollis*)

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage and winter visitor. More widespread than usual, with breeding recorded at two new sites, indicates a continuing recovery from the 1979 decline.

Blackmoorfoot Res: One on 9th May and one to two on 45 days between 11th August and 12th December. Bretton Park: One to two from 21st March to 9th April and from late September to mid December. Ingbirchworth Res: One to two from 14th March to 19th April and one to three from 18th August to 29th October plus six on 29th September and singles on a few November and December days. Royd Moor Res: Seven on 12th September. (This site rarely visited). Scout Dike Res: One on 14th February; three pairs on 11th April and one on 30th; six on 25th June and 12th September and two on 14th November. May have bred at both the last two reservoirs.

Bred at Castle Oam, Penistone, where a pair had four young on 9th August, and at Square Wood Res, Oerby Dale, a pair had three young on 22nd August. Pairs on the River Calder at Horbury all year and at Horbury Wyke from late March to late June, being on the canal to late September. Singles in the early months at Lockwood Brewery Dam, King's Bridge, Elland Gravel Pits; during April and May up to two on Gunthwaite Hall Pond, and during the autumn, one or two at Deanhead Res (one date), Gunthwaite Dam (regularly), Broadstones Res, Cannon Hall, Boshaw Whams (one date) and Elland Gravel Pits with three on 4th December.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: Singles on 18 days and two on 10 days between 13th March and 29th April, 3rd June, 1st July to 27th November. Bretton Park: Late return during March, when the maximum was 11 which remained to 9th April, then 12 on 22nd. Three pairs reared six young. Last one remained to late November. Ingbirchworth Res: One on 31st January. Genuine return on 2nd March and birds regularly to 3rd October, with a few singles to 27th November. Four pairs during April up to 1st June, but none

nested due to the falling water level. Scout Dike Res: Five from 14th February to 21st, then six in mid March remaining as three pairs during April. Breeding position not clear, but two pairs probably reared four young. Last on 17th October. Royd Moor Res: One on 24th April; two on 14th May and six (three juveniles) on 12th September. One pair reared one young at Boshaw Whams and a pair reared three young at Elland Gravel Pits, where a single remained to 28th November.



SLAVONIAN GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*)

Rare visitor.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res on 11th October (BA, JED) and from 6th to 9th November (CH, KH, JED et al). Fifth and sixth records for the area.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

Rare visitor.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res from 11th to 23rd August and from 5th to 13th September (MLD, JMP, JED et al). One bird, probably of this species, also at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd November (TC).

FULMAR (*Fulmaris glacialis*)

Rare visitor.

One over Brookhouse Lake on 22nd May (J Squire) and one, which came in from the east, landed, then departed west after 10 minutes, at Blackmoorfoot Res on 25th July (MLD). Seventh and eighth records for the area.

CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Three at Inghirchworth Res on 23rd May, one at Elland Gravel Pits from 12th to 19th September. Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res on 13th September, 13th October, 9th and 10th November and 18th December. One west over Hall Dike on 25th November.



GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*)

Resident breeder (1).

Bretton Park: Three pairs bred successfully at this new heronry, rearing seven young. Present throughout the year with a maximum of 12 during April. Noted at or over some 30 localities with a possible return to the peak numbers of the mid 1970's. Most records of from one to three, but at Ryburn Res, seven roosting on 28th November and 10 on 28th December (SMc, JB), and seven at Elland Gravel Pits on 23rd January.

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)

Resident breeder (1)

Bred at Derby Dale, where four young were reared. Pairs at Cannon Hall and Birdsedge all year, and at Harbury Wyke from March to June. Singles at six other regular sites. Three north on 25th October and 5 on 4th November at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm.

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*)

Uncommon winter visitor.

About 50 north-east over Lindley moor on 25th February (SMD). 28, including 4 immatures, at Blackmoorfoot Res on 6th November departed south-east at 15.50hrs and two more adults were present on 7th (JED, MLD, JMP et al). Seven at Broadstones Res on 6th, when 35 flew west over Ingbirchworth, as did seven on 7th November (CB). 16 over Penistone on 9th November. 17 north-west over Hall Dike on 13th November and two north-east on 24th December (D Md). One at Blackmoorfoot Res on 17th December (JMP) and nine at Ingbirchworth Res on 29th (DSI).

WHOOPEE SWAN (*Cygnus cygnus*)

Uncommon winter visitor.

One at Langsett Res from 1st to 6th January (JED) and two at Scammonden Dam on 13th (JMP). Three at Elland gravel Pits on 4th November (JW); 16 at Bretton Park on 9th (D Md).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

Uncommon to common passage visitor

A flock of 17 grazed on grassland near Broadstones Res between 7th and 14th February. Other records were as usual of birds flying over the district. 115 north-west at Royd Moor and 115 west at Ringstone Edge and 70 west at Scammonden on 14th February and one over Cowcliffe on 21st. Reported as 'grey geese' were 100 over Scapegoat Hill on 27th January and two over Outlane on 19th March. Most frequent during November with 40 west at Hall Dike on 6th; 112 north-west on 13th; 80 east on 22nd and three south-east on 29th. 134 west at Dunford Bridge on 20th; 65 at Holmfirth on 26th; at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm, 625 south-west in five skeins on 22nd and 110 east at Ingbirchworth on 28th. 'Grey geese' records of 43 south-east over Blackmoorfoot on 28th November and three south-west over Golcar on 24th December.

GREY LAG GOOSE (*Anser anser*)

Uncommon passage visitor.

Two west over Hall Dike on 27th October and 43 west on 20th November were probably this species. One at Ringstone Edge Res on 30th October

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

Resident breeder (1). Partial migrant.

Bretton Park: 143 on 21st February. Population control still in operation, but 19 goslings reared. One of the Chinese-Canada hybrids reared in 1980 still present early in the year. Nine at Ingbirchworth Res on 3rd April and one to three in the area on seven days between 4th March and 3rd May. Singles at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm, Digley Res and Blackmoorfoot Res in the early months on one to three dates, and at Wessenden Head on 11th May. Up to 4 at Horbury Wyke from 19th March to 8th April. Three at Gunthwaite on 1st June. Four north-west over Hoylandswaine on 29th August and at Cupwith Res on 12th December. A small (up to ten) introduced population at Cannon Hall.

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*)

Rare visitor.

One at Bretton Park on 21st February and two on 5th April, two during September and one west on 23rd November; two over Hall Dike on 1st December. These may not all have been wild birds.

SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*)

Uncommon passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: Six in from east on 29th June departed east after 10 minutes. 14 flying west returned then flew north, but one remained on the water on 6th July. Four on 1st and one on 11th September. Eight arrived from the east then departed west on 25th November. One on 2nd December. Ringstone Edge Res: Five on 25th July; one on 7th and five on 10th September. Two on 7th November and three on 29th December. Singles at Bretton Park on 4th May and 10th November; at Ingbirchworth Res on 22nd March, 15th April, 4th and 7th November and at Winscar Res on 29th May. Six immatures at Dewsbury Sewage Farm from 20th to 25th August, with one adult on 25th and only one immature remaining on 26th. Four west at Broadstones on 4th September and two at Hall Dike on 30th November. (Addition to 1981 Report: 2 at Bretton Park on 29th March)

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: Two on 18th January. One on 6th, 19th and 18th and 10 on 19th September. Three on 12th and 16 on 29th October. One on 7th and 11 on 30th November. Ingbirchworth Res: One on 14th and 2 on 24th February, and one on 21st April. One on 12th and three on 18th September then present on most days from 24th up to 16th November with a maximum of 19 on 11th November. A male at Lockwood throughout January. Six at Royd Moor Res on 28th February. Singles early in the year occasionally at Scammonden, Horbury Wyke and Ringstone Edge Res. Four at Broadstones Res on 12th September; six at Gunthwaite Dam on 15th and 19 at Ringstone Edge Res on 18th. Nine at Royd Moor Res on 14th November. One to three on other autumn dates at these waters and at Scout Dike Res, Horbury Wyke and Langsett Res. (Addition to 1981 Report: Seven at Ringstone Edge Res on 2nd and four at Scammonden dam on 30th September).

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

Scarce passage and winter visitor

A pair at Bretton Park on 5th April (GC) and a male on 3rd October (JED). A female, Ingbirchworth Res on 30th October (JMP).

TEAL (*Anas crecca*)

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

Two pairs bred at Black Moss and five ducklings were with four adults at Deanhead Res on 14th August. Occurred on 20 waters with maxima as follows: Ringstone Edge Res: 12 on 6th February and 32 on 17th September; Royd Moor Res: 12 on 14th March; Horbury Wyke: 61 on 22nd March; Blackmoorfoot Res: 17 on 30th August and 16 on 25th September; Broadstones Res: 12 on 12th September; Langsett Res: 16 on 13th November; Ingbirchworth Res: 25 on 19th November; Dewsbury Sewage Farm: 60 on 11th November and 58 on 27th December and Scammonden Dam: 35 on 5th December.

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

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

Maximum counts - Cannon Hall: 67 on 1st January; Scammonden Dam: 67 on 10th January and 70 on 29th December; Royd Moor Res: 55 on 17th January and 78 on 17th October; Elland Gravel

Pits: 68 on 17th January and 80 on 11th December; Bretton Park: 200 on 17th January, 311 on 12th and up to 450 on 31st December; Horbury Wyke: 63 on 21st and Ingbirchworth Res: 106 on 27th September.

PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Ingbirchworth Res: One on 14th February; three on 11th and from 27th to 29th September, and one on 5th November. Blackmoorfoot Res: Three on 8th March; five west on 11th August; eight west on 9th September, one on 15th and singles on 29th October, 6th and 30th November. Pairs at Ringstone Edge Res on 14th and 21st February and at Elland Gravel Pits on several dates from 20th February to 12th March; singles at Scammonden Dam on 17th January; Royd Moor Res on 14th February and 18th September.

SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Bretton Park: Singles on 31st January and 21st March; two on 26th September and six on 3rd October. Ingbirchworth Res: Two on 16th April and 17th May and one on 10th May; one on 7th and four on 30th August; singles on seven days between 11th and 25th September with two on 21st and three on 30th. Four west over Grimescar Valley on 12th February; three on 23rd and 24th March and two from 24th to 27th June. Two at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 21st September. Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res on 10th and 21st September, three on 18th September and five on 29th October. Singles at Ringstone Edge Res on 18th, 23rd and 25th September.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD (*Netta rufina*)

Rare visitor.

A first year male at Blackmoorfoot Res on 8th September (MLD). Second record, probably an escape.

POCHARD (*Aythya ferina*)

Common passage and winter visitor.

Maximum counts - Scammonden Dam: 17 on 3rd January; Bretton Park: 20 on 28th February, 24 in October; Ringstone Edge Res: 17 on 3rd October; Blackmoorfoot Res: 27 on 23rd October; Scout Dike Res: 57 on 6th November and at Ingbirchworth Res: 67 on

7th (probably birds from Scout Dike as maximum otherwise 21 on 2nd); Elland Gravel Pits: 24 on 11th December. Small numbers visited 3 other waters.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*)

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

Bred at Bretton (one pair, five young) and Bilberry Res (two broods of two and three). Maximum counts - Bretton Park: 22 in April; Ingbirchworth Res: 41 on 29th September; Scout Dike Res: 27 on 16th October; Blackmoorfoot Res: 26 on 6th November; Royd Moor Res: 25 on 31st December. Occurred at nine other waters including Lockwood Brewery Dam with one to six till end of March and up to eight in December.

SCALP (*Aythya marila*)

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Ingbirchworth Res: One on 3rd October. One from 26th October to 5th November and on 13th. Probably the same bird that was at Scout Dike Res on four dates from 6th November to 26th December and at Ingbirchworth again on three December days, including 31st. Fifteen briefly at Ingbirchworth on 6th November, and a second at Scout Dike on 20th. One at Scout Dike on 15th May. One at Blackmoorfoot Res on 25th October and two on 6th November.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*)

Rare visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Res from 10th to 18th October (KH et al) and one at Scout Dike Res on 5th December (CB, JED). One at Ringstone Edge Res on 10th October (P Cunningham). Seventh to ninth records.



COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*)

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

One on 19th May and 21 on 15th July at Ringstone Edge Res; Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res on 20th July, 15th August, 7th and 19th September; two there on 11th October and from 7th to 19th November, with one remaining to 26th.

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: Regularly to late April with single immature male on 22nd May, and a maximum of 15 on 22nd February. Three on 10th October and maximum of 14 in late October and early November and 13 on 30th December. Ingbirchworth Res: Regularly to 27th April with a maximum of six in the early months and from 10th October, with a maximum of seven in November. Other maxima: Seven at Scammonden Dam on 7th January; eight at Elland Gravel Pits on 17th January; 10 at Scout Dike Res on 14th November; eight at Langsett Res on 29th November and at Bilberry Res on 2nd December. One to three at twelve other waters.

SMEW (*Mergus albellus*)

Rare visitor.

The adult male returned on 24th January and remained to 21st March at Ingbirchworth Res, visiting Scout Dike Res regularly and Royd Moor Res once. Presumably the same bird returned to Scout Dike Res on 13th November and remained there and at Ingbirchworth Res until the end of the year. (1981 addition: a redhead at Bretton Park on 17th January - J B Baxter).

RED-BREADED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*)

Scarce visitor

One at Bretton Park on 3rd January and at Cannon Hall and Gunthwaite Dam, presumably the same bird seeking open water (JMD, HCL). Two at Scout Dike Res on 10th October (BA). Three at Blackmoorfoot Res on 17th October had departed by mid morning (JB, SMC), and eight, (which had flown over Hall Dike), remained for three hours before departing north-west on 6th November (DMd, JED et al). Singles at Broadstones on 16th October and in the Little Don Valley on 14th (RW) and at Langsett Res on 21st November (JED). Two at Digley Res on 25th December (SMC).

GOOSANDER (*Mergus serrator*)

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: Two north on 26th February; two on 6th March, then one on 24th, which departed west after five minutes; and singles on 23rd November and 29th December, which also had short stays. Elsewhere: five east at Winscar Res on 9th January; singles at Langsett Res on 24th January, 13th February and 3rd April. Two males at Ingbirchworth Res on 30th January; a pair at Róyd Moor Res on 5th and 14th March; two flying west over Gunthwaite on 12th November; five at Ringstone Edge Res on 30th September; two north-north-west at Ingbirchworth on 7th February and one at Elland Gravel Pits on 10th December.

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Rare visitor.

One at Bretton Park from 29th August to 14th September.

Seventh record.

HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

Rare visitor.

One flying west over Baitings Res on 27th July (NC,NO)

GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Scarce visitor. Records from three localities.

SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter nisus*)

Resident breeder.

Once again, a considerable increase in the total number of sightings, reflecting the now flourishing breeding population. Between 7 and 11 pairs bred in the area.

BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*)

Rare visitor.

One flying north-east between Langsett and Flouch on 20th June (SH). Three raptors, probably this species flew east at Digley on 13th July.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Rare visitor.

An immature in flight between Holme Moss and Wessenden Head on 11th April (POB). First record for the area.

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Resident breeder (2).

Bred at 14 localities and reported from over 20 others.

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*)

Formerly resident breeder, now rare passage and winter visitor.

For the third successive year there was no record of breeding. Singles at Ingbirchworth, Skelmanthorpe, Ossett and Fartown in the early months; at Ringstone Edge in August and four moorland areas in October and December. At Blackmoorfoot Res two sightings in March and six from August onwards.

PEREGRINE (*Falco peregrinus*)

Rare visitor.

Singles at Ingbirchworth on 19th March (CD) and Blackmoorfoot on 30th August (KH).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris rufa*)

Resident breeder (1).

Three at Hoylandswaine on 28th February. Two at Digley on 26th March, and one there on 17th and 21st July. Singles at Thorpes, Skelmanthorpe on 28th March; at Spicer House Lane, near Ingbirchworth on 28th April and 28th May; at Gunthwaite on 30th April; two each near Bilberry Res on 5th May and Whitley Common on 23rd.

GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*)

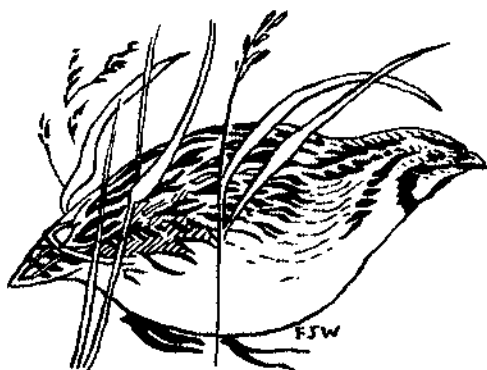
Resident breeder (2).

Remains widespread in the east of the area. More coveys reported than in 1981, with 18 at Cawthorne on 3rd January; 13 at Ronscliffe Wood on 12th September; 15 at Gunthwaite Mill on 10th October and 14 at Gunthwaite Dam on 28th November. 13 fed round sprinklers at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 3rd January, during a freeze. 12 at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 16th June.

QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*)

Sporadic summer visitor

At least two in the Spicer House Lane - Whitley Common and Greenley Carr Farm area from 13th June to 23rd July (JED et al).



PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Resident breeder (3).

Good numbers in the eastern woodlands, in some of which they are released for shooting.

WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*)

Scarce winter visitor.

One by the canal in the Golcar area on 1st January and 6th of February (JP).

MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Resident breeder (3).

Sixty three at Horbury Wyke on 27th December, during the cold spell.

COOT (*Fulica atra*)

Resident breeder (2).

Pairs bred at Bretton Park (2), Cannon Hall, Gunthwaite Dam, Gunthwaite Hall Pond, Scout Dam at Penistone, probably at Scout Dike and Royd Moor Res; Ingbirchworth Res (4 pairs failed), Meltham Mills, Elland Gravel Pits and Blackmoorfoot Res. Low maxima of 35 at Scout Dike on 21st March; 18 at Bretton in

October, and up to 32 at Elland Gravel Pits in January and February; 27 in November and December, 25 at Horbury Wyke on 10th October.

OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

Uncommon passage visitor.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res on 4th April and 3rd May and at Ringstone Edge Res on 29th May, where there were two on 21st July. Two at Broadstones Res probably present from 29th June to 9th July, fed in nearby fields with Lapwings. During August, two at Blackmoorfoot Res and three at Ringstone Edge Res on 7th, where there were two on 14th; then one south over Honley on 21st and two north-west over Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 30th. One at Blackmoorfoot Res on 3rd September and one at Ingbirchworth Res on 17th October.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*)

Scarce summer visitor and occasional breeder.

Bred at one site where the first arrived on 29th April, hatching two young which did not fledge. Two at Ringstone Edge Res on 3rd July and one flying west over Digley on 17th. Dewsbury Sewage Farm had 5 on 17th, 4 on 2nd, 3 on 4th, 2 on 5th July; 5 on 12th August, 3 on 15th and 2 from 24th to 26th.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

Uncommon passage visitor.

The first were three over Blackmoorfoot Res on 23rd April, then singles at Ringstone Edge Res on 5th and Ingbirchworth Res on 20th May. Ringstone had one on 20th June, then two on 14th and singles on 16th and 20th July; singles on 9th, 12th, 15th and 18th August, and 3 on 11th; singles at Whitley Common on 3rd and Scammonden on 7th August. Most records from Dewsbury Sewage Farm, where birds were present almost daily from 13th August (2) to 9th September (1), with maxima of 19 on 18th, 23 on 19th, at least 18 to 24th, with 22 on 23rd and 16 to 26th August then down to single figures (JRS).

DOTTEREL (*Charadrius morinellus*)

Rare passage visitor.

Six on Slaithwaite Moor on 8th May (JFR). One from 13th to 18th May at Greenley Carr Farm, with a second on the evening of

15th (JED, BA et al). (Addition to 1981 Report: One at Greenley Carr Farm on one day in May - J M Clegg - Precise date not reported). This species has now appeared in the same general area for four successive years. This reflects a general increase in spring passage in the counties of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire and Northumberland.

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius apricaria*)

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

The favoured areas are well-known and regularly watched and it was Crosland Moor and Blackmoorfoot areas that had the highest numbers in the first two months, with 750 on 22nd January and 450 on 16th February at the former area and 300 on 21st February and 206 on 21st April at the latter. At Ringstone Edge, after small numbers in March, 214 on 21st and up to 650 on 2nd April, then down to 380 on 14th (mainly 'Northern') and only two on 2nd May. At Whitley Common and in the Broadstones area, a few on 10th March, not reaching 100 until April, with 171 on 8th, then 600 on 20th and 550 on 24th (mainly 'Northern') down to 245 on 1st May. 25 'Southern' still at Whitley Common on 16th May. Bred on the high moorlands along the county boundaries. 274 at Blackmoorfoot by 31st August, fewer during the autumn, but 280 on 13th December; however, at nearby Crosland Moor, 350 on 13th November and a record 1400 on 29th (TC). Ringstone Edge had up to 100 in August, then 230 on 10th September, 482 on 14th, and 580 on 18th, declining to 24 on 2nd October, when 320 were near Pole Moor. 281 near Broadstones on 23rd July and 305 on 16th August. 308 at New Hall on 19th December.

GREY PLOVER (*Charadrius squatarola*)

Scarce passage visitor.

Singles flying west at Blackmoorfoot Res on 10th and 13th October. One at Dewsbury Sewage Farm from 19th to 26th October with a second on 22nd.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Resident breeder (3-4). Numerous passage + winter visitor.

Many flocks in various localities, early and late, of less than 200. 518 at Blackmoorfoot on 1st January and 450 at Crosland Moor on 23rd February. Much higher numbers later in year,

commencing on 26th June with 400 at Blackmoorfoot and 381 at Ingbirchworth and a similar number at South Crosland on 30th. 508 at Blackmoorfoot on 6th July, up to 900 on 15th August, down to 300 in late September and 280 on 20th November, but on 29th on Crosland Moor 1100 were counted, 300 south at Blackmoorfoot on 30th December. Maxima at other sites - Ringstone Edge Res: 400 on 23rd July and 11th August, Dewsbury Sewage Farm: 500 on 24th August; Ingbirchworth Res: 727 on 7th August and 380 on 21st November; Broadstones area: 1000 on 26th August; Penistone: 380 on 21st November and Grange Moor 250 on 1th December; Dearne Dike Lane: 1000 on 15th August. A leucistic bird was at Greenley Carr Farm on 20th March.

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

Scarce passage visitor.

Two at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 6th August, two on 7th and one on 9th (JRS).

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*)

Scarce passage visitor.

One in summer plumage at Ingbirchworth Res on 5th May (DB, SMB).

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*)

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Ringstone Edge Res on 16th July (JMD).

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: One west on 8th February. 10 on 3rd May and 2 on 15th. A total of 37 bird days between 19th July and 5th December with more than half moving west. Maximum 5 on 4th December. Ringstone Edge Res: One on 14th and 22nd April and two on 5th May. Six on 3rd July, three on 16th, two on 17th and five on 18th July. Two on 7th August and singles on 11th August and 4th September. Dewsbury Sewage Farm: Present on 19 days in August, with five from 19th to 25th, then three on 24th September and one on 25th. One at Ingbirchworth Res on 5th May and at Broadstones on 3rd August and 12 passed the former place on 6th November. Bred on the highest moors including three pairs on Black Moss. Recorded

regularly at Deerhill Res from one on 17th April to 5 on 5th June and the last two on 18th July.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*)

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Broadstones on 9th July; one at Dewsbury Sewage Farm from 27th August to 24th September and three on 25th and 26th. One at Ringstone Edge Res on 23rd September.

JACK SNIPE (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Singles at Hall Dike on 26th January; Ossett on 6th March and Elland Gravel Pits on 14th. In October, singles at Scammonden on 17th, Hall Dike on 30th; at Blackmoorfoot Res two on 22nd with one to 31st and one on 7th November. One at Hall Dike on 4th December. One at Brown's Edge, near Ingbirchworth on 27th January.

SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*)

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

A marshy field in the Grimescar Valley area held 28 on 31st January. Autumn maxima again rather low, as follows - Dewsbury Sewage Farm: 22 in late August; Ingbirchworth Res: 21 during October; Blackmoorfoot: 28 on 18th October and Ringstone Edge: 66 on 30th October. Bred at Whitley Common, Broadstones, Ringstone Edge, Scammonden and Winscar as well as on higher moorlands and possibly at Horbury Wyke.

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Resident breeder (2). Uncommon winter visitor.

Roding birds at Coxley, Bretton Park (up to 5), Cawthorne, Deffer Wood, Swinden-Flouch area (at least 3), Bank Wood and Gunthwaite areas. Birds located at six localities in January including six at Grimescar on 31st and three at Bretton on same day.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*)

Rare passage visitor.

One in summer plumage at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 19th August (JRS, DL).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*)

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Ingbirchworth Res on 9th June. One west over Blackmoorfoot Res on 7th September (EK).

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Singles at Ringstone Edge Res on 11th July and 2nd August. All the birds at Blackmoorfoot were overhead, flying west or south-west, with one on 10th August, two and two separately on 26th August and two on 3rd September

CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*)

Migrant breeder (2). Common passage visitor.

Nine flying south over Scammonden on 10th January. The first to return were one at Langsett and two at Ingbirchworth on 5th March, where there were 9 on 9th; then at Broadstones and Royd Moor on 14th; Whitley Common on 19th (8) and at Scammonden on 21st and Blackmoorfoot on 22nd. 24 at Whitley Common on 26th March. Bred near these localities and also at Digley, Yateholme, Wessenden area, Slaithwaite Moor, Rishworth Moor, near Winscar and Hartcliffe, south of Penistone, as well as being present again in the Stockmoor, Bretton, High Hoyland and Cawthorne areas. Some movement in late June, with 23 west of Digley and 36 on Whitley Common on 26th, and on 27th and 29th a total of 15 west over Blackmoorfoot Res; 26 were at Broadstones on 29th. 22 at Broadstones on 7th August, and 15 immatures on 15th. Records from seven places in August but few in September, the last being at Blackmoorfoot Res on 18th.

SPOTTED REDSHANK (*Tringa erythropus*)

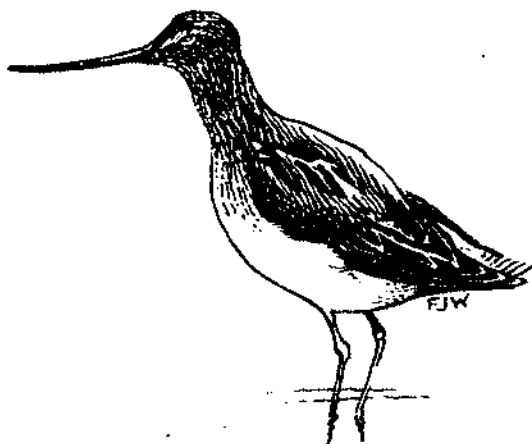
Scarce passage visitor.

Two at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 24th August and one from 27th to 31st (CB, JRS). One flew down the Calder at Sands, Dewsbury on 25th December (CB).

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*)

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage + winter visitor

The only early record was one at Horbury Wyke from 3rd to 12th January. During March, one at Ringstone Edge on 14th; one at Broadstones from 26th and two at Whitley Common on 28th, the species remaining at these two sites in the breeding season. Also during the spring at Black Moss (three pairs bred), Horbury Wyke (one pair, two chicks), Langsett Res and Royd Moor Res. Singles in August at Ringstone Edge on 5th, Deerhill on 18th and Blackmoorfoot on 21st; 15 west over Hall Dike on 6th November, a day of wildfowl and wader movement.



GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

Uncommon passage visitor.

One at Bretton Park on 26th March. During July, singles over Blackmoorfoot Res on 12th and 21st; at Digley on 26th and Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 13th. In August, two at Ringstone Edge Res on 4th and one on 15th; at Dewsbury Sewage Farm 5 on 4th, 3 on 6th and 7th, 5 on 10th, 6 on 15th, 8 on 16th, one on 26th and 4 on 28th; 3 at Healey Mills, Horbury on 15th and one over Ossett on 26th. One at Ingbirchworth Res on 12th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*)

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

One at Dewsbury Sewage Farm from 17th July to 25th September with a second on 10th August. Most other records during August with singles at Blackmoorfoot Res on 2nd, 10th, 14th, 17th,

18th; Ringstone Edge Res: 2 on 5th and one on 7th; Deerhill Res: one on 12th and 13th; one at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 6th October.

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*)

Rare passage visitor.

One at Ingbirchworth Res on 14th June (CD) and one at Ringstone Edge Res on 14th July (SH).

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage visitor.

One at Ingbirchworth Res on 10th April was very early, with the second at Meltham Mills on 26th April and the next at Broadstones on 1st May. Widely distributed in the breeding season, with breeding proven at Deerhill Res, Ramsden Res, Bilberry Res and Yateholme. More records than usual at Blackmoorfoot Res, but maximum only four and the same maximum at Ringstone Edge Res and Ingbirchworth Res. Occurred regularly at Dewsbury Sewage Farm, with a maximum of 15 on 16th August. Late birds on 29th September at Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth; the last on 14th October at Dewsbury Sewage Farm.

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Ringstone Edge Res on 4th August and one west at Blackmoorfoot Res on 26th.

SKUA sp (*Stercorarius sp*)

One at Blackmoorfoot Res on 24th October.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL (*Larus melanocephalus*)

Rare visitor.

One first winter at Blackmoorfoot Res on 9th November (JB), (Addition to 1981 Report: Adult at Langsett Res on 22nd November (NWA). Sixth and seventh records.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*)

Scarce passage visitor.

An adult at Dewsbury Sewage Farm from 15th to 21st August (JRS, DH, DL, CB). An immature at Blackmoorfoot Res on 6th September (CH). (Addition to 1980 Report: One at Bretton Park on 11th July).

SABINE'S GULL (*Larus sabini*)

Rare visitor.

An immature at Blackmoorfoot Res for ten minutes before departing north on 1st October (MLD). Second record

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*)

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

Blackmoorfoot Res roost maxima of 1850 on 19th January, 4200 on 24th February, 3650 on 31st December; and on 28th October, 5100 and 28th November 6000 of this species and Common Gull (*L. canus*) of which it is probable that 80% were Black-headed Gulls. 4500 roosting at Langsett Res on 30th January. The breeding colony had only 77 sitting birds on 7th June and 30 young on 30th June, with 40 on 19th July (MLD).

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*)

Rare visitor.

A second-winter bird at Blackmoorfoot Res on 11th February (MLD). Second record. *This record is still being considered by British Birds Rarities Committee*.

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*)

Numerous winter and passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: The highest counts of this species in the roost were of 435 on 19th January, at least 730 on 28th February, 400 on 13th March, 575 on 18th and 380 on 31st December. Higher numbers may have occurred in counts where this species and Black-headed Gulls (*L. ridibundus*) were grouped together. Langsett Res: 267 on 24th January

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*)

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: Low spring maximum of 47 on 13th March. 138 on 30th September; 176 on 22nd October and 127 on 31st. Three on 9th October showed characteristics of Scandinavian race (*L. fuscus fuscus*). Ringstone Edge Res: about 200 on 9th August. (Addition to 1981 Report: Blackmoorfoot Res: 61 on 7th March and 241 on 5th November)

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*)

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: Highest roost counts 134 on 2nd January, 236 on 30th January and 154 on 21st December. A yellow legged sub-adult on 18th April. Ringstone Edge Res: 270 roosting on 10th January.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*)

Scarce winter visitor.

A second winter at Scammonden on 9th January (JB).

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*)

Scarce winter visitor.

First-winter birds at Blackmoorfoot Res on 6th and 8th January (PDB, KH); on 24th and 25th December (MLD) and another on 26th and 27th (KH, JP). (Addition to 1980 Report: One at Ingbirchworth Res on 26th December).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*)

Common winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: Roost counts of 96 on 30th January, 59 on 21st December and 93 on 31st. Ringstone Edge Res: 170 roosting on 10th January. Langsett Res: At least 250 on 6th January and 106 on 23rd December, roosting.

KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*)

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res: One on 2nd January, two on 17th March and singles on 26th October and 25th December. One flew west over Hall Dike on 12th November.

COMMON TERN - ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna hirundo/paradisæa*)

Uncommon passage visitors.

One at Scout Dike Res on 1st May, two at Ingbirchworth Res on 3rd May and 5 south-east at Horbury Wike on 24th June (all Common). Elland Gravel Pits: All Common unless stated otherwise - six on 19th June, 17 on 22nd (plus 4 'commic') 16 in the morning and 18 in the evening of 23rd. Singles on 26th June and 4th July.

Two Arctic on 31st July and one of each species on 15th August.
Blackmoorfoot: A good year. Mostly flying west or south-west and only identified where stated - One on 3rd June, parties of 14 and 22 (including 3 of each species) on 18th August, one on 19th (Arctic), a total of 9 on 30th (1 Common), one on 9th September; seven on 10th (two Arctic), four on 11th (three Common, one Arctic), 8 on 18th and 9 on 19th September (one Common, two Arctic). Singles at Langsett on 1st August and Bretton park on 6th (Arctic). Birds not specifically identified flew west over Hall Dike on 26th July (one) and 18th August (two). A juvenile Common Tern picked up dead at Castle Hill on 6th October had been ringed as a nestling in Poland on 19th July. (Addition to 1981 Report: One at Ingbirchworth Res on 16th May).

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*)

Scarce passage visitor.

Singles at Ingbirchworth Res on 10th May and 10th August.

Blackmoorfoot Res: One on 10th August, 27 on 10th September, two on 11th and 18th and singles on 1st and 2nd October.

STOCK DOVE (*Columba livia*)

Resident breeder (3). Common winter visitor.

30 at Carlecotes on 24th January. Over 100 at Ingbirchworth on 5th March. 45 over Bretton Park on 17th October. 40 in Toby Wood, Dendy Dale on 2nd November. Bred at Winscar, Bretton Park, Deffer Wood, Coxley, Digley, Hall Dike, Ingbirchworth area, Booth Dean, Outlane and other localities.

WOODPIGEON (*Columba palumbus*)

Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor.

Up to 250 at Grimescar in mid February. A considerable influx in November, with 984 west at Hall Dike between 11th and 22nd; 151 west and east at Blackmoorfoot Res on 21st and 27th. A total of 231 west and south at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 19th, 22nd and 30th and 220 west at Dunford Bridge on 20th. Up to 3000 in the Storthes Hall area at dusk on 27th December.

COLLARED DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Resident breeder (3).

Numbers at Drake's Yard (corn merchants) at Honley were lower than in 1981. The highest count was 35 on 28th February. 50 flying north at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 16th December.

TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)

Migrant breeder (1-2).

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res and Stockmoor on 9th May, and Gunthwaite on 14th. Singing males during June at Bank Wood (2), Bretton Park, Bullcliffe and Cawthorne Park, and two each at Horbury Wyke on 7th and Deffer Wood on 20th. Last one at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 25th August.

CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)

Migrant breeder (2).

One at Middlestown from 22nd to 29th April; one at Bretton Park on 3rd May; and singles on 6th May at Scammonden, Hall Dike, Digley and Key Clough and at three other places by 9th May. Occurred during June and July at 14 localities plus those named above. A juvenile at Scammonden on 5th August and one flying down the Calder at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 25th.

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

Resident breeder (1).

Little known about this species in the area at present. One at Outlane Golf Course on 13th September (P Jagger).

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*)

Resident breeder (2).

Pairs bred or probably bred at Lindley Moor, Holt Head, Digley (2), Hall Dike, Whitley Common, Gunthwaite, Gawthorpe Green and Horbury Wyke. Present at Cawthorne, Scammonden and South Crosland. Singles at 14 localities away from those above.

TAWNY OWL (*Strix aluco*)

Resident breeder (2).

More records than usual received. At least 19 pairs bred in 14 localities. Singles seen or heard at 17 places.

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*)

Resident breeder (1)

Singles at two of the breeding sites during April, but otherwise no investigations carried out.

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)

Resident/migrant breeder (1), not annual. Scarce visitor.

Three pairs bred in the south of the area. Singles near Langsett on 20th and 21st May and Winscar on 31st. Singles near Scammonden on 5th May and 12th August. At Whitley Common, singles on 27th January, 7th February, 19th, 25th and 27th March, 8th May, 9th August; then two on 30th September, five on 11th October, three on 18th and two on 22nd, and singles on six days to 20th November. One at Dewsbury Sewage Farm from 24th to 31st August and one at Whitley Beaumont on 29th November.

SWIFT (*Apus apus*)

Migrant breeder (3).

One on 3rd May, one to two at Bretton Park, Ingbirchworth, Holmfirth, Crosland Moor, Blackmoorfoot, Oakes; on 4th at Coxley and Ainley Top. 20 at Milnesbridge and others at five more places on 5th. 17 west at Derby Dale on 6th May and good numbers over Ingbirchworth Res, with 60 on 7th, 100 on 8th and 250 on 9th. Possibly 20 breeding pairs at two sites in Almondbury. Breeding in old mill buildings near Dewsbury Sewage Farm and elsewhere in the Holme and Colne Valleys. Singles at Almondbury on 13th September and Cowlersley on 22nd. Four at Emley on 28th and two at Bretton Park on 3rd October.

KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*)

Resident breeder (1).

One pair bred near Bretton park, rearing three young. Singles at Marsden and Linthwaite on 3rd January. Six sightings at Gunthwaite Dam between 6th June and 31st August. One on River Don at Thurlstone on 5th January and one at Derby Dale on 11th November, otherwise singles in late summer and early autumn at Push Dam Shepley, Penistona, Scout Dike, Hall Dike and Ingbirchworth. Two at Scout Dam, Penistona on 18th July. Singles on R Calder near Elland Gravel Pits on 13th March, 15th May and 4th July.

GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus viridis*)

Resident breeder (1-2).

Two pairs bred at Hall Dike; possibly one pair at Brockholes and probably a pair at Denby Dale as a young bird was seen there in June. Recorded on 22 dates at Bretton Park (bred) up to 6th July (mainly March/April) and on 3rd October. Other records from Honley Wood, Netherton, Farnley Lane, Castle Hill, Butternab wood, Dean Wood, Digley, Jackson Bridge, Lower Whitley, Horbury Wyke, Elland Gravel Pits and Grimescar wood.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos major*)

Resident breeder (2)

Bred at Meltham Mills, Hall Dike and Honley Wood, and probably at Hagg Wood and Bretton Park. Pairs in four other woodlands and one or two in 21 other localities. Garden feeding in the winter less widely reported, but three individuals visited Lumb Lane, Almondbury in the early months.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos minor*)

Resident breeder (1).

Most regular at Bretton Park, with a male drumming from 27th March to 9th April with a second on one date and one on 31st May. Singles at Bullcliffe on 23rd January, at Deffer Wood on 11th April and 3rd May; at Gunthwaite Mill on 12th and 18th April (drumming males at the last two sites); at Longley Wood on 27th April, Hall Dike during July and Cannon Hall on 31st August. (Addition to 1981 Report: Pair feeding young at Bretton on 14th June).

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*)

Resident breeder (4). Partial migrant.

A flock of 40 at Langsett on 14th November was the largest noted. 70 west over Crosland Hill in one flock on 17th December.

SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*)

Migrant breeder (2).

One at Blackmoorfoot Res on 24th March and three at Horbury Wyke on 28th. At least 6 at Bretton Park on 6th April. As in 1981, very few recorded and many of these were passage migrants, such as birds on nine dates at Blackmoorfoot Res (July -

September); at Lindley Moor, Hall Dike, Ringstone Edge Res (6 on 3rd August), and also at Ingbirchworth Res on six dates. Last at Denby Dale and Elland on 2nd September, Blackmoorfoot on 11th and Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 24th (six).

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

Migrant breeder (4). Numerous passage visitor.

Two at Blackmoorfoot Res on 2nd April and Bretton on 4th; One at Grimescar on 8th and at least 8 at Bretton on 9th. Would appear to have been less common in the area this year. 200 at Ingbirchworth Res on 4th May was the only high count, apart from those of birds migrating or moving to roosts. 170 south at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 6th September. Counts of over 100 on six September dates at Blackmoorfoot Res, including 400 on 21st, and last two there on 12th October. Singles at Ossett on 19th and Hepworth on 24th October. (Addition to 1981 Report: One at Outlane Moor on 6th November)

HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*)

Migrant breeder (3). Common passage visitor.

Two at Bretton on 9th April were the earliest ever in the area. One to two at Bretton during the next week, before singles at Hall Dike on 20th and Ossett Spa on 22nd April. As with the previous species, fewer noted than usual, perhaps just one recorded. Maxima of 40 at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 25th June, 150 at Ingbirchworth on 19th August, 100 at Linthwaite Mill Bottom on 5th September, 60 at Blackmoorfoot Res on 14th August (40+ on two dates), and 35 at Ringstone Edge Res on 18th September. October records in eight localities including Cowcliffe on 14th, Horbury on 15th, Blackmoorfoot on 17th, Ossett on 18th and the last at Hall Dike on 6th November.

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*)

Migrant breeder (3).

Singing males at Woodsome on 14th, Bretton on 15th (two), Deffer Wood on 17th (two) and Gunthwaite on 18th April. A total of 60 singing males counted throughout the area, including eight in Deffer Wood and ten at Coxley during May. Last at Blackmoorfoot Res on 8th September. (Addition to 1981 Report: 3 at Blackmoorfoot Res on 23rd August).

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*)

Resident breeder (4-5). Partial migrant.

Up to 10 at Elland Gravel Pits during the winter months. Pre-breeding flocks in March were small with 30 at Digley, 40 at Lindley Moor and 60 at Horbury Wyke. The highest autumn counts were 50 south at Blackmoorfoot Res on 21st September and 75 south at Ringstone Edge on 22nd, where there were up to 40 till the month end. 46 were at Hall Dike on 27th November and at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm, 50 on 8th November and 13 on 16th November.

YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*)

Migrant breeder (1-2).

Two at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 15th April and 3 there on 26th. Singles at Hall Dike on 29th and at Bretton Park on 1st May, with 5 at Elland Gravel Pits on 3rd May. One pair bred at Armitage Bridge and two pairs at Hall Dike. Most regular sightings at Ingbirchworth Res during May and August with a maximum of seven. Ten at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 21st August and at Blacker Wood on 3rd October.

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Resident breeder (2).

Bred at Booth Oan, Bretton Park, Hall Dike, the Upper Little Don and near Brockholes. Has apparently bred almost every year since 1964 at Hartcliffe Mills, Denby Dale, but did not do so this year (DB). Present during the spring and summer at Yateholme, Cawthorne and Golcar.

PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*)

Resident breeder (3). Partial migrant.

Widespread reports of breeding pairs. 25 at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 17th August and 15 at the Civic Centre roost on 12th November.

WAXWING (*Bombacilla garrulus*)

Rare to uncommon winter visitor.

Six in a Denby Dale Garden on 22nd and 23rd February (DB). Two at Hall Dike on 30th October and 1st November (DMd).

DIPPER (*Cinclus cinclus*)

Resident breeder (2).

Pairs bred at Marsden, Hall Dike, Brockholes, Thongsbridge and Derby Dale. Other probable breeding areas were Black Brook, Yateholme, Digley and on the Slaithwaite / Golcar stretches of the River Colne. All had birds on several dates throughout the year. Other records from Hagg wood, Gunthwaite, Hepworth and Bretton Park.

WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

Resident breeder (2).

It seems likely that this species suffered again in the cold spell of December 1981 to January 1982 as declines were reported from Hall Dike, Golcar and Bretton Park, where five were found dead in a nest-box on 15th March.

DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis*)

Resident breeder (5).

Winter Atlas work has indicated the difficulties of establishing the population of this widespread species. The highest count on this year's cards was of 10 in the north of SE10 on 14th February.

ROBIN (*Erithacus rubecula*)

Resident breeder (5).

An obvious influx at Bretton Park in early October with well over 50 present on 3rd.

BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

Rare visitor.

One on Lindley Moor on 13th September (JMD, JED).

REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

Migrant breeder (2)

Singles at Digley on 23rd April, Ramsden Clough on 27th and Gunthwaite Dam on 28th. Bred at Digley, Hepworth, Hall Dike (two pairs), Swinden Plantation and possibly at Yateholme. Singing males also at Booth Wood, Deerhill, Windy Bank Wood, Langsett, Derby Dale, Woodsome, Thurstonland and Hoyland Bank. September records at Lindley Moor and Blackmoorfoot on 8th and Scammonden on 9th.

WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*)

Migrant breeder (2).

One at Broadstones on 2nd May, then others at Rishworth Moor and Scammonden on 8th and Ingbirchworth on 9th. 17 in Scammonden on 13th June where at least two pairs bred. Breeding probable at Deerhill, Yateholme, Upper Little Don, Dunford, near Both Wood and near Ingbirchworth. Records in September at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 11th, Scout Dike on 12th (two), Lindley Moor on 13th (three) and at Whitley Common on 23rd.

STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)

Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Bred in 1970's.

A female at Elland Gravel Pits on 13th March. One male in Grimescar Valley on 2nd May (WSMc). An immature male near Langsett Res on 11th December (RW).

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

Migrant breeder (2).

A male at Buckstones on 23rd March and a male at Whitley Common on 25th and further singles at Digley on 27th, Deerhill on 31st and two each in Grimescar Valley on 30th March and Rishworth Moor on 1st April. Five of the Greenland race (*O. o. leucorrhoea*) on Whitley Common on 5th May. 12 in one field at Broadstones on 8th May. Bred at Ringstone Edge, Moselden, Rishworth Moor, Buckstones, Scammonden, and near Ingbirchworth, and probably at other upland localities. Two records on 24th October of singles at Snailsden and Broadstones.

RING OUZEL (*Turdus torquatus*)

Migrant breeder (2).

First at Digley on 25th March where there were 9 by 30th and still 9 on April 10th. Singles at Buckstones on 27th March and Rishworth Moor on 28th. Bred in these localities and in the Upper Little Don, at Crowden, at Wessenden and probably at Ramsden Clough and in the Dovestones area. Last one at Scammonden on 17th October.

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*)

Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

An obvious influx in early November when the species was particularly numerous in the area included 110 in the Hall Dike Valley on 3rd and 189 on 17th November.

FIELDFARE (*Turdus pilaris*)

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Singles during hard weather in early January in gardens at Lindley Moor, Fartown, Golcar and elsewhere. 400 at West Vale on 27th March and at Denby on 4th April; 500 at Whitley Common on 1st April and at Royd House Wood on 25th. 65 at Gunthwaite on 28th April, 25 at Gawthorpe on 2nd May. An adult at one locality from 15th to 17th July, where there were at least four young on 16th which had probably been raised nearby. One at Whitley Common on 1st August. Two at Digley on 2nd October, six at Gunthwaite on 17th, eight on 18th and 32 west on 20th at Denby Dale. 250 west at Whitley Common on 19th; 50 at Ossett on 20th; 100 at Digley on 27th and 90 south over the Upper Little Con on 30th October. Large numbers throughout the area during November. 2455 moved west at Hall Dike between 6th and 22nd, including 1036 on 17th. 200 at Whitley Common on 2nd and at Broadstones on 10th, and over 200 near Ingbirchworth on 7th and 14th with 350 on 13th. near Almondbury, 200 at Mollicar Wood on 6th and 300 at Royd House Wood on 27th. Over 200 at Magdale on 7th and 350 at Butternab on 15th. 400 going to roost near Swinden plantation on 7th and 130 there on 20th, when 320 also flew south-west. 200 were at Hartcliffe, south of Penistone on 7th, 100 at Bristfield, Flockton on 29th. High numbers still present during December. 420 at Hall Dike on 4th, 300 at Gunthwaite and 450 at Skelmanthorpe on 5th and 175 at Lepton Wood on 11th. 350 at Cawthorne on 20th, 720 at Langsett on 23rd, where 300 flew south-west on 26th; 100 at Ossett on 25th; 300 at Green Moor on 26th and, on 27th, 120 at Horbury Wyke and 600 at Bretton Park.

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

Resident breeder (4).

In general, Winter Atlas counts have confirmed that the species is scarce in the area during winter months, with from 1 to 5 on 15 counts and none on further counts. 20 at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 16th December.

REDWING (*Turdus iliacus*)

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Quite scarce in the early months with flocks being of less than 30, apart from 270 in the Grimescar Valley on 24th January. Up to 220 roosting in Hall Dike Valley and 52 at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 12th March. Only five April records, the last being at Hall Dike on 17th and 15 at Gunthwaite on 20th. The first one at Hall Dike on 19th September, then a moderate but widespread arrival from 8th to 10th October. Again, in the autumn, most flocks were small, being of 50 or less, apart from 250 south over Golcar on 16th October. 80 at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 8th November and large numbers in the Hall Dike area, increasing from 330 on 2nd November to 730 on 17th, then down to 300 by 4th December. Westerly movement recorded in that area between 31st October and 27th November, totalling 1668.

MISTLE THRUSH (*Turdus viscivorus*)

Resident breeder (3).

Flocks at Digley of over 30 on 21st July; Blackmoorfoot over 25 on 21st and Bretton Park of over 20 on 3rd October.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*)

Migrant breeder (1).

First at Horbury Wyke on 21st May where at least three young were reared and a male was still singing during July. Two males at Bank Wood during June and at least three at Deffer Wood during July, when at least one juvenile was present.

SEdge WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

Migrant breeder (1).

Two singing at Elland Gravel Pits during May and one during June. At least three singing males at Horbury and a further five along the River Calder, west of Horbury during May. Pairs bred or probably bred at the following sewage farms: Ossett Spa (1), Dewsbury (2), Horbury (2) (JRS). (Addition to 1981 Report: Blackmoorfoot, 2 on 10th and 12th August).

REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

Rare passage visitor.

Two present along the river bank near Horbury Sewage Farm from 20th May to 22nd June after which the vegetation was flattened by cattle. One at Horbury on 29th June.

LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*)

Migrant breeder (1).

Two in Blacker Wood, Clayton West on 8th May and one in Deffer Wood on 9th and Coxley Wood on 12th. At Gunthwaite Dam, a male in song on a few dates from 19th May and a pair present on 24th May and 3rd June. A male singing at Broad Oak, Gunthwaite on 30th and 31st May. Singing males at Bretton Park on 21st June and along the Calder, west of Horbury on 29th June. One at Ingbirchworth Res on 15th August. Singles caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res on 7th and 14th August (retrapped 25th) and 13th September.

WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia communis*)

Migrant breeder (2).

The first report was quite late, being at Hagg Wood on 8th May. 16 singing males located in SE21 (Calder Valley and Bretton Park area); four in Deffer Wood, three in the Hall Dike Valley and up to seven at Elland Gravel Pits (22nd May). Although recovering in some parts of the country, it is still below 1969 numbers near Huddersfield. Last one at Hall Dike on 2nd September.

GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*)

Migrant breeder (2).

Two at Wither Wood, Denby Dale on 4th May and others at Boothroyd Wood on 8th and Bretton Park and Deffer Wood on 9th. At least 17 singing males to the east of the area from Coxley to Bretton to Cawthorne and Gunthwaite. Singing males at Hagg Wood, Farnley Line and Hall Dike (3) during late May and early June. One at Blackmoorfoot on 25th July and two at Denby Dale on 24th August.

BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

Migrant breeder (3). Rare winter visitor.

One male at Grimescar on 23rd March but no obvious arrival until one at Deffer wood on 17th April and one at Bretton on 25th.

At least 23 singing males in the general area from Horbury to Bretton, but only two in Deffer Wood. Breeding widespread in woodlands throughout the area. At least three in Bretton Park on 3rd October. Wintering birds at Bretton Park on 14th November and Cannon Hall on 28th. At Thorpe Lane, Almondbury, two variously from 8th to 23rd December and one at Blackmoorfoot on 22nd and 31st December.

WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

Migrant breeder (4).

First at Bretton Park on 3rd April and Slaithwaite on 4th; at Meltham on 6th and many places from 8th to 11th. At least 35 singing males along the Colne Valley from Milnsbridge to Lees Mill in early May. Last at Blackmoorfoot Res on 30th September and in Almondbury on 13th October.

GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*)

Resident breeder (3). Common passage visitor.

Bred as usual in all the extensive coniferous woodlands and at Bretton Park and Hall Dike. A small influx in October and November noted at these localities and others, including Blackmoorfoot Res. Large numbers during the late autumn at Deffer Wood and Langsett.

FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*)

Rare visitor.

One at Langsett on 6th November (D Gosney) and one at Ingbirchworth Res (R Parrish, JED et al). Seventh and eighth records for the area.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*)

Migrant breeder (3).

First at Hall Dike on 12th and Hagg Wood on 13th May, and a pair nest building at Digley on 15th. Proof of breeding in at least 12 localities including Bretton Park (3 pairs), Hall Dike (4 pairs), Longwood, where a pair bred in a mill yard and at Lockwood. Nine in the Grimescar Valley on 22nd August, and 18 at Bretton Park on 4th September. Last one at Skelmanthorpe Station on 19th September.

PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

Rare passage visitor.

A male at Deffer Wood on 9th May (OB)

LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

Resident breeder (2).

Small parties of 6 to 10 in the early months at Bretton Park, Langsett, Brockholes and Horbury Wyke. Bred at these localities and at Deffer Wood, Grimescar, Hall Dike, Bank Wood, Gunthwaite and probably three other places. Totals of 25 in Bretton Park and 33 in the Hall Dike Valley on 7th November; 28 in Deffer Wood on 14th November and up to 15 near Denby Dale in December.

MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*)

Rare visitor.

One near Holmfirth in trees along the River Holme on 7th April (EK).

WILLOW TIT (*Parus montanus*)

Resident breeder (2).

Pairs bred at Bretton Park; in the Horbury and Ossett areas (three) and at Hall Dike (four) and probably at Gunthwaite. One to four at six other localities.

COAL TIT (*Parus ater*)

Resident breeder (3).

Bred at Bretton Park, Bullcliffe Woods, Bank Wood, Hall Dike, Deffer Wood, Yateholme area, Digley and Langsett, being particularly numerous at the last four localities during the autumn.

BLUE TIT (*Parus caeruleus*)

Resident breeder (5).

Winter Atlas counts were generally of less than 30, but 76 were in the northern half of SE10 (Holmfirth) on 14th February, and 50 were in the south-western quarter of SE11 (Honley etc) on 29th November; good numbers were in the Hall Dike Valley at the year-end, including 114 on 14th November.

GREAT TIT (*Parus major*)

Resident breeder (4).

The highest Winter Atlas counts were of 30 in SE20 on 8th February and in SE10 on 14th February. 72 in Hall Dike Valley on 4th December.

NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*)

Resident breeder (1).

Singles on only five dates at Bretton Park - all between 8th February and 10th April and at Hartcliffe Mills, Denby Dale on 29th April.

TREECREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*)

Resident breeder (2-3).

Pairs bred at Bretton Park, Gunthwaite Dam, Woodsome Lees, Fenay Beck, Hall Dike and probably at Denby Dale, Deffer Wood, Grimescar Wood, Mollicar Wood and Royd House Wood.

JAY (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Resident breeder (2).

More than 10 in Bretton Park in early April and early October and 15 in Grimescar Wood on 7th October, when good numbers were in the Almondbury area. Reported to be increasing in the Hall Dike Valley, where 10 pairs bred. Bred in at least 6 other woodlands.

MAGPIE (*Pica pica*)

Resident breeder (4).

100 recorded in Winter Atlas counts in SE20 on 24th January and 7th February. 96 roosting at Blackmoorfoot on 5th December. 24 roosting at Butternab on 23rd February and during November, 55 at Hall Dike, and 65 near Ryburn Res.

JACKDAW (*Corvus monedula*)

Resident breeder (4).

Over 1000 in the Ingbirchworth area on 7th February.

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Resident breeder (5).

Several Winter Atlas counts in the Ingbirchworth area of over 2000, and 2500 in a stubble field at Thurstonland on 28th October.

CARRION CROW (*Corvus corone*)

Resident breeder (2).

409 scattered over several fields near Deffer Wood just before dusk on 30th January (JMD) and a total of 124 the following day in the Cawthorne and Silkstone areas (JED). A roost near Ryburn Res had 65 on 14th November and 145 on 28th (JB, SMC). Continues to occur more frequently in built-up areas and a pair were nest building at Holy Trinity on 26th March. Probably more common than the status suggested above.

STARLING (*Sternus vulgaris*)

Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

The series of town-centre roost counts was completed giving totals of 14966 on 20th January, 17784 on 10th March and 14047 on 25th August (DS).

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

Resident breeder (5).

Winter Atlas counts were rarely above 100, doubtless due to the difficulties of counting the species in built-up areas.

TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

Resident breeder (3).

A few small flocks reported which included 40 at Rowley Lane, Lepton on 31st January; 25 at Ingbirchworth on 25th September and 40 at Hall Oike on 2nd November.

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Resident breeder (4). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Although well-distributed in the breeding season, winter flocks were again fairly small. About 100 at Wood Nook, Honley on a stubble field on 20th March. 95 moved west up the Scammonden Valley on 3rd October. A roost near Baitings Res had 45 on 28th November and 42 on 28th December.

BRAVELING (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

Uncommon to common winter visitor.

In the early months numbers were fairly small, but included birds in gardens and at bird-tables, at Gunthwaite, Ossett Spa, Lindley Moor, Dakes and Almondbury. The small flocks at Dakes numbered 14 on 20th and 21st March, down to three on 10th April. Small numbers also at Blackmoorfoot, Honley and Digley. A singing male near Langsett on 4th April, where there were at least 25 on 10th April, and one on 12th. 30 in northern half of SE10 on 14th February. One at Blackmoorfoot on 9th October, at least 10 at Ingbirchworth on 13th November, but otherwise only singles at two places.

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

Resident breeder (4).

Flocks were smaller than in 1981 and in general, only single figures recorded on Winter Atlas counts. 150 at Dewsbury Sewage Farm during August and 100 during September. 67 at Hall Dike on 2nd November and 52 roosting at Blackmoorfoot Res on 18th.

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Resident breeder (2-3).

Probably under recorded, but very scarce on Winter Atlas counts early in the year. 30 at Scout Dike on 25th September and 32 at Blackmoorfoot on 12th October and flocks of 20 to 27 at Ossett Spa on 23rd August and 25th December; at Crosland Hill on 9th October; in the Grimescar Valley on 23rd September and at Gunthwaite Dam on 10th October. 38 south over Hall Dike on 8th December and 18 at Elland Gravel Pits on 11th December.

SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*)

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon winter visitor.

Unlike some of the other finch species, continues to maintain its numbers and, as noted in 1980, is found more frequently in conifers in the winter months than was formerly the case. 31 at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 6th January, 20 at Elland Gravel Pits on 14th and 17th January and up to 25 near the canal at Golcar on 12th and 20th February. One to two in gardens at Paddock, Dakes and Almondbury in late March and early April. 150

at Yateholme on 29th March and 16 at Bretton Park on 10th April. Song flight noted at Digley on 26th March and breeding season records of singles and pairs at Yateholme and Langsett. Westerly movement of four over Scammonden on 2nd and six on 3rd October. Autumn numbers low, with one to three at six localities and 10 near Langsett on 18th December and 13 at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 16th.

LINNET (*Carduelis cannabina*)

Resident breeder (4). Partial migrant.

None reported in the area until late March. 150 at Dewsbury Sewage Farm during August and 70 on 17th September. 150 at Ingbirchworth on 21st July and up to 50 in that area into October. The two largest flocks were of 400 at Birds Edge on 15th September and 300 on 3rd October, both contained a small number of Twite. 90 at Hade Edge on 31st October.

TWITE (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

Resident and partial migrant breeder (3).

Two noted in SE20 (Penistone) during a Winter Atlas count on 8th February. Small numbers widely scattered in late March and early April, near breeding localities, with at least 40 near Digley on 20th March and up to 30 in that area up to 4th April. 52 near Broadstones Res on 28th March, where, as in 1981, two were still present into May. Over 30 at Scammonden on 2nd April which was one of the breeding sites, along with Rishworth Moor, Slaithwaite Moor, Deerhill, Digley, Winscar and the Upper Little Don. Flocks of 30 to 60 regularly in the Whitley Common / Grimes Lane and Broadstones area from August to 1st October peaked at 150 at the latter site on 28th August (BB5G). 240 at Scammonden on 19th September and 133 on 2nd October and 267 at Ringstone Edge on 30th September and 40 on 17th October. Four at Snittlegate on 23rd October and five near Langsett Res on 7th November.

REDPOLL (*Carduelis flammea*)

Resident breeder (3). Uncommon to common winter visitor.

Only small numbers (less than 10) at eight localities in the first three months, and 13 at Horbury Wyke on 3rd January. 40 near Langsett on 28th August and in North America Wood, by Langsett Res 25 on 14th and up to 38 on 20th November. 88 in the

Hall Dike Valley on 30th October and 19 in Honley Wood on 19th December. One with the characters of the race Meally Redpoll (*C f flammea*) near Ingbirchworth on 14th November.

CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*)

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor.

Although the species has bred in the area on many occasions in the last 20 years, direct evidence has only recently been received to enable this species to be classified as a breeder. With sporadic irruptions taking place, it may never be truly 'resident'. A male near Langsett on 19th March and one at Digley on 22nd. Regularly recorded in the Langsett and Little Don Valleys from early April, with at least two pairs present, including one pair feeding young on 26th June. 33 in this area on 11th December. Three south east over Lindley Moor on 4th October; a male singing in Deffer Wood on 15th; and at Hall Dike, three on 29th October and five on 7th November.

BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

Resident breeder (3).

Reported from 17 localities, all of which were probably breeding sites, including a maximum of 41 at Hall Dike on 14th and 15th November.

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citinella*)

Resident breeder (3).

36 at Upper Elmhirst near Silkstone on 1st January; 25 at Ainley Top on 10th and 24 at Emley on 28th February. 42 in SE20 on 24th January during a Winter Atlas count. Breeding widespread even up to 1000 feet above sea-level at sheltered moorland fringes.

REED BUNTING (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

Resident breeder (3).

This species has declined during the last three years and is probably less common than suggested above. Quite scarce now at Blackmoorfoot Res. Pairs in the breeding season at Scammonden, Golcar, near the canal, along the Calder at Elland and near Horbury and Ossett; at Ingbirchworth, Scout Dike and Broadstones Res; at Gunthwaite, Bretton park and Hall Dike.

CORN BUNTING (*Miliaria calandra*)

Resident breeder (1).

Still occur regularly in the area north of Kirkheaton. Singing males at Emley Moor on 7th June, and Emley on 7th July. One at Clayton West on 29th July, and 8 near Skelmanthorpe on 19th September. Two males singing during May and June in the Hail Dike Valley. One male singing alongside the Farnley to Thurstonland Road on 6th June. In the general area of Broadstones, Ingbirchworth and Whitley Common, singing males and other singles on 12 dates between 12th April and 3rd October, including 4 on 11th July.

FERAL PIGEON

Many noted as a result of Winter Atlas counts, which will be reviewed later, with up to 100 frequently in some areas. Also of interest 118 in the town centre on 13th January, and 170 at Longroyd Bridge on 4th December.

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The recorder is grateful to all the above for their help and cooperation.

J E Dale (Recorder)

RINGING REPORT

1982 was a series of disasters for the Huddersfield ringers. The severe winter weather of 1981 continued to make mist netting at the Edgerton thrush roost impossible. Spring and summer are never good times for mist netting because most of the bird population has settled down to breed, the main pursuit at this time of year being pulli ringing and normal numbers of passerine pulli were handled. The Black-headed Gulls at Black Moss had a poor year and, consequently, the number ringed was much reduced. The very heavy rain during the crucial period of fledging had a devastating effect on the young bird population, this being reflected by the general lack of passerines during the autumn period.

The best wind directions for mist netting at Blackmoorfoot are between NW and SW, but nearly the whole autumn was dominated by easterlies. These winds have the effect of blowing directly across the reservoir and through the ringing area, thereby making the nets ineffective, although it is a known fact that easterlies at Blackmoorfoot are conducive to grounded migrants.

The remainder of the year was dominated by very unsettled weather and again very little ringing could be carried out.

Greenfinch totals at Blackmoorfoot were very low during the whole of the year and this obviously had an effect on the numbers ringed.

Only 733 birds were ringed during the year, making this the poorest year since 1969 when only 402 birds were ringed (although no birds were ringed in 1970 because of the absence of ringers). Only thirty species were handled and, for the fourth consecutive year, no new ringing species were encountered. Interestingly, the last bird to be ringed in 1982 was a Blackcap, a single female being caught at Blackmoorfoot on 31st December.

The following pulli were ringed during the year:- Kestrel (5 Wessenden), Black-headed Gull (44 Black Moss), Collared Dove (2 Blackmoorfoot), Pied Wagtail (6 Yateholme), Mistle Thrush (12 Blackmoorfoot, 4 Edgerton, 4 Elland Gravel Pits, 4 Meltham Mills), Coal Tit (5 T P Woods), Blue Tit (7 Blackmoorfoot, 12 T P Woods)

RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used:

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

Sex m - male / f - female.

Manner of recovery:

v	Caught or trapped and released with ring.
vv	Ring number read in field, or sight record of identifiable colour marks.
x	Found dead or dying.
+	Shot or killed by man.

Date of recovery

Where this is unknown, the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets. All recoveries of 5kms or more are published. The recovery of Mute Swan 230042 was received too late for the 1981 Report.

M L Denton

RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDS

BLACK-HEADED GULL

EH 21125	1	03.07.77	Black Moss, Marsden 53°34'N 1°56'W
	x	09.05.82	Hesketh Out Marsh, Ribbles Estuary. 53°43'N 2°54'W 66 Kms WNW
EH 41001	1	13.06.78	Black Moss
	vv	23.10.82	Davyhulme SF, Manchester 53°28'N 2°22'W 31 Kms WSW
EH 69279	1	19.07.82	Black Moss
	x	09.09.82	Oldham Bypass, Gt Manchester 53°32'N 2°05'W 11 Kms WSW

CHAFFINCH

A 273451	4m	29.10.79	Blackmoorfoot 53°37'N 1°52'W
	x	04.04.82	Veggli, Rollag, Buskerud, Norway. 60°03'N 9°09'E 978 Kms NE

GREENFINCH

NE 89973	2m	04.10.81	Blackmoorfoot
	v	06.11.81	Blackmoorfoot
	v	07.11.81	Blackmoorfoot
	v	13.02.82	Meadowfield, Sheffield 53°21'N 1°30'W 38 Kms SE

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD

MUTE SWAN

Z 30042	3F	15.12.71	Osney, Oxford 51°45'N 1°16'W
	x	29.11.81	Holmfirth

53°35'N 1°46'W
206 Kms N

COMMON TERN

HC 46105	1	19.07.82	Mikoszewo, Poland	Elblag,
	x	06.10.82	Newsome, Hudds	

54°21'N 18°57'E
53°38'N 1°46'W
1355 Kms W

BIRDS RINGED IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA

Kestrel	5	Lesser Whitethroat	3
Jack Snipe	1	Whitethroat	2
Bl-headed Gull	44	Garden Warbler	1
Collared Dove	2	Blackcap	2
Swallow	4	Chiffchaf	2
House Martin	13	Willow Warbler	122
Pied Wagtail	8	Goldcrest	12
Wren	10	Coal Tit	7
Dunnock	22	Blue Tit	167
Robin	39	Great Tit	19
Redstart	1	Tree Sparrow	23
Blackbird	42	Chaffinch	16
Song Thrush	3	Brambling	4
Redwing	2	Greenfinch	132
Mistle Thrush	24	Bullfinch	1
TOTAL			733

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

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

Large numbers of retraps are also handled, some many years after ringing; these are tabulated below. The top lines show the approximate period between ringing and either retrap (table 1) or

death (table 2). The figures show the number of individuals retrapped or found dead near their place of ringing.

TABLE 1 - RETRAPPS

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	TOTAL
Blackbird		3			3
Robin	1	1			2
Dunnock		1			1
Blue Tit	7				7
Great Tit		1	1		2
Tree Sparrow				1	1
Greenfinch	1				1

TOTAL					17

TABLE 2 - RECOVERIES

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	TOTAL
Blackbird	1							1
Robin		1						1
Blue Tit		2						2
Great Tit				1				1
Starling							1	1
Tree Sparrow					1			1

TOTAL								7

SOME RESULTS FROM BIRD RINGING IN HUDDERSFIELD

The recovery of a ringed bird can be fascinating, especially if it increases our knowledge of a little-known species. When several recoveries can be analysed patterns emerge and interpretations can be made. In Huddersfield, several species have sufficient recoveries to warrant the publication of recovery and control maps. Two of the species, Twite and Blackbird are analysed below.

In the report which follows, a recovery can be taken as a bird which has moved out of the area and a control as a bird which has moved into the area:

TWITE

When Ian Newton wrote his book, "Finches", in 1972, only four foreign recoveries of British ringed birds existed, one each on the coasts of Belgium, France and Holland and one inland in Italy. None of these had been ringed in the Huddersfield area.

During an eleven day period at the end of July 1976 a total of 328 Twite were ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. Five of these have subsequently been recovered abroad during the winter months, two in Belgium and three in Holland (map 1).

Another bird ringed in northern France in October 1970 (not illustrated) was controlled in the breeding-grounds above Holmbridge in the following spring.

Since these recoveries and controls there have been two further foreign recoveries of British ringed birds, both during the winter months, one concerning a bird from Lincolnshire into Belgium and the other from Colchester to Holland. No further control of a foreign ringed Twite has been reported in Britain.

Two recoveries from within the British Isles have stemmed from the ringing of Twite at Blackmoorfoot. Both relate to the same individual. The bird concerned was not handled again after ringing until it was caught at Hythe, Colchester in February 1979. Interestingly, it was back at Hythe in January 1980, having presumably been on the Pennine breeding grounds during the summer periods.

The only British ringed control of this species reported in the Huddersfield area concerns a bird ringed at Boston, Lincolnshire in November 1979, which was back on the breeding grounds near Huddersfield the following June.

Ringing has therefore indicated that this species can winter in south eastern England or further afield, across the Channel. The ringing of Twite in Huddersfield has added a tremendous amount of knowledge to our understanding of this species.

BLACKBIRD

It is a known fact that large numbers of Scandinavian thrushes (ie: Redwing and Fieldfare) visit this country during the winter months. Large numbers of Blackbirds also visit this country in winter, but because the Blackbird is present throughout the year it has generally been thought that they are sedentary. Individuals from these foreign populations are impossible to tell from our 'resident' population, unless they are marked with a

ring. Ringing at a Blackbird roost at Edgerton and to a lesser extent at Blackmoorfoot has shown that a proportion of the birds involved are of foreign stock.

Controls (map 2)

Only three foreign ringed Blackbirds have been controlled in the Huddersfield area. Two were ringed during the breeding season, one in Sweden and the other in Holland. The third control concerns a bird from Sweden (Otterby) which had been ringed in the late autumn. Although ringed in Sweden, the time of year suggests the bird may have been from further afield (ie: Finland or Russia)

Recoveries April - September (map 3)

All the recoveries during this period relate to birds which had been ringed during the winter and had returned or were on their way to their natal country.

Recoveries October - March (map 4)

The Scandinavian birds were either still on their breeding grounds, returning to Britain through the country of recovery or to their natal country for the breeding season. The birds from France, Holland and Belgium (2) may well have been of European stock which had wintered in Britain during the year of ringing, but were wintering in a different part of Europe in subsequent years.

One bird, recovered near Oslo, Norway has shown a very rapid return to Scandinavia, being recovered there only seven days after being ringed at the Edgerton roost. Another has shown site fidelity to wintering grounds, having been ringed at Blackmoorfoot in January 1973, was still present in February 1973 and was not caught again until January and February 1974. The following October, the bird was recovered in Norway, having presumably been in Scandinavia during the summer months.

<u>Recovery area</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Sum</u>	<u>Aut</u>	<u>TOT</u>
Belgium											1	1			2
Denmark		1	1	2	1										5
Estonian SSR				1											1
Finland			1		1	1			1						4
France	1														1
Holland										1					1
Norway			1	1						3	1			1	7
Sweden						1	1	1	1				1		5

TOTAL 26

The above information shows how valuable ringing in one small area can be to the understanding of bird population, movements and migration.

M L Denton

BRITISH BIRDS

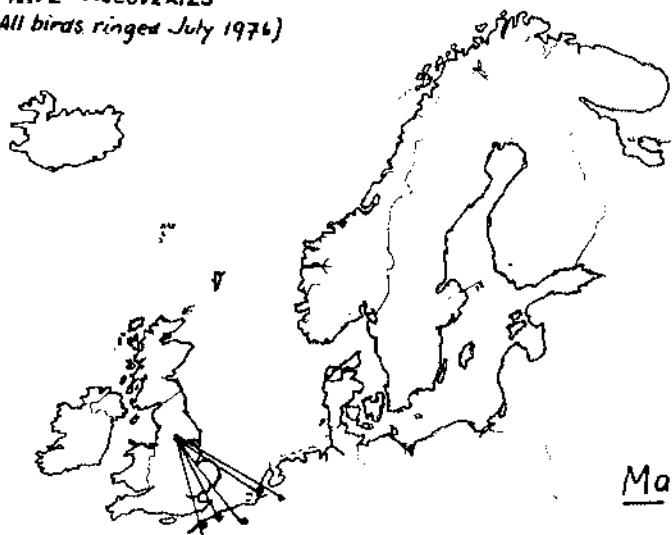
"BRITISH BIRDS" is a readable, informative monthly magazine catering for serious ornithologists in the British Isles. It covers every aspect of ornithology, particularly behaviour and breeding-biology, identification and conservation problems. Letters, book reviews, reports of observations of recent movement and arrivals are regular features. It is very well illustrated by photographs and drawings and has a very experienced editorial board.

Our club is able to present a special offer in the form of a reduced subscription to "BRITISH BIRDS". The present subscription rate is £20.00 per annum, but a reduction to £15.00 is available to club members.

Details and subscription order forms are circulated annually to all members.

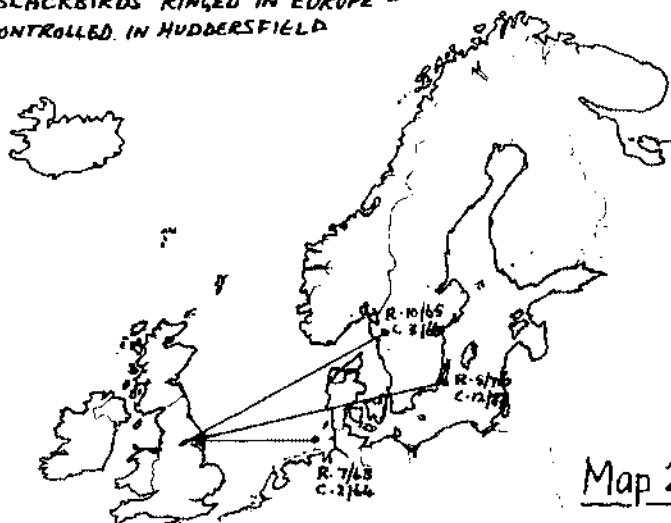
John E Dale.

TWITE RECOVERIES
(All birds ringed July 1976)



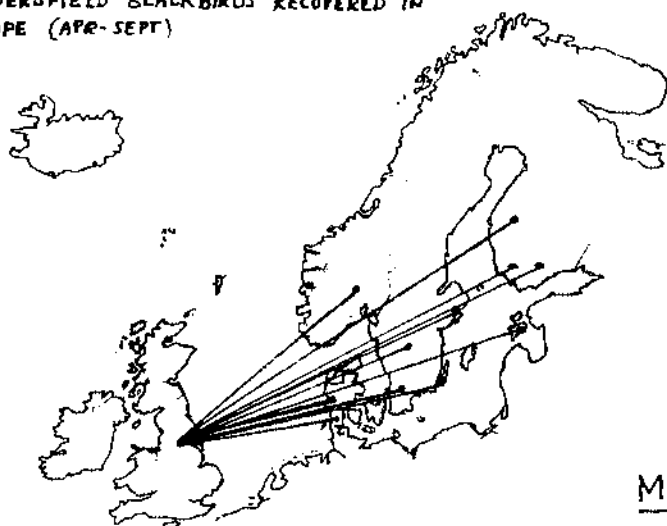
Map 1

**BLACKBIRDS RINGED IN EUROPE -
CONTROLLED IN HUDDERSFIELD**



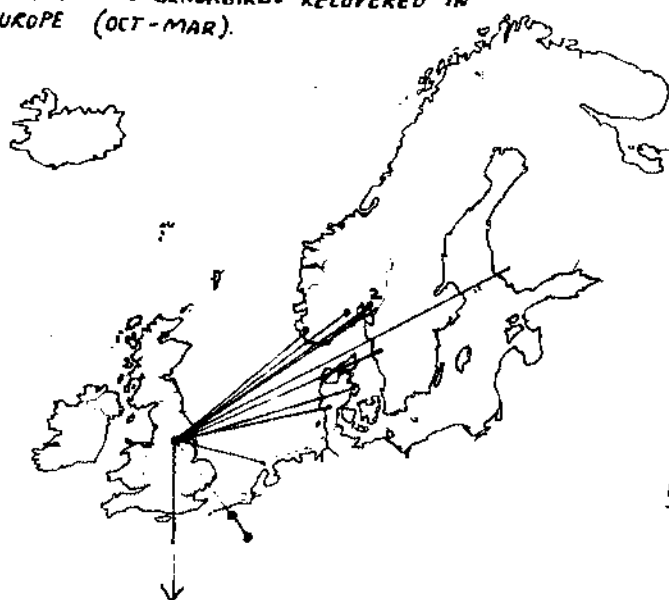
Map 2

HUDDERSFIELD BLACKBIRDS RECOVERED IN
EUROPE (APR-SEPT)



Map 3

HUDDERSFIELD BLACKBIRDS RECOVERED IN
EUROPE (OCT-MAR)



Map 4

FIELDFARES IN HUDDERSFIELD 1980-81 AND 1981-82

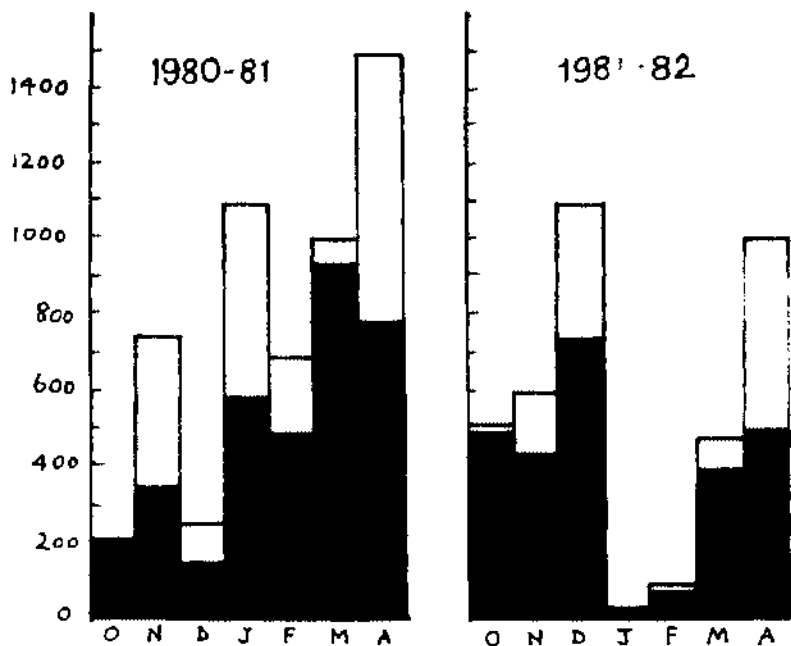
Since 1975 the Annual Reports of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club have attempted to define the status in each year of all species recorded within the club area. The Fieldfare has been described unfailingly as "numerous passage and winter visitor". The Club Annual Report for 1975 also included a "Status of Birds in the Huddersfield Area 1959-74", which for the Fieldfare, states "The species usually arrives in mid October and good numbers are present by November . . . Flocks of up to 400 feeding in the area are not infrequent up to December, with rather smaller numbers present in January - February. Visible migration in the autumn has been noted in most years with birds moving west and south through the area in October and November. Examples of these movements are of 1000 over Dalton and 650 over Lindley Moor on 21st October 1972 and 1200 over Blackmoorfoot the following day. With the return spring movement, numbers increase in the area during March and April and over 1000 roosted on Royd Moor on 23rd March 1974. Visible migration has been observed to a lesser extent such as 250 flying north over Bretton on 29th April 1973. May records are not unusual, but involve small numbers only. . .".

This paper, using the records for 1980-81 and 1981-82 winters, attempts to examine the situation in a little more detail.

In both years arrivals were noted in September, a single bird on two dates in each instance. By the end of October 1980, birds had been recorded in a dozen localities, the largest single flock being 200 near Gunthwaite on 25th and were noted moving over the area on three dates near the month-end, two flocks to the west and one each to north and south. Numbers, both of birds and localities holding them increased in November. By 23rd, there were at least 750 Fieldfares in the area, including flocks of 250 and 200, although the largest single flock of the month was 350+ at Oxspring on 13th, when only about 470 birds could be located. Movement through the area was noted on seven dates in the following directions - north-west (2 flocks), west (2), south-west (1), south (2), east (2).

During the last week of November, cold arctic air brought snow showers to Britain and continued in December until 8th, and in this period Fieldfare numbers dwindled to ca.200 on 30th

November. Apart from 150 birds at Broadstones on 7th, the largest flock noted in the first half of December was 80 at Cawthorne on 13th. Many records consisted of single figures. It was not until near the end of the month that numbers began to increase again, with ca.250 on 27th including a flock of 109 near Ingbirchworth .



Fieldfares in the Huddersfield area, Oct-Apr, showing maximum number of birds present on any date in each month. The shaded portion shows maximum flock size in each month.

Westerly and north-westerly winds dominated the weather throughout most of January 1981. Fieldfare numbers remained small (not more than ca270) until the last week, when they peaked at over 1100 on 25th/26th, with a flock of over 600 on the latter date after one of 400 at Ringstone Edge on 23rd. By 31st, there

were still at least 850 birds in the area, but a big drop occurred in early February, with only 194 recorded on 1st, 300+ on 2nd, 420 on 5th, 490 on 8th, building to over 700 (with one flock of 500+) on 13th, then dropping off again to only 160 by 22nd. From 11th onwards a high pressure system over Western Europe had resulted in cold continental air reaching Britain on east and south-west winds. This was the probable cause of the arrival of the birds in our area on 13th, whilst the persistence of the same winds afterwards bringing snow and frosts and causing inland waters to freeze for short periods, probably was the reason for the majority of birds moving on further south and west.

In March, Atlantic depressions moved westwards across the country, bringing frontal weather with frequent belts of rain. 1981 introduced March's highest rainfall figure this century. Only from 13th to 17th and 26th to 28th did high pressure create a respite and bring milder weather. The westerlies gave ample opportunity for winter visitors to begin their return to the continent. Numbers of Fieldfares in our area reflected these opportunities. About 300 were in the Crosland Hill area in the first week of March whilst by 12th the biggest flock of the year (ca935) were ground-feeding and in trees in the Ingbirchworth area (after only 70 on 10th). At least 1000 birds remained in the club area to 15th, numbers decreasing gradually during the rest of the month to 300 on 29th.

Light easterlies at the beginning of April allowed birds to return from the west and south. On 4th, flocks of over 600 on Crosland Hill, 120 at Blackmoorfoot (with 40 moving north-east) and 500 at Ingbirchworth, plus two others of over 100 formed the bulk of about 1500 birds in the area. Approximately 1000 were still present on 17th, with the month's largest flock (790) on Outlane Moor. Perhaps significantly, no more than 20 birds could be found in the Ingbirchworth area between 1th and 18th April, but numbers built-up there again with 50 on 19th, 200 on 20th to over 400 on 23rd. After this, the only records were of 80 feeding south of Ossett on 27th April and a flock of 200+ on ploughed land at Bretton on 2nd May, not an exceptionally late record, but an unexpectedly high number for that month. This rapid drop in numbers coincided with the arrival of a northerly airstream bringing very cold arctic air, unstable conditions and unseasonal blizzards for a few days, lasting to 5th May.

In the autumn of 1981, arrivals of larger numbers of Fieldfares occurred earlier than in 1980. The month's maximum was 520 (with a single flock of 500 at Ingbirchworth) on 23rd. Marked arrivals of migrant visitors occurred from 18th, with a front across Norfolk extending eastwards into Eastern Europe. Visible migration was observed in the Huddersfield area, with birds moving west on 20th (10 to south-west), 22nd (200), 23rd (20) and 24th (30+). Grounded birds, however, were at a premium; apart from the flock at Ingbirchworth on 23rd, 10 at Ossett on 26th and at Blackmoorfoot (13+ on 27th, 4 on 28th and 13 on 31st) were the only records received. Ten localities held birds during the month.

Birds were observed moving west or south on four well-spread dates in November, 80 on 15th being the maximum number. Numbers of grounded birds fluctuated, but not markedly so, with ca.400 on 1st, 600 on 15th, 470 on 19th, 360+ on 22nd and 23rd and 460+ on 28th and 29th, the largest flock being 470 at Emley Moor on 19th, but only 146 at the same locality on 29th. This may well indicate that fresh birds were appearing in our area throughout the month, replacing birds which had moved further west or south after feeding for a short time. Although wind direction was variable throughout the month, no very severe weather conditions were experienced, enabling migration to go on at a natural pace.

250 Fieldfares ground-feeding in heavy rain at Crosland Hill at 14.45hrs on 30th November had been augmented to 750 by 14.30hrs the following day. On 7th December, over 700 still remained in overcast, rainy conditions with a north-west wind and a temperature of 2°C, but the same locality held only 60 on 8th (snow showers), 20 on 9th (night temperature -6°C) and a mere 10 birds on 10th (calm, sunny conditions, but again a previous night temperature of -6°C). Earlier, on 6th, 200 birds were seen flying south at Bretton. Had these birds anticipated the oncoming severe conditions or were they forerunners of what was to come? The meteorological conditions in this period were interesting and help to explain the exodus of birds from the area. Early in the month winds were northerly, but originated from a warm anticyclone over the Atlantic, resulting in near normal temperatures. However, on 8th, a high pressure system over Greenland became the source of this northerly airstream. Temperatures fell below freezing, depressions brought heavy snow from the middle of the month and

night temperatures in parts of Britain dropped to -25°C . Ice and snow predominated. After 8th December, the largest number of birds recorded in the area was 31 at Ossett Sewage Farm (an artificial haven) on 14th, with 15 at Deanhouse on 27th. Nowhere else did numbers reach double figures!

January 1982 continued where December 1981 had left-off. Record low temperatures were recorded. Throughout Britain Fieldfares (and Redwings) became common visitors to suburban gardens and many birds moved to the south-west. Huge numbers occurred in Devon, but numbers there paled into insignificance compared with the 250,000 found on Guernsey on 10th January, where there had been virtually none a day or two before. Not surprisingly, records of Fieldfares in the club area became extremely scarce, with one to three visiting a garden in Lindley Moor, 20 on 24th near Ingbirchworth and only five other birds seen during the rest of the month, despite an amelioration of conditions and a rapid thaw in the second half.

February was largely front-free, characterised in the first part by southerly and westerly winds, with cooler, easterly weather from 15th to 24th, after which, a return to south-westerly weather. Extensive cloud cover prevented overnight frosts occurring. Despite the improved conditions, however, Fieldfares did not return. The largest flock in the month was 76 at Gunthwaite on 25th, with no single day revealing a total of more than 100 in the whole area. Events in other parts of the country explain the reason; large flocks of Fieldfares were present throughout the whole of the month in the south-west and were very reluctant to leave.

Unsettled weather, with mainly cool air from the north-west predominated in March until 20th, after which a high pressure system to the south became established bringing warmer air from the south-east by 25th and more settled weather. Fieldfare records remained scarce, but indicated a build-up of numbers as the month progressed, with 114 at Ingbirchworth on 9th, 400 at West Vale on 27th (with 80 flying north at Bretton on the same date). The only other record was 20 in the treetops at Butternab on 22nd.

April 1982 saw a marked increase as more birds decided to make the return journey to their breeding grounds. Generally dry, settled conditions pertained. Flocks of 500 were noted on 1st and

25th, 300 on 26th, 200 on 27th and 140 on 19th. Probably over 1000 birds were present in the club area on 25th-27th but by the beginning of May, all had departed with the exception of 25 at Gawthorpe on 2nd, the last record.

Comparing the Fieldfare records of the two winters under consideration with Dale's summary of their status in the years 1959-74, it would appear that the situation he described is fully borne-out by the present findings, with one or two slight differences or additions. In 1980-81, numbers continued to increase after December, both in total and in maximum flock size. It would also appear that the principal factor in determining Fieldfare numbers in our area is the presence or absence of severe weather conditions, snow, ice and frosts. These can cause quite considerable fluctuations in the numbers of birds present and reduce the population almost to nil if a prolonged spell of exceptional severity is experienced. One other noticeable feature of 1980-81 was that the numbers of birds involved in the return spring migration exceeded those of autumn by two or three to one and with much larger flock sizes.

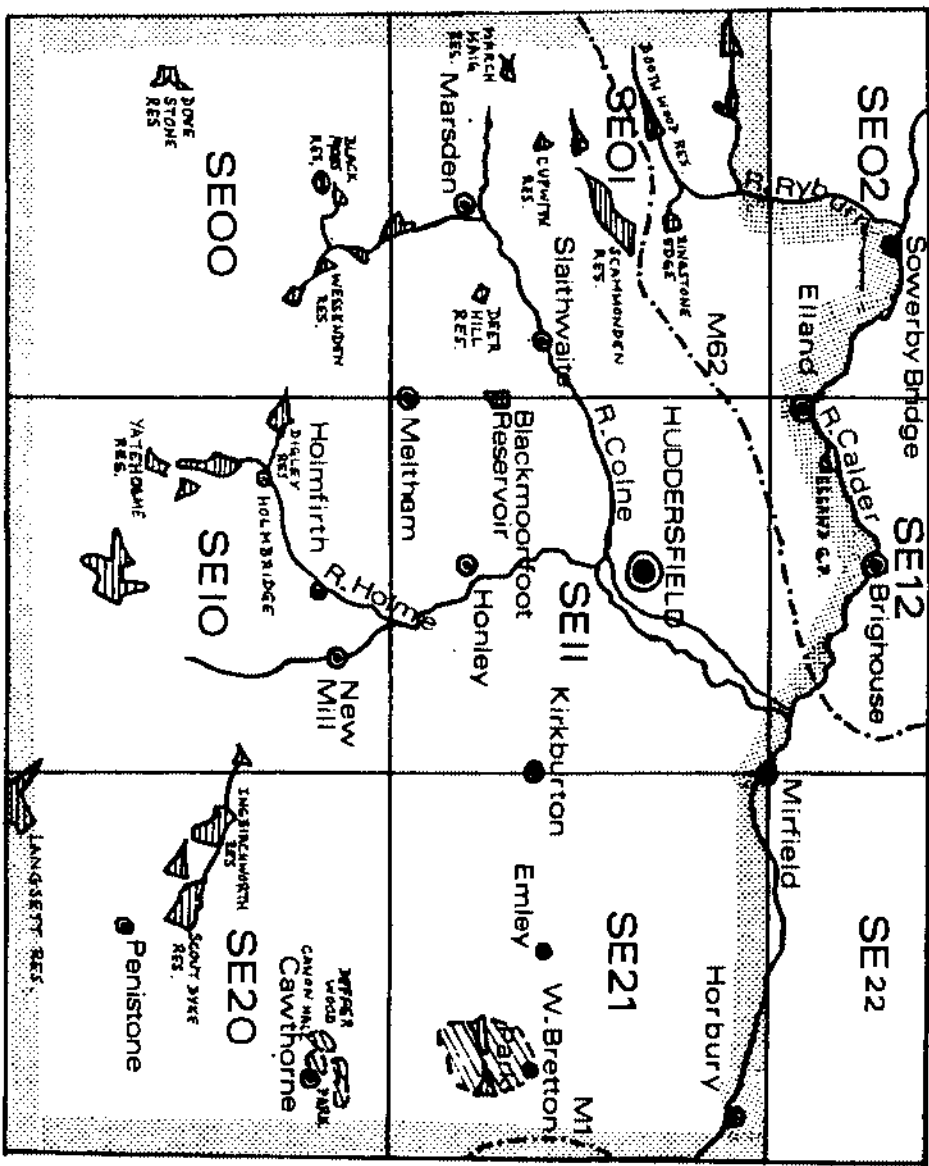
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to thank particularly John Dale for providing records for the period under review from the Club record cards and for his helpful advice and encouragement, and to all those Club members who submitted records for the relevant years. Special thanks go to Colin Biltcliffe and Tom Cantwell for their long and very detailed series of records respectively from the Ingbirchworth and Crosland Hill areas. Other observers who contributed records were: B Armitage, J Beaumont, G Carr, S R Cook, J Cudworth, J E Dale, J M Dale, S M Dale, M L Denton, Ms C M Fuller, D Hall, DS and Mrs V A Ives, E Kwater, H C Laidlaw, N Leece, L Lloyd-Evans, D Manchester, D Proctor, G B Silver, J R Smithson, F J Watson, B W Woodcock and G C M Yates.

B Armitage

Huddersfield BWC: boundaries of Club area: [shaded box]

gmy '82



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