



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield

2016



Birds in Huddersfield 2016 is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports produced by the Club since our formation in 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Cover illustration: **Grey Heron (Stuart Brocklehurst)**.

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

Rear cover photograph: **Black Tern (Nick Mallinson)**.

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FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

The Club, now in its fifty-first year, has continued to fulfil its original objectives and has excelled in the areas which it performs best - educating the people of Huddersfield by the publication of an annual bird report and running an informative lecture programme. The lecture programme, organised by Alf King, continues to cover a wide array of interesting topics. During the last lecture programme we were entertained and educated by talks which introduced us to foreign areas as diverse as Costa Rica, Fuerteventura, Peru, Ecuador, Galapagos, Falkland Islands, Ascension Island, America's North-west and Tanzania. It was not all foreign climes, however, and we were enthralled by talks on the Unique Structures of Feathers, Visible Migration in the South Pennines, Wakefield Peregrines, Feeding, Foraging and Fighting, Sounds of British Wildlife and Huddersfield's 2016 Birding Year.

Due to increasing petrol prices etc it is not always easy to stay within the allocated budget for speakers. Alf, however, has shown this to be possible, although he would want me to add that talks given by members, all free of charge, do keep costs to a minimum. If you would like to present the Club with a talk please have a word with Alf who will be delighted to allocate you a date.

The report writing teams have, over the years, supplied a continuous stream of readable and informative reports. These reports form the backbone of our knowledge about bird distribution in the Huddersfield area and, in years to come, will allow ornithologists to better understand the fluctuations of bird populations. However, I would like to use this opportunity to request that more members send in more records of bird sightings – perhaps not the statement that our Recorder, David Butterfield, would like to hear! It has become very apparent over the last few years that a high proportion of the records supplied by members solely relate to birds in their own gardens. This may be for a number of reasons, the most likely being that they are not getting out into the field as often as they did or that they are simply not reporting the species they see. By reading previous Annual Reports (*Birds in Huddersfield*) it will become obvious that a number of relatively common species fall into the under-recorded category – even from the well-watched localities. I appreciate that extensive work took place on the lower lake at Bretton Lakes during the course of the year, and it was drained for a long period. This, coupled with the excessive car parking costs, may have notably reduced observer effort. Although this may have impacted upon many of the sightings that have regularly come from this site, this surely cannot be reflected across the Club recording area. Can I ask that if you visit any locality in the Club recording area, that you supply records of all the species you encounter. It is only by so-doing that the fluctuating fortunes of each species can be judged. One of the things I had instilled into me from an early age was to always carry a notebook, write down my sightings, and report them. This was well over 50 years ago, and I still carry one – do birdwatchers these days still carry notebooks to record their observations?

Prior to the start of the 2017/18 lecture programme, all members will have received the Club Newsletter. I was pleasantly surprised when my copy dropped onto my door mat, for I did not realise that it would contain full colour photographs. The Newsletter, expertly edited and compiled by our Membership Secretary, Hazel Sill, is the vehicle for all members to have their say. It contains a number of interesting articles and information for members but, if you feel that you have anything which will be of interest to other members, please have a word with Hazel.

I am delighted to announce that the Club's fiftieth year anniversary publication *A Natural History of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir* has sold exceedingly well and, although printing expenses ruled out the possibility of it ever making a profit, the Club has obviously gained prestige by continuing its run of publications. A review of the book by Paul Simmons of the YNU appears on page 114.

Mike Denton

ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 49 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological recording and *Birds in Huddersfield 2016* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

From time to time we also publish more specific, one-off works, including in 2001 an *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area*, in 2004 *Birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1985-2003* and in 2008 a major work *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area*, which reviewed the complete history of every species recorded in the area since records began, right up to modern times. Our latest published in January 2017 is *A Natural History of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Huddersfield* by Mike Denton.

We also publish on-line and in our annual report the *Huddersfield List*, a checklist of all the species of wild birds and additional races that have officially been accepted as having been recorded in the area. This is now updated annually as a 'tick list' to enable birders to record their own yearly and lifetime sightings around Huddersfield.

Our publications are to be found in the Huddersfield Library and go to many regional and national ornithological and wildlife conservation bodies.

The whole of the Club archive, including all of our reports since 1966, is available in digital format on our web site for viewing by the public. This is an invaluable source for everyone interested in the history of the birds of the area.

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

Our lecture and meeting programme runs between September and May each year, at which visiting experts present on a wide range of birding topics, from local to overseas, with some stunning still and video photography. We also have a wealth of birding and photographic expertise within the Club and enjoy presentations from members equally as knowledgeable and fascinating as our visitors.

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

Our web site www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk contains information about birding in the area, as well as about the Club and our activities. The forum is open to public view and shows the latest local bird sightings posted by members, often with photos, and is a great way of finding out what is around.

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

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

The Club has played a major role in many bird life surveys of local, regional and national importance, including over 50 for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), RSPB, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park, Kirklees Metropolitan Council and The Friends of Beaumont Park. We also advise Kirklees Council on bird life issues through our representation on its conservation committee and provide data in connection with proposed planning applications for such as wind turbines.

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

In 2014/15 we launched a nest box scheme, working with another local charity the Bridgewood Trust that provides support for adults with learning difficulties and which built the boxes at their centre in Edgerton, providing occupational work for people in their care. Boxes were provided free of charge to several local woodlands, targeting threatened species such as Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, as well as more common species.

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

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

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

Simply contact any member of the Committee - see inside rear cover or visit our website for more information.

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk



2016: THE BIRDING YEAR

The first week of **January** was cool and windless, but the year opened with last year's White-fronted Goose still present at Spicer House Lane. The 1st saw a Jack Snipe, 16 Snipe and a female Pochard at Scout Dike Res., 11 Long-tailed Tit and five Treecreeper at Bretton Park and eight Raven flew E over Marsden. The following day was the highlight of the month, a Firecrest seen at Silkstone SW, it remained until 11th being joined on 6th/7th by 11 Goldcrest and two Chiffchaff. The odd Stonechat was seen as were Merlin and Peregrine and on 6th a Green Sandpiper was at Clayton West SW, as were eight Tree Sparrow. Pink-footed Geese continued on a downward trend, however, there being only five skeins totalling 730 individuals, and just six Whooper Swans were recorded. On the other hand, Goldeneye were much more in evidence at Blackmoorfoot than of late.

The second week brought strong SW winds with rain and turned cooler and also the first snow of the year occurred. Dewsbury SW held 160 Teal on 8th, a Water Rail on 9th and 33 Shoveler on 15th. Thrush numbers were modest, Fieldfare showing just two counts of 100 and Redwing just one flock of 60 being the maximum. A welcome Kittiwake flew W over Blackmoorfoot on 13th. The third week saw much milder weather and between 15th and 17th Golden Plover were much more in evidence with a maximum of 300 at Broadstone Res. with the month's maximum of 180 Lapwing at Blackmoorfoot also during this period.

A Black Redstart was seen near Honley on 16th and on that date a Greenfinch roost at Rastrick showed a welcome maximum of 50, also 10 Reed Bunting were seen in the garden at Wards End Farm, and close by a Jack Snipe was seen on 20th. The third week brought gale force winds and torrential rain which peaked on 25th/26th and there was further snow and cooler conditions on the last two days. A Green Sandpiper seen on 25th at Bretton Park was the only other record of any note during what was generally a very mild January.

The first week of **February** saw a return to heavy rain and strong SW winds thanks to 'Storm Henry' and 'Storm Imogen'. The 2nd saw a male Pintail at Ingbirchworth and Royd Moor Res., with 300 Golden Plover again at Broadstone Res. on 3rd. The following day Dewsbury SW held a Water Rail, 12 Snipe and up to three Green Sandpiper which remained until well into the following month. Unusually six Shelduck were on Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th whilst six different birds flew high W up the Colne Valley on the same date and also on 5th Ladywood Lakes held the first Oystercatcher of the year.

Although weather conditions were mixed but mostly unseasonably mild, a Great Northern Diver flew high W up the Colne Valley on 9th and the following day brought a Red Kite to Ramsden Res., with another being mobbed by Corvids at Netherthong. The same day a Jack Snipe was recorded at Scout Dike Res. and the 11th saw the first Curlew of the year at Blackmoorfoot. Temperatures then fell somewhat and continued in a similar vein to the month end. Despite some rain and a strong SW wind, on 12th c.350 Pink-footed Geese were grazing in fields at Thurstonland. The following day saw 18 Whooper Swans at Digley Res.

A single Little Egret was present in the Blackmoorfoot area from 14th to 22nd and this was the forerunner of an excellent year for this species. A Green Sandpiper was at Bretton Park on 21st, as was a male Pochard. The following day a flock of 35 Curlew were on the water's edge at Winscar Res. The only Woodcock record of the month came from Netherthong on 24th. With the continuing colder and mainly windless conditions, the last sightings of note were a Blackcap on a daily basis in a Cowcliffe garden from 26th and 22 Shoveler were present at Dewsbury SW on 27th with adult Mediterranean Gulls being seen at Ingbirchworth and Digley Reservoirs.

March began with heavy rain and a strong SW wind which was quickly followed by some heavy snow falls and two weeks of cold variable conditions. The Golden Plover count of 250 near the Ford Inn on 2nd was the maximum, likewise 39 Pied Wagtails at Silkstone SW on 3rd. Large numbers of Red Grouse were present in snow driven concentrations on Snailsden Moor on 5th, including one group of c.150.

The following day saw a Yellow-legged Gull at Blackmoorfoot and a monthly maximum of 59 Curlew on Thick Hollins Moor. The highest count of Skylark was of 35 at Hartcliff Hill on 8th. There were plenty of three-figure counts of Fieldfare, the maximum involved c.250 near Broadstone Res. Dewsbury SW held a year high count of nine Gadwall on 9th along with 37 Shoveler and up to 20 Wigeon. Wildfowl were in evidence during this period, four Pintail were at Blackmoorfoot on 12th the same day as 50 Pink-footed Geese went N over Almondbury. The following day saw 14 Whooper Swan at Blackmoorfoot with 16 there on 18th, whilst on 17th a herd of 11 was at Ringstone Edge and five flew up the Colne Valley. The first returning Twite concerned six at Wards End Farm on 21st.

The last week, with higher temperatures and plenty of rain, saw more movement through the area. Ten Goldcrest were at Silkstone SW on 23rd, the same day that the first Osprey appeared, buzzed by Oystercatchers, whilst flying over Harden towards Boshaw Whams and a Redshank was at Ingbirchworth Res. Things continued apace and the 25th brought the first Swallow to Dewsbury SW, a Red Kite SW over Blackmoorfoot and the first Wheatears, single males at both Snape Res. and Wards End Farm.

The first Sand Martin showed up at Ingbirchworth Res. the following day and the day after, the 27th, six Pochard were there, as was the first Willow Warbler, whilst a Red Kite was being mobbed by a Raven at Binn Green. Six Oystercatcher completed a busy week at Ingbirchworth on 28th. After a poor year for Redwings, some 50+ moved through at Blackmoorfoot on 29th, where two House Martin on 31st were the first. With plenty of Chiffchaff about, a Ring Ouzel singing in the Isle of Sky Quarry it was a fitting end to the month.

The 2nd of **April** saw another Osprey, NE over Marsden, during a spell of cool and showery conditions with the following day, the first Little Ringed Plover making an appearance. There were plenty of Ring Ouzel moving through the area with up to a maximum of an impressive 20 on the edge of Garside Hey, Marsden. The 6th was a day of gale force SW winds with heavy rain, snow and hail showers. Despite these conditions nine Pink-footed Geese flew into it over Dewsbury SW, also on that day the first White Wagtail of the spring was recorded. With calmer conditions the following day another Osprey was observed following the same route as the previous one over Marsden and on 8th the first Redstart was seen. After two days of cold Easterlies and some snow, a milder period brought an impressive 10 Little Gull to Ingbirchworth Res. on 11th with eight Arctic Tern at the same location the following day. The 13th saw two more 'firsts for the year' a male Pied Flycatcher at Bretton and two separate Whitethroats. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker at Bretton was one of very few recent sightings. On the plus side, three Red Kite were seen during the month.

The 15th found the first Common Sandpiper of the year at Blackmoorfoot, but much more impressively a Hoopoe, enjoyed by many, put in an appearance where it remained until the 18th. The 17th saw another Osprey NE, Whimbrel on three dates including a long stayer at Blackmoorfoot, with up to 20 Curlew at Wilshaw on 18th the same day that the first Yellow Wagtail was seen at Ingbirchworth Res. and the first Dunlin appeared. Then, despite some winds from the Northerly quarter and even snow showers, the first summer visitors continued to arrive on time, even early, as the Garden Warbler on 20th and a Lesser Whitethroat the following day indicate. The last Goldeneye of the winter was seen at March Haigh with a couple of Kittiwake over during

this same period. The 23rd saw the arrival of the first Cuckoo and Whinchat to the area, and the following day over 50 Pied Wagtail showed at Ingbirchworth. The 26th brought a very welcome singing Wood Warbler and a Hobby seen chasing Sand Martins the day after, and the last Brambling of the winter was recorded.

The first Swift arrived on 28th and an Osprey flew N over Blackmoorfoot, whilst a Black Redstart remained in the carpark of the Huntsman Inn for three days. Apart from arrivals though, a flock of 20 departing Fieldfare were observed at Harden on 28th and with much milder conditions on the last day another singing Wood Warbler brought a very fitting and welcome end to the month.

The first week of **May** saw temperatures rising and apart from very strong wet SW winds on 2nd which saw a Little Gull foraging across Marsden Moor the first arrivals of note were not until 5th when a Turtle Dove, now an ever rarer sight in our area, visited Harden and a Sedge Warbler was at Dewsbury SW with the first Spotted Flycatchers and 'plenty' of Garden Warbler about now. Some long awaited hot spring days were welcomed and with some Southerly winds Black Terns were seen on 9th at Ingbirchworth and again at the same location and Blackmoorfoot on 11th with both the first Reed Warbler at Dewsbury SW and Tree Pipit at Carlecotes Ponds on the first mentioned date.

Normally a good month for Marsh Harriers and this May didn't disappoint, with the first appearing at Wessenden on 14th and another SW at Blackmoorfoot on 27th. Also on 14th at Blackmoorfoot five Barnacle Geese flew W and more unusual was the finding of a Sanderling at Wessenden Head Res. on 15th, in grand summer plumage too. Other raptors included two Red Kites on two dates mid-month, and a few Hobbies. Two Yellow-legged Gulls were also worthy of note, and with more mixed conditions during the last week the month again closed on a high, with the first Nightjar on the last day.

June opened with very mixed weather for the first few days with some light NE winds. Hobbies were seen in what was hoped, at least, to be a better year than the last. Three Red Kite were seen during the month and another 'cream-crown' Marsh Harrier flew E over Blackmoorfoot. Up to an impressive 20 Reed Warbler were present throughout the month at Dewsbury SW and Grasshopper Warbler were heard at two localities. Eight Common Scoter visited Ringstone Edge Res. on 19th and the 22nd brought a beautiful Black-necked Grebe in full breeding plumage to Blackmoorfoot Res. Ringstone Edge Res. saw two Black-tailed Godwit depart in a westerly direction on 27th and with the second half of the month bringing showery SW winds the last bird of note was a Little Egret, flushed by a member of the public near Meltham on 29th.

For our more precarious summer visitors and breeders it was again a mixed bag, with more 'downs' than 'ups'. As we are dealing in some cases with such a small number it is difficult to assess the situation accurately from year to year, though national trends tend to be reflected in our records on the whole. The positives, though some only slight, are Wood Warbler (at least one was seen this year), Nightjar (a species where some may go undetected), Yellow Wagtail, Lesser Whitethroat and Little Ringed Plover. Ones remaining about the same were Tree Sparrow, Whinchat, Kingfisher, Tree Pipit, Redstart, Sand Martin and Reed Warbler, though some of these are heavily reliant on a single stronghold.

The negatives, however, many of which were very negative and accurately reflected the national trends were Cuckoo (*c.*30% down) and Garden Warbler (*c.*40% down) on the number of localities from which recorded. Spotted Flycatcher continues rapidly downwards as does Pied Flycatcher, though from a very small base, with Willow Tit ever decreasing. Little Owl saw only two pairs recorded breeding and Barn Owl too saw breeding records down though this could well relate to

temporary food shortages this year, time will tell. The single Lesser Spotted Woodpecker record however brought the presence of this species in our area almost to an end.

July saw heavy rain over the first two days, but the 1st brought a flock of c.15 Tree Sparrow to Dick Edge Lane, a Common Tern and over 200 Swift to Blackmoorfoot which also hosted 50+ Sand Martin the following day, followed by other good counts later in the month. Again one or two Hobbies were seen and the 6th brought another Red Kite W over Blackmoorfoot and 11 Whitethroat were at Royd Moor Res. A few days of heavy rain began on 7th when three Green Sandpiper were on the River Calder. At Dewsbury SW on 13th some high counts of Chiffchaff were recorded with 42 on this date followed by other counts almost as high. Two reeling Grasshopper Warbler were heard during this period and a few Common Scoter passed through with yet more Little Egret sightings and a Whimbrel flew W over Blackmoorfoot, where dispersing Common Sandpiper and Redshank were also in evidence. A Common Tern was also present at this same location on 19th and another flew W up the Colne Valley together with 20 Black-headed Gull the following day. During these two days temperatures reached 30° C but then returned to just warm with some light rain.

The last Garden Warbler of the year was at Royd Moor Res. on 21st and a Black Redstart appeared briefly at Wards End Farm on 23rd, the same day that a 'cream-crown' Marsh Harrier was seen at Broadstone Res. with another near Meltham on 26th. Then, apart from six Black-tailed Godwit at Ingbirchworth on 29th, there were also four Yellow-legged Gull in the Broadstone/Ingbirchworth area and two Caspian Gull were also present, the birds roosting at Langsett Res. as the month closed.

The 1st of **August** was wet and on 2nd Blackmoorfoot saw a Red Kite and a good few flocks of post breeding Goldfinch containing up to 60 individuals were spread about the area. Between 6th and 9th a 'cream-crown' Marsh Harrier was seen in the March Haigh Res. area, eight Curlew flew over Harden on 6th and at Harden Quarries the last Cuckoo of the year was observed on the same date. After heavy overnight showers 12 Black-tailed Godwit put in an appearance at Ingbirchworth Res. on 8th and our last Pied Flycatcher of the year visited Blackmoorfoot on 10th. There were a few Common Scoter during this period, with a maximum of five individuals on 12th, with the day after a calling Whimbrel over the Isle of Skye Quarry. Then, during a spell of hotter weather, more Little Egrets appeared with two at Blackmoorfoot, Scout Dike and Ingbirchworth continuing an excellent year.

On 16th a Hen Harrier flew SW over Blake Lea and the last Little Ringed Plover of the year was at Boshaw Whams on 16th/17th. On this latter date another Red Kite flew W over Wards End Farm and 13 Collared Dove roosted in Orange Wood. Up to three Yellow Wagtails were a welcome sight at this time, and whilst a maximum of 650 Lapwing were at Blackmoorfoot we said farewell to our final Swift. Boshaw Whams also held Ringed Plover on 21st and 23rd and the following day four Green Sandpiper were at Dewsbury SW. Throughout the month there were more Yellow-legged and Caspian Gull records and during a final few days of very mixed weather another 'cream-crown' Marsh Harrier flew SW at Blackmoorfoot. On 28th a Ring-necked Parakeet visited a Holmfirth garden, being present for a further five days. A nice trio of Tree Pipits flew SW at Harden Quarries on 29th, the following day saw the years last Redstart at Blackmoorfoot, and to round off the month another Red Kite, this time near Clayton West, flew S on 31st.

September started calm and showery but there was little of note until a Ringed Plover was present at Boshaw Whams on 4th, when two Dunlin also appeared for a short stay and two Ruff were seen on 6th. The last Curlew of the year was over the Isle of Skye Quarry. Not surprisingly things were moving apace now and an Osprey flew high SE over Wards End Farm on 8th, the last Hobby moved

through on 10th and the day after at Harden Quarries another 'cream-crown' Marsh Harrier flew SW as did a very impressive 23 Buzzard, and a Gadwall was at Blackmoorfoot.

Three Little Egret were at Scout Dike Res. on 13th and up to 14 Chiffchaff were present at Ingbirchworth. Passage of both Meadow Pipit and Swallow became more apparent and another 'cream-crown' Marsh Harrier went over Harden and a Lesser Whitethroat was in the garden at Wards End Farm on 15th. Not surprisingly for this period there was plenty to see despite some foggy mornings. The last Spotted Flycatcher was at Meltham on 16th, a juvenile Osprey flew S over Blackmoorfoot on 17th, with the following day bringing yet another 'cream-crown' Marsh Harrier and no less than ten Sparrowhawk over Harden Quarries. Then with showery light SW winds over the final week five Pintail flew SE at Langsett where 11 Goldcrest were present on 20th, the same day as another Red Kite flew W accompanied by two Peregrines. Also on this date the last Sedge Warbler was recorded, a single at Dewsbury SW. The last Willow Warbler was recorded at Ingbirchworth on 22nd and the following day the year's final Common Sandpiper was seen at Blackmoorfoot. The 29th brought the only autumn record of White Wagtails, two at Lepton. Also on 29th a flock of 26 Mistle Thrush were around Wards End Farm where a Red Kite flew over on 30th as did a Hen Harrier on the final day of the month.

The first two weeks of **October** brought Easterlies of varying strengths with some foggy starts, so hampering vis-mig somewhat. However, the 1st brought the first Pink-footed Geese of the winter followed the day after by the first Redwing, a flock of 29 at Marsden, and the last Osprey of the year, which flew SE over Blackmoorfoot. More 'firsts' appeared on 3rd in the form of two Whooper Swans at Blackmoorfoot and two Brambling which flew SE over Harden Quarries. Then two 'lasts' with three Sand Martin, again over Harden Quarries, and two late Yellow Wagtail S over Rastrick. There were also signs of a few Coal Tits passing through the area.

A Mediterranean Gull appeared at Blackmoorfoot on 4th, and at the same location three Sanderling flew E on 6th, the same day as a single Fieldfare arrived, this was to be the forerunner of some good visible migration numbers. Another 'last' for the year were two House Martin at Slaithwaite on 7th with the following day nine Raven flying SW over Marsden Moor. On 12th we saw both the last Swallow and Whinchat and the first Jack Snipe was seen in the Isle of Skye Quarry on 15th with another sighting on 18th. A Red-breasted Merganser was present around the Ingbirchworth area from 16th until 29th and also on 16th a very late Tree Pipit flew S over Harden Quarries. Then as the wind moved around to the Westerly quarter with some heavy showers a Mediterranean Gull visited Ingbirchworth Res., 25 Whooper Swan flew SE at Blackmoorfoot, and two skeins of 350 Pink-footed Geese flew over the area the following day.

Twenty Snipe were at Wholestone Moor on 22nd the same day as 30 Reed Bunting flew SW at Harden Quarries and 200 Golden Plover were at Hartcliff Hill, with the first Goldeneye of the winter appearing at Blackmoorfoot on 23rd. Then with a lot of early morning low cloud for much of the rest of the month, hampering vis-mig somewhat, 40 Wigeon visited Broadstone Res. The last Ring Ouzels (4) flew S over Harden Quarries on 29th and two of the now uncommon Pintail visited Blackmoorfoot, with Jack Snipe at both Wholestone Moor and Scout Dike Res. A herd of 20 Whooper Swans flew W at Blackmoorfoot and 17 Linnet and 17 Lesser Redpoll went S at Pule Hill on 30th. The final day of October saw the last Wheatear at Wards End Farm and a 'cream-crown' Marsh Harrier flying WSW at Harden Quarries brought an eventful month to a close.

November opened to a short cold spell with the first frost of the winter. On 1st a Hen Harrier went W over Marsden Moor and the following day saw the first of 1,500 Pink-footed Geese which flew over our area during the month. Again Hen Harriers were noted at Marsden on 3rd, 4th, and 8th. The first of these dates was at Pule Hill where 17 Bullfinch flew S, with up to 300 Lapwing being

counted in the Blackmoorfoot area over this period. Then on 6th, a splendid Water Pipit, a species not often found in our area, was discovered in the catchment at Deer Hill Res. and, although sometimes proving elusive, stayed with us for just about the rest of the year, offering good views to many. Much colder conditions then brought the first snow on the hills on 9th and the last Dunlin of the year at Ingbirchworth the following day.

Then a change to a period of mild SW winds with heavy rain saw 50 Wigeon at Broadstone Res. A Shag flew W up the Colne Valley and a Yellow-legged Gull was at Ingbirchworth, all on 12th. Mediterranean Gull visited Blackmoorfoot on 14th and 16th and a Red-throated Diver flew high W up the Colne Valley at Marsden. It was proving to be a good year for Brambling and also good numbers of Fieldfare and Redwing too. No less than 29 Long-tailed Tit were in a Cowcliffe garden on 18th with a Jack Snipe at Marsden the following day in snow showers. Then with 'Storm Angus' on its way from the S bringing driving rain and flooding on 21st few records arrived until it had passed, but 18 Reed Bunting were in a Marsden garden, there were two Chiffchaff seen and a Blackcap visited a Holmfirth garden on 17th, on which date a Scaup departed to the NE at Blackmoorfoot and unusually a Raven flew NW over Fixby on 28th. Upland areas were still providing Stonechat records, 10 Bullfinch were at Dewsbury SW and a Green Sandpiper was on the River Calder at Horbury on 29th. With falling temperatures and heavy frost the month came to an end.

The start of **December** saw two Ring-necked Parakeet visiting a Greetland garden and a Mediterranean Gull was at Blackmoorfoot. Perhaps the unseasonably mild weather influenced a Song Thrush into full song on 6th, in fact these conditions continued more or less for the next three weeks. On 8th some 40 Magpie were in a Fixby roost, the highest count from any of a number of roosts. Three Scaup were at Blackmoorfoot on 12th and a Yellow-legged Gull was again present between 12th and 18th. On 13th an impressive flock of 185 Shoveler were at Dewsbury SW and despite the mild weather conditions 25 Reed Bunting visited the garden at Wards End Farm.

Stonechat records were still being received and there was an occasional Peregrine during this time and up to 450 Lapwing were at Blackmoorfoot. The 14th brought a Water Rail to Gunthwaite Dam and the only Snow Bunting of the year to Deer Hill. A Caspian Gull visited the Blackmoorfoot roost between 16th and 21st. Weather conditions then changed somewhat and on 23rd 'Storm Barbara' passed over bringing some very heavy rain and gale force SW winds. By 27th the storm had cleared and records began to emerge again. A Merlin was at Marsden on that date and the following day a Green Sandpiper was at Horbury, 900 Pink-footed Geese flew over the area, and a Blackcap was feeding on fat balls in a Meltham garden. Seven Waxwing in Marsh and 16 at Queensgate Market were the only ones of the winter.

On 29th a Little Egret visited Langsett Res. concluding an excellent year for this species and the Water Pipit was last seen at Deer Hill. Six Whooper Swans arrived at Blackmoorfoot on 30th and 355 Golden Plover were counted at Ringstone Edge. The month then ended with fog and 10 Long-tailed Tit in Greenhead Park.

Dave Sill

THE WEATHER IN 2016

The following weather summary is from Huddersfield University's weather station and is reproduced by kind permission of the School of Applied Sciences:

A total of 761mm of rain fell in Huddersfield during 2016 compared to the average figure of 838.51mm recorded since our records began in 1990. Looking at the six month period from January to June, 2016 was the sixth wettest since our records began, the yearly figure however was below average due to less rainfall in the latter six months. The wettest month was January with 110.8mm of rainfall (14.5% of the year's total). The wettest day of the year was Sunday 27th March with 22.6mm of rainfall. The driest month of the year was October with 30.4mm of rainfall. The driest spell was the 16 days between Thursday March 10th and Friday 25th March. A total of 90.8mm rain fell during the wettest spell of the year, Monday 25th January to Tuesday 9th February, accounting for 12% of the year's total rainfall.

The warmest month of the year was July with an average temperature of 17.4°C. The warmest day of the year, indeed the second warmest day since our records began, was Tuesday 19th July with an average temperature of 26.3°C. The highest temperature recorded during the year, the fifth highest temperature recorded since our records began was 32.6°C, again recorded on Tuesday 19th July. The coldest month of the year was February with an average temperature of 5.04°C. The coldest day of the year was Wednesday 28th December with an average temperature of -0.6°C; it was the coldest day since March 11th 2013. The lowest temperature recorded during the month was -4.2°C recorded on both Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th December.

The windiest month of the year was February with an average wind speed of 13.8km/hr. The windiest day of the year was Monday February 1st with a substantial mean wind speed of 46.44km/hr, one of the highest recorded figures since our records began. The highest gust of wind for the year and beating last year's record gust of 136.44km/hr (11/01/15) was 136.8km recorded on Monday 1st February!

Monthly Overview 2016

January – Higher than average temperatures and rainfall totals plus significant wind speeds were recorded during the month. Sunday 24th was the warmest January day since our records began.

February – Temperatures for the month were slightly below average and rainfall figures slightly above. Wind speeds were also above average with some significant gusts of wind. Storm Henry brought widespread gale-force winds on the 1st and 2nd especially in the north, and then storm Imogen brought further strong winds mainly to the south on the 7th and 8th (Met. Office).

March – Temperatures were below average whilst rainfall was above. It was the wettest since 2008 and the 6th wettest since our records began.

April – It was the fourth coldest since our records began. Rainfall was above average.

May – It was the second warmest experienced in Huddersfield during the past ten years. Rainfall and wind speeds were below average.

June – A dull start to summer with temperatures only kept around average due to warm nights. It was the sixth wettest June since our records began.

July – Monthly temperatures were very close to average. Tuesday 19th was the warmest day of the month with temperatures averaging an amazing 26.3°C; thus making it the warmest July day and the second warmest day of all months since our records began!

August – Temperatures were slightly above average; rainfall was below.

September – It was the second warmest experienced in Huddersfield since our records began. Rainfall was below average; wind speeds above average.

October – Temperatures were slightly below average and very low rainfall meant it was the third equal driest October since our records began.

November - Below average temperatures, average rainfall and relatively low wind speeds.

December - Amongst one of the warmest and driest in Huddersfield since our records began.

All average figures are those recorded by the Applied Sciences weather station since 1990.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

The systematic list follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of the British Ornithologists' Union's (BOU) *The British List* (eighth edition, 2013), as described in detail in *Ibis* 155: 635-676.

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

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

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

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

These figures were derived from data gathered during the Club's breeding atlas undertaken in the years 1987-92. Since this time a number of species have decreased alarmingly e.g. Whinchat but, due to a lack of detailed information, it would be an impossible task to judge the numbers now involved. In an effort to overcome this problem, although retaining the original estimate, any species which has shown a noticeable decline has now been indicated.

Species that are 'red listed' in the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) 2015 list of Birds of Conservation Concern, i.e. those of high concern, are marked accordingly. Precise locations for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1981) and for some other sensitive species have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication might lead to harmful disturbance.

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

c.	-approximately	GP	-Gravel Pit
N	-North	NR	-Nature Reserve
S	-South	SW	-Sewage Works
E	-East	SP	-Sludge Plant
W	-West	Res.	-Reservoir
CP	-Country Park	nc	no count
Viz	-Visible		
mig	migration		

On page 118 is a complete list, 'The Huddersfield List', of the 273 species and 13 additional distinct races of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2016. The List incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

All reports of rare and unusual species and races that require a description have been assessed by the Club Records Committee, Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU) Adjudication Panel or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC), as appropriate.

A comprehensive list of co-ordinates of sites within the Club area can be found on our web site:

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2016

Where necessary, all records have been accepted by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union's Adjudication Panel and, if applicable, by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. The systematic list follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of the British Ornithologists' Union's *The British List* (eighth edition, 2013), as described in detail in *Ibis* 155: 635-676.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

The only evidence of breeding came from the canal at **Horbury** in late March when an apparent pair appeared to be attending a nest. At no site were birds reported throughout the year, indeed, there were only three reports in the second half of the year.

Other birds were recorded as follows:

Ladywood Lakes – two adults on 15th January and 6th June. Had these birds been present through this period, or did they simply go unrecorded?

Bretton Lakes – one or two were present on several dates up to early May.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – up to nine (but usually only 2) were present in the general area up to early May.

Ingbirchworth Res – two adults were present between 21st April and 4th May. One observer commented that this is only the second time he has seen them here in over 40 years of observing.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an adult and first-summer were present from 27th to 29th April and again on 1st May. The first-summer then remained for the following two days. Later in the year an adult was present during the afternoon on 7th September.

Cooper Bridge – singles on the River Calder on 28th April, River Colne on 14th September, and River Calder on 24th September.

Scout Dike Res – two adults on 28th and 30th April.

Dewsbury SW – an adult on 15th May.

Ravensthorpe – an adult and a juvenile on the canal on 6th June.

Horbury – an adult on the River Calder on 29th November.

The first-summer bird at **Blackmoorfoot** had been colour-ringed (yellow-430) at Shibden Park, Halifax on 4th September 2015.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

By recent standards, apart from Blackmoorfoot Res. (see below), it was a rather disappointing year for this species, with sightings from just eight localities and no herds larger than 25.

Birds were seen during the first winter period as follows:

Honley – four flew NW at 09.40hrs. on 18th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two adults arrived at 11.15hrs. on 18th January. Four (3 adults + a juvenile) were seen on 13th February and, in March, 14 adults were present on 13th and 16 adults on 18th.

Digley Res – 18 unaged birds present throughout the morning on 13th February departed W at midday.

Ringstone Edge – two unaged birds on 12th March and 11 unaged birds on 17th March and 12th April.

Wards End Farm – five flew W on 17th March.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – an unaged bird on the River Calder on 29th March.

Birds were seen during the second winter period as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – in October, two adults were present during the afternoon on 3rd; herds of 25 flew SE at 11.20hrs. on 20th and 20 flew W at 14.30hrs. on 30th; eight (2 adults + 4 juveniles arrived at 10.05hrs. and 2 adults arrived at 10.30hrs.) on 31st. In November, 11 (10 adults + a juvenile) were present on 5th; 14 adults departed W at 08.40hrs. on 17th; and four (3 adults + a juvenile) arrived at 10.30hrs. and departed S at 10.40hrs. on 20th. Six (4 adults + 2 juveniles) arrived at 09.50hrs. on 30th December.

Ringstone Edge Res – two unaged birds on 21st October.

Wessenden Valley – seven flew SE at 08.40hrs. on 3rd November and four did likewise on 6th November.

Baitings Res – nine (6 adults + 3 juveniles) on 5th November.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

Of the 73 records received the majority (47) referred to the second winter period. All but two of the first winter records referred to skeins heading between N and W with at least 3,300 birds being involved. There were several records of three-figure skeins, the maxima were as follows:

3rd January – 120 W at 09.55hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

5th January – 200 NW at 14.00hrs. over **Marsden**.

17th January – 220 NW (100 at 10.30hrs. + 120 at 11.40hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**.

19th January – 200 N at 12.00hrs. over **Cowcliffe**.

11th February – 360 NW (210 at 10.45hrs. + 100 at 11.05hrs. + 50 at 11.15hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**.

12th February – at **Blackmoorfoot** two skeins, probably numbering over 100 birds in each, were heard as they moved NW at 09.10hrs. but they could not be seen due to thick fog. In addition, 150 flew NW at 12.00hrs. and 300 (3 skeins) NW at 16.30hrs.

27th February – 250 WNW at 09.47hrs. over **Thongsbridge**; 200 NE at 10.00hrs. over **Honley**; 180 WNW at 10.03hrs. over **Oldfield**; and 220 NW at 10.15hrs. at **Scammonden Water**.

The only March records involved five which flew W at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 1st and c.50 N over **Almondbury** on 12th, and the only April record featured nine which flew W at **Dewsbury SW** on 6th.

The only grounded birds were all in February: a single at **Royd Moor Res.** on 3rd, c.350 grazing in a field at **Thurstonland** on 12th must have been an impressive sight, and eight at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 23rd.

During the second winter period a total of 5,934 birds were counted which, even when allowing for duplications, is still impressive. Records began on 1st October, when a single flew W over **Wards End Farm**, and the first substantial flocks flew over in opposite directions, with 55 heading E over **Digley** on 6th, and 80 W over **Langsett** on 8th. Most skeins were heading in a SE direction, as is normal at this time of year, and numbers reached treble-figures on several occasions, the following being the maxima:

21st October – 350 W at 09.15hrs. over **Wood Nook** and 350 NW (250 at 09.25hrs. + 100 at 10.00hrs.) at **Wards End Farm**.

- 2nd November** – 650 SE (100 at 08.25hrs. + 150 at 08.30hrs. + 160 at 08.45hrs. + 90 at 08.48hrs. + 150 at 10.15hrs.) over **Wards End Farm**.
- 6th November** – 300 SE (35 at 08.25hrs. + 70 at 08.35hrs. + 65 at 08.45hrs. + 130 at 08.48hrs.) over **Wards End Farm** and 300 E (skeins of 250 + 50) at 12.00hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.
- 7th November** – 234 E (150 (skeins of 125 + 25) at 09.15hrs. + 84 at 09.25hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**.
- 28th December** – 580 (120 NNW at 11.00hrs. + 190 W at 11.10hrs. + 60 W at 11.30hrs. + 11 W at 11.40hrs. + 120 W at 13.00hrs. + 79 W at 15.30hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot** and c.300 NW at **Scammonden Water**.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a single grounded bird was present on 2nd October and, in December, one departed S at 09.20hrs. on 23rd and two were present on 27th. The only other grounded birds were a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 19th October and five there on 17th November.

(GREATER) **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons*
Rare visitor.

The adult of the Greenland race *A. a. flavirostris* which had been present with the Canada and Greylag Goose flock in the Spicer House Lane area at **Ingbirchworth** at the end of 2015 remained here until 28th January (NWM, MCW *et al.*).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*
Uncommon, decreased to rare/scarse passage visitor, increasing feral visitor.

The **Ingbirchworth** area remains the stronghold for this introduced species, with several three-figure counts, some exceeding 200, for both winter periods, but they also visited other sites, often for brief periods in small numbers, maintaining a presence in our area throughout the year. Indeed summer counts reached 148 at **Ingbirchworth** on 29th July, and 195 at **Langsett Res.** on 16th September. The only evidence of breeding came from the River Calder at **Horbury** where a pair were seen with two goslings in early June.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, although there was a slight increase in records, the downward turn in occurrences reported for the last four years continued and, like those years, this was probably due to the lack of a Canada Goose flock (see below) which in the past has attracted long-staying individuals. Birds were only recorded on a total of 14 days and, although spread throughout the year, there were no March, June or November occurrences. Most records only involved one or two individuals, the only exceptions being 15 W at 12.40hrs. on 19th January, four present on 17th September and 12 which arrived at 13.30hrs. on 15th October.

Overflying birds, other than those reported for Blackmoorfoot above, were only reported from **Wards End Farm, Marsden**: 38 flew W at 09.47hrs. on 25th February, four flew W on 6th May, and eight flew NW on 31st October.

A flock of 224 on **Ingbirchworth Common** on 18th January contained a leucistic individual.

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

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

Monthly maxima at regularly occupied sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	0	4	29	23	2	8	11	18	8	15	0	0
Bretton Park	25	nc	nc	nc	27	nc						
Ingbirchworth Res	231	316	350	26	14	14	126	157	170	200	50	220
Langsett Res	nc	nc	12	nc	24	24	5	24	97	nc	nc	nc
Royd Moor Res	nc	nc	2	4	nc	nc	nc	312	nc	nc	nc	nc
Scout Dike Res	188	nc	34	nc								

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were very sporadic in appearance, with occurrences on a maximum of four days per month with the exceptions of 16 in March, 15 in April and 11 in August, and no flocks remained for more than eight days duration (18 between 7th and 14th August). Flock size rarely exceeded 19, the only exceptions being 29 on 25th March and 23 on 2nd April.

Breeding was reported from four sites (8 in 2014 and 4 in 2015):

March Haigh Res – five sitting birds by mid-April.

Horbury – five goslings on the River Calder in early June.

Gunthwaite Dam – seven well-grown goslings in mid-June,

Langsett Res – seven goslings in mid-June.

In total birds were reported from 26 locations (44 in 2015) but only the following had counts of 25+ on at least one occasion (maxima shown):

High Flatts – 33 on 9th January.

Castle Dam – 274 on 1st February and 25 on 14th April.

Winscar Res – 77 on 12th July.

Broadstone Res – c.200 on 12th October and 63 two days later.

Horbury – c.140 on the River Calder on 28th December.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

There were two records, both relating to birds of unknown origin.

A single was present at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 11th April (CJ-B) and at **Blackmoorfoot** a flock of five from the SE turned W up the Colne Valley at 10.10hrs. on 14th May (MLD, GBS).

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

Regrettably, these 13 records from seven localities, 12 of which were in the first half of the year, cannot be seen as any improvement relative to the last two years.

Blackmoorfoot Res – six were present on 5th February; April saw a single on 3rd, two on 5th and one on 14th, and three flew S at 10.20hrs. on 6th May. The only record thereafter involved two on 9th November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – six heading high to the W on 5th February at 10.16hrs. were different to those at Blackmoorfoot (see above) as they were present on the reservoir at that time.

Royd Moor Res – two on 12th March were also observed that day at **Ingbirchworth Res.**

March Haigh Res – two on 5th April.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – one on 5th April.

Dewsbury SW – two on 15th and 17th May, one of which remained until 11th June.

Ringstone Edge – a single on 25th April.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor. Has bred.

There were reports from three locations (5 in 2015 and 7 in 2014) none of which involved long-staying individuals.

A female was on the River Holme by the car park in **Holmfirth** on 23rd January (HQ); a male and female were at **Ryburn Res.** on 10th March (PD); and a male was on the River Calder at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 25th October (MSt).

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

There were records from only nine sites, a marked drop from the 19 last year. From the total of 78 records received, all but 28 referred to sightings from September to the end of the year. Only three localities, Meal Hill Lakes, Blackmoorfoot Res. and Windy Bank Res., held birds with any regularity.

Meal Hill Lakes produced counts of up to thirty during both winter periods, reaching at least 50 on 30th November and 12th December. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** produced, in January, six on 2nd and up to four (usually only 1 or 2) on a further 13 dates. The only other records during this period involved a single on 25th February, four on 16th April, and two on the unusually late date of 17th May. There were then no records until September, when four were present on 13th and ten on 15th. Thereafter, birds were seen on a further 28 dates until 13th December but numbers were generally low, the only double figure occurrences involved 12 on 21st September, 31 on 1st October and ten on 26th November. **Windy Bank Res.** also hosted a smaller number of birds in the second winter, with the assiduous observer submitting almost daily counts of up to 12 birds throughout November and December.

Away from these favoured areas, **Dewsbury SW** attracted 20 birds on 12th March, while the second winter yielded several double-figure counts at **Broadstone Res.**, where 14 were present on 3rd October, c.40 on 26th October, 20 on 2nd November and c.50 on 12th November. Other sites where small numbers were observed include **Boshaw Whams**, **Ingbirchworth**, and **March Haigh Res.**

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

There were reports from eight sites (11 in 2015). Following the pattern of recent years, most of the 37 records referred to the first six months of the year. As in 2015, there was no proof of breeding.

The year's highest tally was of nine birds at **Dewsbury SW** on 9th March, and further March and April counts here also exceeded those for the other localities frequented by this species. Several observers referred to probable pairs, but no one offered evidence of confirmed breeding. Up to six (but usually less than 4) were present on one or more dates at **Horbury** (on the River Calder), **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, **Ringstone Edge Res.**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Bretton Park**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, and **Ossett Spa SW**.

The only records in the second half of the year were from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** which had two female-types on 17th August, a female-type on 11th/ 12th September, two males on 29th November with a single male the following day, and three female-types on 12th/13th December, and a male and female at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 17th October.

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

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

There were records from 17 widely scattered localities, which is 30% fewer than in recent years. Interestingly, two thirds (45 out of 66) of the records referred to the first half of the year.

As is usual, **Dewsbury SW** was the most favoured site, with good numbers of birds during both winter periods, the two highest counts being of 160 on 8th January and, later in the year, 185 on 13th December. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there was a good run of records during the first two months of the year: two were present on 1st January with 12 the following day, up to eight (usually 3 or fewer) were then present on a further eight dates until late February. The only spring/summer records involved three on 9th April and two on 18th June. During the second winter period birds were present on 55 dates between 12th August and 19th December. Most of these occurrences were in low single-figures, the only exceptions being ten on 17th September, 17 on 3rd October and, in November, 15 on 10th, 18 on 12th, and 34 on 29th.

Gunthwaite Dam was another favoured venue in the first winter period, with numbers reaching 52 on 13th January, but dropping to just two by early March, and there were no records thereafter. Records from **Bretton Park** followed a similar pattern, with a maximum of 29 on 6th March, as did the **Horbury** sites, with up to 18 early in the year, and then just one count of 15 on the River Calder on 29th December. The private lake at **Meal Hill** attracted two females and a male for most of March, and two drakes returned for the second winter. Records from **Ingbirchworth Res.** followed a different pattern, with no more than two early in the year, and then at least 17 on 12th November.

Sites hosting birds prior to the breeding season, all in April, included two at **Deanhead Res.** and six at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 9th, six at **Whitley Res.** on 13th, and two at **Ossett Spa** on 17th. Ducklings in a party of six at **Langsett** on 17th June offered evidence of breeding, but the origin of a solitary juvenile at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 20th August remains a mystery.

Boshaw Whams attracted up to 12 over the last four months of the year, when the highest autumn tally was of 58 at **Langsett** on 20th September. **Wessenden Res.** hosted c.20 on 2nd October, a single bird visited the **Isle of Skye Quarry** six days later, while a gathering of 15 at **Digley Res.** on 23rd November was quite unusual for this site.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Almost 200 records were received from 35 locations across the area, with maximum numbers at regularly counted sites as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	37	34	28	23	21	24	44	48	48	38	41	38
Holmfirth	111	nc	80	80	nc	nc	nc	nc	60	nc	nc	nc
Ingbirchworth Res	55	40	43	38	35	58	77	105	81	34	20	52
Langsett Res	23	nc	21	6	nc	nc	nc	43	79	nc	nc	nc

Elsewhere notable counts (40+) were received from the following sites:

Gunthwaite Dam – 50 on 16th January.

Cawthorne – c.80 on 31st January.

Winscar Res – 91 on 22nd February, 80 on 12th July and 100 on 8th August.

Dove Stone Res – 48 on 16th March.

Greenhead Park – 46 on 3rd April.

Meltham Mills – c.70 on 11th December.

Breeding (ducklings present) was recorded from the following locations: **Blackmoorfoot Res** – 129 with 22 reaching the flying stage; **Holmfirth** – 12, **Windy Bank Res** – five, **Ingbirchworth Res** – 12, **Isle of Skye Quarry** – at least six, **Huddersfield** – six on the canal by the university, **Horbury** – 13, **Featherbed Moss** – six, **Langsett** – six, **Marsden** – one, **Snailsden Res** - seven.

Two adults stood on a house roof in **Brockholes** on 13th March must have been an unusual sight.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

This species is becoming increasingly rare in the Club area, and was only recorded from four locations (3 in 2015 and 5 in 2014). Blackmoorfoot, as is usual, commanded the lion's share.

The only records in the first half of the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** were in March and involved two males and two females which arrived at 10.40hrs. on 12th and a male the following day. There were five autumn records, all in female-type plumage: three were present on 18th September and singles on 22nd September and 6th October; six which arrived at 09.00hrs. on 29th October were still present the following day, and a single was seen on 29th November.

The only other first winter sighting involved a male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and then **Royd Moor Res.** on 2nd February. Later in the year five flew SE over **Langsett Res.** on 20th September, three were seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29th October, and one flew W over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on the same day.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Disappointingly, there were reports from just five locations, seven fewer than last year, with Blackmoorfoot Res., Dewsbury SW, Gunthwaite Dam, Ringstone Edge Res. and Horbury SW

being the only sites involved.

Dewsbury SW – this site stands out as the stronghold for this species, with substantial numbers recorded, beginning with 33 on 15th January, 22 on 27th February, 37 on 9th March, 16 on 22nd March, 24 on 5th April, 14 on both 16th April and 24th August, 44 on 8th October, 88 on 3rd November, and finally the staggering tally of 185 on 13th December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – saw a welcome increase in records, six in the first half of the year and nine in the second. In January eight (2 males) were present on 2nd, two males on 6th, and three (2 males) on 19th, a male and female were seen on 23rd February and in March three (2 males) were present on 4th and four (2 males) on 6th. Later in the year two were present on 28th August; in September there were singles on 7th and 12th, two on 13th and one on 15th; in November a male was seen on 13th and three (1 male) on 29th, and in December, a male and female were present on 13th and a male on 14th.

Gunthwaite Dam – a male was seen on 20th January, 3rd and 12th March and 11th June and two (1 male) were present on 22nd November.

Ringstone Edge Res – a male and female on 7th April.

Horbury SW – an unseasonal male was present on 1st June.

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

Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

Records were received from five sites (3 in 2015, 4 in 2014 and 6 in 2013).

Single females were seen at **Scout Dike Res.** on 1st January and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 13th February and 27th March. **Bretton Park** hosted a male on 21st February, and possibly as many as five males were present on 6th March. Three (2 males + a female) were on **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 4th April and two unsexed birds were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 8th April. A male at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26th May was the only other sighting of this once common and now increasingly rare passage and winter visitor.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	3	3	5	8	6	1	8	6	3	6	2	1
Ingbirchworth Res	13	16	10	26	6	5	27	12	3	13	nc	3
Bretton Park	10	nc	19	15	4	nc						
Windy Bank Res	nc	2	4	nc	nc	nc	3	4	3	nc	6	5

Once again, the numbers in the table above give a false impression of occupancy at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** During the first half of the year birds were only recorded on 33 days (56 in 2015), birds were then present on a daily basis between 1st July and 7th September, but thereafter birds were only recorded on a further 15 dates to mid-December.

The private lake at **Meal Hill** hosted eight (4 males) on 4th March, with two more drakes present with two females by 20th, and then eight males were with three females on 30th and also on 8th April, but the only other record involved five females on 10th November. Other April records

involved three of each sex at **March Haigh Res.** on 1st, two males and two females at **Deanhead Res.** on 9th, five at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 14th, and seven at **Ladywood Lakes** on 22nd. In May **Redbrook Res.** had two of each sex on 22nd and six were present at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 31st.

A female with seven half-grown young was at **Winscar Res.** in mid-July but the only other evidence of breeding came from **Brun Clough Res.** where a pair with seven young were present in late July.

Numbers later in the year were somewhat reduced and, with the exceptions of the few outlined in the table above, never increased above the seven at **Ringwood Edge Res.** on 9th August and seven at **Wessenden Res.** on 20th September.

Other sites which hosted one to five birds on occasional dates included **Elland GP, Castle Dam, Ossett Spa SW, Dewsbury SW, Digley Res., Horbury Strands/Wyke,** and **Broadstone Res.**

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

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. saw a female which departed NE at 09.45hrs. on 27th November (MLD, TW) and three (first-winter male + 2 females) on 12th December (GG, GK).

The last decade has seen the species become a rare visitor to Blackmoorfoot, there only being three records during this time: two in 2011 and one in 2014.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Records were received from six sites.

Ringstone Edge Res – a female on 3rd April, eight (6 males) on 19th June, a female-type on 14th July (all AT), and two males on 17th July (GS).

Elland GP – a male on 4th April (GWH, DT, AT).

Baitings Res – a male on 10th June (MB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were 10 records (7 in 2015). A male was present on 24th June (MLD, NWM, GBS *et al.*) and four (2 males) on 26th July (MLD, GBS). In August, a male departed W at 10.50hrs. on 7th (MLD *et al.*), a male was present on 8th (NWM, GBS *et al.*), two males on 12th (MLD, GBS *et al.*) and a male on 27th (MLD, TW). The only September occurrence involved four (1 male) on 19th (GK, GBS) but a flock of c.70 (all female-types) were present during the afternoon on 31st October (GG). The other records involved two female-types on 4th November (GG, GK, GBS) and 35 (1 male) which arrived during the afternoon on 13th December (DJ, DWS).

Winscar Res – two males on 14th July (DMP, SP).

Ingbirchworth Res - five unsexed birds flew N at 07.30hrs. on 12th August (NWM) and a male was present on 21st August (MC).

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

Uncommon winter visitor.

Records were received from 13 sites, three fewer than in 2015. With the exception of those from

Blackmoorfoot Res., all but four referred to sightings in the first four months of the year.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were more in evidence than recently, being present on a total of 74 days between 2nd January and 15th April. Numbers remained low and only exceeded three on two occasions: four being present on 11th January and 14th February.

The record of a female at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6th January, was followed by 10 further records which referred to singles of either sex or to the presence of one of each sex, with two on 23rd April being the last of the year.

March Haigh Res. hosted either a single male or one of each gender on at least sixteen dates between 17th January and 21st April. The River Calder at **Horbury** attracted a male on 19th January, two males and a female on 16th February, and a single female on 23rd February. A male and female were at **Brun Clough Res.** on 20th February, seven were on the ski lake at **Elland GP** the following day and a male and female were on **Redbrook Res.** on 23rd February. Two were on **Digley Res.** on 27th February, and two males were at **Deer Hill Res.** on 7th March. A single female was at **Langsett Res.** on 27th March and **Deanhead Res.** hosted a male and female on 15th April.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the first returning birds were, as usual, during October: an immature on 23rd, a female from 26th to 28th, and two female-types on 29th. Thereafter, up to three, but usually one or two, were present on a total of 15 dates between 2nd November and the year end. Interestingly, as in 2015, most birds were immature or female-types until December. The only other records during this period were confined to December: **Digley/Bilberry Reservoirs** hosted a male on 12th, eight were present on the River Calder in **Dewsbury** on 19th, a male visited **Deer Hill Res.** on 27th, and thirteen, which included 10 males, were on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 28th, with two of the males courtship-displaying to a female.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred in small numbers since 2007.

Reports were received from 21 sites, a sharp fall compared to the 31 in 2015. The species was particularly scarce during the second winter period and, with the exception of Blackmoorfoot, only nine records occurred during this period. Breeding was reported from three sites, all on the River Calder.

As there were so few records from the species' usual strongholds, the table below only includes those from Blackmoorfoot.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	15	7	10	3	2	1	0	0	1	7	13	10

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** up to 15 were present on 37 dates between 1st January and 27th April (274 bird/days) with a further two on 2nd May and singles on 3rd and 21st May and 25th June. There were then no records until singles were present on 11th, 14th and 29th September. Thereafter, up to 13, but usually less than eight, were present on a further 40 dates between 2nd October and the year end (257 bird/days). The annual number of bird/days totalled an impressive 539 (222 in 2015).

Elsewhere, birds were reported in the first half of the year from a further 18 venues. **Scout Dike Res.** hosted one or two on seven dates in the first two months, while **Sparth Res.** attracted seven (2 males) on 13th January, three (1 male) on 20th January, and, in February, nine (4 males) on 2nd,

three (2 males) on 5th, and nine (5 males) on 9th. Three were on **Ladywood Lakes** on 20th January, with just one there on 5th February.

Also in February, a female was on the canal at **Golcar** on 10th, three were on **Meltham Catchment** on 11th, 12 visited **Bretton Lakes** on 19th, when a female was at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, while three females were on **Scout Dike Res.** on 25th. The River Calder at **Dewsbury** hosted eight on 12th March and six the following day, and three were at **Horbury** on 14th. Six (4 males) were present at **Elland GP** on 23rd March, with just a single female here three days later, then two on 12th April. A male and female were seen at **Deanhead Res.** on 30th March. Three females accompanied a male at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 8th April, a single male was at **Whitley Res.** on 13th April, when two females were with a male in **Bretton Park**. The River Colne at **Huddersfield Stadium** attracted a male on 15th April, with four here a week later. Further **Horbury** sightings included a single male at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 28th April, then three males accompanied a female on the River Calder on 5th May.

No further reports were received until 21st and 23rd August, when two redheads were at **Boshaw Whams**, where a single was present on 14th September. A redhead was at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 28th September, and a single flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 3rd October. Two late October records, both on 29th, involved a male and female at **Elland GP**, and two males on the River Calder at **Cooper Bridge**. A male flew W over **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 4th November and four (1 male) were present at **Windy Bank Res.** on 16th November.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record involved a long-stay redhead in the Ingbirchworth area.

Originally located at **Scout Dike Res.** on 19th October (RJB), it then made brief visits to **Royd Moor** and **Ingbirchworth Reservoirs** on the same date. It then returned to **Scout Dike Res.**, where several observers saw it between 22nd and 29th October, on this latter date it also moved back to **Ingbirchworth Res.**

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Reported from seven localities (10 in 2015) but only two were the same, again reflecting the annual variations due to shoot releases.

There were no double figure counts and the only records were as follows:

Gunthwaite Dam – five on 6th February.

Dove Stone Res – singles were present at the Pheasant feeding station on 18th February and 27th March.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – two were present on 26th March, 25th April and 14th June. A juvenile crossed the road at Lower Green Owlers on 11th August, a single was seen on 12th October and three on 10th December.

Hepworth – a single on 22nd April and two on 6th August.

Ossett – three were on Healey Road near the Calder and Hebble Navigation Canal on 28th April.

Silkstone SW – one on 22nd May.

Horbury SW – singles on 29th November and 11th December.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Records came from 16 localities, six less than the previous year's increase which, as was noted at the time, was probably due to the survey carried out by members in the SW of our area. Breeding was reported from four locations only: **Black Hill, Dean Clough, Good Bent Moor** and the **Isle of Skye Quarry**.

Birds were seen in every month with the exception of September, but counts rarely reached double figures apart from **Snailsden Moor** on 5th March when exceptionally 'large numbers' were seen in large snow driven concentrations, including one group of c.150 birds. Other double figure counts were of 12 on **Featherbed Moss** in sub-zero conditions on 28th February, 12 again at **Wessenden Head** on 12th May, and 14 at **Winscar** on 23rd July.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs. Red listed.

Records from only 16 localities continues the decline of recent years (23 in 2015, 33 in 2014 and 40 in 2013). With the exception of **Blackmoorfoot**, where two pairs bred (see below), there was no proof of breeding from other sites, though 'pairs' were seen during the spring in five locations.

The 13 present at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** at the end of the previous year were seen again in mid-January and mid-February, but by 25th February they had reduced to ten. Unsurprisingly, most of the larger counts were during the winter months apart from the 20 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 15th August. The only other double figure counts involved c.10 at **Wards End Farm** on 25th October (it was considered that these may well have been new release), 12 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 31st October and c.15 at **Dick Edge Lane** on 6th December.

With the exceptions of those outlined above, most records were of no more than two individuals, except for four at **Deer Hill** on 6th May, six at **Near Mount** on 29th October, six in fields below **Sands House Lane, Crosland Hill** on 22nd December, and four at **Oldfield** on 26th December.

At **Blackmoorfoot** up to six (generally only 2 or 3) were recorded from Meltham Cop/fields to the west of the reservoir on a number of dates between mid-January and late November. As in 2015, two pairs bred on Meltham Cop.

(COMMON) **PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

The 32 localities from which records were received was surely a case of under reporting. Once again records came from all corners of the area and from all habitats, but breeding was obviously under recorded, with records from just three localities.

Not many counts reached double figures and the c.200 at **Hazelhead** on 5th October had presumably been recently released. Otherwise, the only other double figure assemblages involved up to 13 which were present throughout the year in the **Wards End Farm/Lower Green Owlers** area, 13 at **Hepworth** on 15th October and 11 at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 2nd November. Although up to six (usually 4 or less) were present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there was no evidence of breeding.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Rare visitor.

A single flew W high over **Close Moss, Marsden** at 13.10hrs. on 17th November (DWS).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor.

One flew W over **Close Moss, Marsden** at 09.15hrs. on 9th February (DWS).

Diver sp. *Gavia sp.*

A diver which flew low to the NE towards **Cupwith Res.** from the direction of **March Haigh Res.** just before dusk on 18th March was considered most likely a Great Northern Diver (DWS).

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

Common passage and winter visitor, increasing.

With the exception of Blackmoorfoot (see below) records were received from a further 29 localities (38 in 2015) and produced 94 sightings as compared to the 138 the previous year. Again many were of fly over singles and included an unusual record of one circling over **Armitage Bridge** for two hours on 30th July. Two were reported over **Dalton** on 23rd January, **Huddersfield Town centre** had singles over on 24th February and 19th September, a single flew over **West Bretton** on 25th April, two flew E over **Skelmanthorpe** on 6th June, and singles flew NE over **Pule Hill** on 11th September and SW over **Linthwaite** on 25th December.

Ingbirchworth Res – birds were present on 17 dates between early January and late September but never more than two were present.

Horbury – seen regularly on the River Calder, being recorded on seven dates with a maximum of 12 on 28th December. Two were also at Horbury Strands/Wyke on 8th April as was a single on 22nd April.

Royd Moor Res – recorded on 13 dates throughout the year but these all involving one or two birds with the exception of four on 5th September.

Scout Dyke Res – there were only six records. A single on 9th January, three on 28th January, singles on 11th and 13th September, four on 28th September and six on 26th October.

Ladywood Lakes – one present on 15th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were recorded on a total of 102 dates (123 in 2015 and 69 in 2014) with records spanning the whole year. The months with the highest number of records were January (16 days), February (10), March (14), August (10) and December (12). With the exception of an adult which remained between 3rd and 9th January, all others were present for no more than three days (generally only 1). Numbers involved were usually low (1 or 2, occasionally up to 5) but there were 22 (2 flew W and a flock of 20 NW) on 7th July and 11 (1 present + a flock of 10 flew W) on 7th August. Birds over flew (or departed) the reservoir on several occasions and, although there was no seasonality to these movements, 69% of birds flew between west and north (the normal direction) and the other 31% flew south or south-west. The total number of bird/days reached 187 (the all-time high being 266 in 2015).

Bretton Park – a single on 25th January was the only record. This is undoubtedly due to the greater difficulty in gaining access to the Park.

Holme Styes – a single on 15th February.

Dove Stone Res – a single was present on 18th February.

Elland GP – an impressive gathering of 22 were present on 21st February, six were seen on 23rd March, and in April, one on 9th and eight on 12th.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – flyover birds were seen on 18 occasions between 23rd February and 8th November. Most records were of one or two birds, most of which flew W, the exceptions being seven SW on 8th September, 16 S on 17th September, four W on 20th September, and six W on 8th November.

Dewsbury SW – eight were on the River Calder on 15th March as was a single on 17th April.

Gunthwaite Dam – just two singles were recorded, one flew high E on 23rd March and one was present on 28th September.

Broadstone Res – seen on four occasions, with an adult and an immature departing E on 11th April, two on 2nd September, three on 12th October and a single on 26th October.

Ringstone Edge Res – singles were present on 9th and 17th August.

Ramsden Res – a single on 26th August.

Boshaw Whams – this site usually holds birds throughout the year, but the only records involved seven on 13th August, two on 23rd August and four adults with two juveniles on 7th September.

Brownhill Res – six were present on 17th September.

Harden Quarries – six flew E on 18th September.

Deer Hill Res – a single on 17th December.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Rare visitor.

There was a single welcome record of this uncommon visitor, the first since a single was at Elland GP in early May 2008.

A first-winter flew W past **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 12th November (DWS).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor.

There was a massive and welcome increase in records this year. Birds were seen on no less than 31 dates, mainly during the summer, but covering eight months of the year and from nine localities. Obviously with such a visible species it is difficult to know how much duplication was involved but when compared to the four records of last year it is an impressive leap and reflects more accurately the national trend than in previous years.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single in the **Deer Hill/Meltham Grange** area between 14th and 22nd February (CS, OW) was present on Meltham Cop from 15th to 21st and along the west bank of the reservoir on 22nd (MLD, TD, DHP *et al.*); a single was along the west bank on 4th July (GG, MBG); two departed SE from the west bank at 10.10hrs. on 16th August (GG); and one appeared from the S and dropped into the Colne Valley at 09.20hrs. on 31st December (MLD, TW). These are the seventh to tenth records for the reservoir.

Milnsbridge – a single flew S on 20th April (SK).

Meltham – one flushed from the drainage channel on 29th June was perfectly described by a member of the public (MLD, GBS).

Ingbirchworth Res – recorded on 13 dates between 29th July and 13th September. Singles were present on seven of these with two on three dates in August and 7th September and three on 10th August and 13th September (DHP, NWM, MCW *et al.*).

Scout Dike Res – two were present on 10th August (RJB), singles on 30th/31st August and 7th and 9th September (NWM, MCW) and three on 13th September (SC, MCW).

Langsett Res – singles on 17th August (MCW) and 29th December (NWM).

Cooper Bridge – a single on 23rd August (DM).

Royd Moor Res – one on 30th August (MCW).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

Similar to last year, records were received from 45 locations covering all months and from widely distributed parts of the area. Breeding was confirmed at the same four sites as in 2015: five pairs bred at **Scammonden Water** (same as the previous two years), six pairs bred at **Cromwell Bottom** (same as 2015), but numbers were up at the other sites, well up in fact at **Bretton Park** with 21 nests (only 5 in 2015) and at **Healey House** there was a welcome increase from ten to 13 nests.

Although birds were present throughout the year at several locations most records involved just singles and few consisted of more than three birds. The exceptions were five at **Elland GP** on 23rd March, up to six at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** in April, four on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 1st June and the same number were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21st July, and ten were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 13th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had a better year than has become normal. One to three were seen on 259 dates (188 in 2015 and 162 in 2014) with records spanning the whole year. The only exceptions involved four on 10th June and six on 9th August.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Partial migrant breeder (1), 5-15 pairs.

Records were received from 20 waters and spanned all months. Confirmation of breeding was only confirmed at two of these, however.

Bretton Park – up to four were present for the first four months of the year but there were no records thereafter.

Broadstone Res – there were occasional sightings of one or two birds throughout the year.

Gunthwaite Dam – up to four were present throughout the year and at least one well grown juvenile was seen in mid-August.

Meal Hill Lake – one or two were present throughout most of the year.

Ingbirchworth Res – one or two were present throughout the year with up to six occasionally in September/October, but there was no proof of breeding.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – one or two were present throughout the year.

Castle Dam – a single on 1st January.

Langsett Res – singles on 6th January, 29th May and 20th September.

Tunnel End – singles on 4th and 27th February.

Royd Moor Res – one or two were present on most dates between mid-March and mid-December, but there was no proof of breeding.

March Haigh Res – a single on 19th/20th March.

Elland GP – two were present on 23rd and 26th March.

Scout Dike Res – there were occasional records of up to four between mid-April and late October, with ten on 13th September and 14 on 26th October.

Dewsbury SW – birds were first seen in late April, and two pairs bred, producing three young.

Rastrick – a single was present on a small pond on 15th May.

Carlecotes Ponds – a single on 16th May.

Blackmoorfoot Res – once again there was an abysmal showing at this well watched locality. The only records involved a juvenile on 10th August, different adults on 12th and 13th August and a juvenile on 12th September.

Redbrook Res – singles on 30th August and 25th September.

Deanhead Res – two on 14th September.

Windy Bank Res – two on 11th November and a single on 15th November and 1st and 3rd December.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Birds were recorded from a total of ten waters with breeding confirmed at two of these.

Rather unusually, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had singles on 18 dates in January and seven February dates with two on 17th/18th January and 25th February. There were then singles from 1st to 3rd and 7th to 9th March, after which birds became ‘resident’ until 2nd November. As can be seen from the table below only low figures were involved, and the usual autumn build-up never materialised. The higher figures in March and between May and August relate to birds which were present for one day only. A pair nested in the west bank willows, raising one young which flew on 2nd September. Interestingly, an adult which was presumed to have been one of the breeding pair, departed N at 09.05hrs. on 22nd October. Following the exodus by birds on 2nd November, the only other records involved two on 6th and three on 17th November and singles on 5th/6th and 21st December.

The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	9	3	5	7	6	5	2	4	3	1

Bretton Lake – present throughout the year with a maximum of eight on 29th March. Although two ‘pairs’ were present in the breeding season, only one pair bred, the outcome, however, was not reported.

Scout Dike Res – birds were present on ten dates between the first, a single, on 10th February and 26th October. Up to four was the norm, but eight were present on 10th March.

Broadstone Res – singles on 23rd February and 10th May and two on 1st July.

Royd Moor Res – up to four were seen on 16 dates between 25th February and 5th September.

Boshaw Whams – singles were present on 24th March and 1st April.

Whitley Res – a single on 13th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – up to four birds were present between 21st April and 2nd November, with an increase to six on 6th July, but there was no evidence of breeding.

Ladywood Lakes – the only record concerned two on 28th April.

Ringstone Edge – singles were present on 9th August and between 14th and 19th August.

Penistone – an unusual record involved a single which flew high over the area on 20th September.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare visitor, increasing.

A breeding-plumaged adult at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 22nd June (MLD, GK *et al.*) was the first record since 10th August 2011.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Rare to scarce visitor. Increasing.

There was a welcome increase in the number of sightings, there being 23 compared to the 11 in 2015. Most records involved fly-over singles but two were seen together on two occasions at Blackmoorfoot.

Netherthong – a single was mobbed by corvids on 10th February (SC).

Ramsden Res – one on 10th February (MC) was presumably a different bird to that seen at Netherthong on the same date.

Dunford Bridge – one battling against strong SW winds turning and departed N on 26th March (DMP, SP).

Binn Green – a single was mobbed by a Raven on 27th March (JS).

Ingbirchworth Res – one flew W in light rain on 12th April (DMP).

Dove Stone Res – a single soaring bird on 15th April (MC).

Little Don Valley – one gave superb low level views as it drifted S on 16th May (RJB).

Carlecotes Ponds – a moulting individual was present on 28th May (DHP, NWM).

Hade Edge – excellent views of a low flying bird on 10th June (MC).

Deer Hill – one flew W on 20th June (DMP, SP).

Winscar – a single soaring over Townhead on 25th June showed a gap in the inner primaries of the left wing (MC, DHP, NWM).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – one seen around the pond at White Hull gained height quickly rising and departed W on 17th August (DWS), a single flew W on 30th September (DWS) and another flew E on 4th October (DWS, KW).r).

Clayton West – one seen between Clayton West and Bretton on 31st August (SC).

Penistone – one flew W accompanying two Peregrines on 20th September (GC).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were seven records, two of which referred to two birds together. A single drifted SW at 11.50hrs. on 25th March (MLD, GK *et al.*); one flew W up the Colne Valley at 11.40hrs. on 27th April (MLD, GK *et al.*); two were circling over Edge Moor with two Common Buzzards for nearly half an hour on 7th June (MLD, GBS *et al.*); one circling over Orange Wood drifted W at 10.40hrs. on 16th June (MLD, GK, GBS); two (1 drifted N at 10.55hrs. + 1 drifted N at 12.30hrs.) on 19th June (MLD, TD, TW); a single circling over the reservoir drifted W at 11.35hrs. on 6th July (MLD, GK, TW); and one flew S at 08.55hrs. on 2nd August (MLD, GBS).

Number of Red Kite reported in the Huddersfield area during the last five years:

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
19	12	19	11	23

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

A total of 16 records were received, a massive increase from the two of the previous year.

Wessenden Valley – a ‘cream crown’ on 14th May (DMP, SP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were three records, all involving ‘cream-crowns’. A single flew SW at 11.50hrs. on 27th May (GK, TW); one drifted E at 11.30hrs. on 26th June (TD); and a single flew SW at 12.30hrs. on 27th August (TD). These were the seventeenth to nineteenth records for the reservoir, the first being in May 1999.

Broadstone Res – a ‘cream crown’ on 23rd July (DMP, SP).

Brow Grains – a ‘cream-crown’ on 26th July (KW).r).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – there were four records, all of ‘cream-crowns’, although it is possible that they may refer to the same individual. In August one flew past March Haigh Res. on 6th and the following day one was being mobbed by Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Close Moss, then on 8th one was seen briefly near the old Buckstones pub and again hunting along the top of Close Moss on 9th (all DWS).

Harden – a ‘cream crown’ on 17th August (MC), a juvenile stayed around for a couple of hours on 21st August (MC) and an unsexed bird was seen on 15th September (GC).

Harden Quarries – an unsexed bird flew SW on 11th September (MC, NWM), a distant bird flew WNW on 18th September (DHP, NWM, MCW) and an unsexed bird flew NSW on 31st October (NWM).

Number of Marsh Harrier records in the Huddersfield area in the last ten years:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	5	3	4	4	10	10	7	2	16

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Another good showing this year, with eight records, all from the Marsden area.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a ‘ringtail’ was seen mobbing a Common Buzzard over Garside Hey before moving of NW on 10th January. On 30th September a juvenile watched down to 200 yards for at least 20 minutes came into conflict with Carrion Crows, Common Buzzard and a Kestrel all at the same time. It then spent a little time hawking low over the moor before proceeding E towards Cupwith Moor. A ‘ringtail’ moved low to the W on 1st November and three days later a ‘ringtail’ arrived high from the S, hawked around Garside Hey for three or four minutes, and had a ‘go’ at a Fieldfare before moving E towards Cupwith Moor. Then on 8th November what may well have been the same individual followed the exact same route as the one on 4th (all DWS).

Marsden (Blake Lea) – a juvenile flew SW on 16th August (DT).

Pule Hill – one was seen from the viz-mig watch site as it hunted nearby on 3rd November (DS).

Number of Hen Harrier records in the Huddersfield area in the last ten years.

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	4	1	5	5	3	8	7	9	8

(NORTHERN) **GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce visitor.

There were three records: a single was seen at an undisclosed locality on 12th March (DMP, SP), one was seen chasing a Kestrel near **Pule Hill, Marsden** before moving off slowly towards the

Wessenden Valley on 6th July (DWS) and a juvenile at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** circled high to the E down the Colne Valley on 8th December (DWS).

(EURASIAN) **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*
Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Records were received from 46 different sites, similar to the previous year, but the true number of birds in the area is difficult to equate.

The only signs of breeding, which is not always easy to prove with this species, came from displaying birds in the **Yateholme** area and birds which were present throughout the year at **Hepworth** and in the **Horbury** area. Displaying birds were also seen in **Meltham** and **Ramsden Res.**, and juveniles were seen on **Kilner Bank** and around **Tunnel End, Marsden**.

Records spanned all months and were mainly of singles though four were seen at **Yateholme** on 3rd April, three at **Dalton** on 20th August, and four at **Cubley, Penistone** on 20th September.

Garden records were received from a number of areas: **Marsden, Meltham, New Mill, Fixby, Lockwood, Rastrick, and Hepworth**. All these had regular visits of single birds, but occasionally two.

As in 2015, there was some evidence of a SW movement, when a total of ten passed over **Harden Quarries** on 18th September. Despite birds being seen during every month at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** (mainly singles but two on four occasions) there was no indication of passage at this renowned visible migration watch point.

Birds were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot** with the exception of July. Generally only a single was present but two were seen on several dates during the second half of the year. The number of sightings from this locality increased slightly but the only months with double figure bird/days were September (13) and October (15). The yearly total of bird/days amounted to 82 (60 in 2015).

A variety of prey species were reported with Starling, Fieldfare, Swallow and Greenfinch involved, but the most surprising was the sight of a female at **Hepworth** which drowned a Jackdaw in a puddle before plucking it and carrying it to a nearby tree on 29th January.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	14	20	17	12	12	7	23	27	18	8	7

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

The most widely distributed raptor of the area, resident breeder since 2004 (1 pair), now increasing.

The number of records continues to grow, though from the same number of sites as last year, about 80. Again some of the recorded sites are quite close together so the exact number of individuals with such a visible species is impossible to ascertain. The number of sightings remains high, however. Breeding activity was noted from at least ten sites and though successful fledging was

only confirmed at four of these it is likely to have been more. There was also some evidence of a SW movement over the area in September.

This species is becoming increasingly common and, as a consequence, it is no longer feasible to list all records. The following records give a flavour of the locations from which more than the usual one or two were noted.

Cheesegate Nab – up to five birds present on 1st January.

Marsden – seen in all months between Wards End Farm and Close Moss, with 119 records received. Mainly singles and often the same birds but four went high E on 13th April. Quite a number of these birds were seen moving W but three together on 15th October was the maximum.

Blackmoorfoot – recorded on 65 occasions (38 in 2015 and 29 in 2014), with birds putting in appearances between mid-January and 23rd October, with the exception of an isolated single on 14th December. Most records related to one or two individuals, only occasionally three or four, but five were seen on 17th March, six on 25th March, seven on 18th September and five on 2nd October. There was a marked increase in summer records which presumably involved the pair breeding within two miles of the reservoir.

Bretton Park – four on 25th January.

Ramsden Res – between four and six birds were present on 12th March.

Kirkheaton – six on 25th March.

Elland GP – four on 25th March.

Ossett Spa SW – five soaring together on 16th April.

Brockholes – eleven records came in with a maximum of three individuals present on 7th May and 23rd June.

Harden – ten (including 7 circling together) on 17th August.

Harden Quarries – September saw birds fly SW as follows: four on 3rd, an amazing total of 23 (plus 6 others present in the area) on 11th, eight on 17th, and nine on 18th.

Fixby – recorded on five dates but nine over W or SW on 13th September.

Lepton – nine birds in the air on 23rd September.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	27	54	43	32	17	14	33	30	13	12	11

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.

Encouragingly records more reflected the national trend this year and were well up to ten from the two of last year.

Harden – one buzzed by Oystercatchers flew ‘ludicrously’ low up the house owner’s drive and then flew off low towards Boshaw Whams on 23rd March (MC). A single flew WNW on 21st August (MC).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – one came in from the SW and turned W before turning back on its original course and eventually departed to the NE on 2nd April (DWS). One circled high before moving away SE on 8th September (DWS, KWr).

Wessenden Valley – a single appeared from the SW over the bottom of Wessenden and continued high NE up the valley on 7th April (DWS). Another was seen on 17th April following exactly the same route as the previous bird (JD, TE, MP, DWS).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were three records, one in spring and two in autumn. A single circling the E bank flew N at 10.00hrs. on 28th April (MLD, GK, GBS), a juvenile flew S at 09.38hrs. on 17th September (MLD, DMP, SP, GBS) and one flew SE at 12.10hrs. on 2nd October (MLD).

Ranah Stones – a single flew S on 29th September (DP).

Number of Osprey records in the Huddersfield area in the last ten years:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
2	8	3	1	2	5	5	8	2	10

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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

This species was in very short supply this year and, unlike the previous three years, there were no breeding attempts. Indeed, there were records from only three locations, all during the winter months.

Dewsbury SW – two were present on 9th January and again on 4th February (JH).

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a single on 4th February (JH).

Gunthwaite Dam – singles were seen on 23rd January, 12th March and 4th and 14th December (NWM, DHP *et al.*).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

There were records from 28 locations, a sharp drop from the 38 in 2015. At some sites birds were present throughout the year, and breeding took place at nine of them, but no details were received from a few previously productive localities. Numbers always remained low and never exceeded seven with the exception of 14 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 28th December.

Breeding records were as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were singles on 30th January and 29th February, but it was not until 11th March that birds took up residence. Two were then present throughout the breeding season but, although a nest was built, eggs were never laid. A build up occurred later in the year with three or four being seen on most dates in September/October.

Boshaw Whams – a pair raised two young.

Horbury SW – a pair with two young in mid-May.

Brun Clough Res – a pair with four young in early June.

Windy Bank Res – a pair bred but no details were forthcoming.

Wilshaw – at least one young was seen on a small roadside between here and Netherthong in mid-May.

Greenhead Park – a pair had four young in late May.

Kirkheaton – a pair with at least one young was seen at the former brickworks in mid-June.

Ringstone Edge Res – a pair with two young in mid-July.

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

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

Records were received from 19 sites, a slight improvement on the 15 last year, but, as last year, it appears that some favoured localities in the east were not visited, or not reported from.

Monthly maxima at two regularly monitored sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ingbirchworth	12	11	17	15	11	9	16	20	13	1	2	3
Castle Dam	21	24	nc	18	nc	nc	13	9	nc	nc	nc	nc

With the exception of those tabulated above, double figure counts were received for **Scout Dike Res.** (up to 15 in January and 18 on 18th April), **Bretton Lakes** (14 in April/May), **Gunthwaite Dam** (12 on 2nd November), and **Meal Hill Lakes** (c. 10 on 5th December).

Evidence of breeding came from the following:

Gunthwaite Dam – present throughout most of the year with two pairs breeding.

Windy Bank Res – up to seven were present throughout the year and a pair with seven young were present in mid-May.

Dewsbury SW – five pairs were nest building by mid-March, and two broods of four were present in early May.

Bretton Lakes – three occupied nests by early May.

In addition, birds were thought likely to have bred at **Meal Hill Lakes**. Unusually, although birds were present throughout the year at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, there was no evidence of breeding.

In the first half of the year records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where the species has been in decline for the last decade, only involved singles on 16th January, from 6th – 8th March and from 28th May to 7th June. Later in the year singles were present on five dates in August and four in September with three on 15th August and two on 5th September.

A single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7th May had been colour-ringed (white-CVZ) at Lister Park, Bradford on 13th December 2015 and had travelled 30kms in a SSE direction.

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

Migrant breeder since 1999 (2 pairs) with a recent marked increase in breeding numbers. Uncommon passage visitor, increasing.

Reports were only received from 31 localities, nine fewer than last year, but proof of breeding was obtained from five of these.

The first returning birds were seen in February, and commenced with singles at **Ladywood Lakes** on 5th, **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 16th, two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on the same date, a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 19th, two at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 20th, and two on the River Calder at **Savile Town** on 23rd. By the end of March a further 13 localities had attracted birds, but numbers rarely exceeded five, the only exceptions being seven at **Broadstone Res.** on 28th February and six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28th March.

Although birds then became more widely distributed, the low numbers continued to be reflected throughout the summer months, and the only counts above five involved six at **Digley** on 1st April, six at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 8th April, six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 13th May, seven at **Blackmoorfoot** on 19th May, and six at **Dewsbury SW** on 7th July.

Breeding evidence was obtained for the following locations:

Snape Res – birds were incubating by mid-April but the outcome was unknown.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a pair in the usual place high on the rock face were thought to have raised young.

Blackmoorfoot – a pair in a field to the west of the reservoir failed at the egg stage.

Blakeley Res – a pair raised three young.

Butterley Res – a pair raised three young.

Birds remained widely distributed until the end of July but, with the exception of two or three at **Boshaw Whams** between 3rd and 25th August, the only other August records involved four at **Langsett Res.** on 5th, three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7th with five there on 12th and three on 14th. The only record thereafter was of two at **Boshaw Whams** on 9th/10th September.

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

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

Unlike last year, which could only muster three January records, 2016 produced some large assemblages at a number of widely distributed localities. All records, rather interestingly, were centred around 15th – 17th January. The 15th was a particularly good day, producing c.300 at **Broadstone Res.**, c.100 at **Whitley Edge** and 26 at **Blackmoorfoot Res**; the following day saw 75 at **Bird's Nest Lane**, c.100 at **Broadstone Res.** and c.140 at **Hartcliff Hill**; on 17th a flock of 16 were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** Birds were more widespread in February, but three of the above sites were again the most favoured. The flock of c.300 at **Broadstone Res.** was still present on 3rd, but this had reduced to c.100 by 18th. The other February records involved 19 at **Snape Res.** on 13th with six there on 27th, 12 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16th, c.30 at **Winscar Res.** on 22nd, three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 24th, with 11 there on 28th and 44 on 29th, 45 at **Hartcliff** on 25th, and a single at **Featherbed Moss** on 28th.

March and April, as is usual, produced the highest counts of the year, and birds were recorded from a total of 17 locations, some of which held birds for extended periods. The most notable of these were c.250 near the **Ford Inn** on 2nd March, 108 at **Snape Res.** on 8th March, c.400 overflying **Cheesegate Nab** on 20th March and c.200 in fields there on 11th April, c.250 at **Broadstone Res.** on 1st April, and c.100 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 10th April. The only evidence of passage came from **Wards End Farm, Marsden** where 25 flew W on 21st March, two flew W the following day, and a single did likewise on 23rd March.

Birds were present during the breeding season on a number of moors, but confirmation of breeding, which is not always easy to prove, was not forthcoming from any of these. The following indicates all sites where breeding was considered probable: **Deer Hill Moss** (3 pairs almost certainly bred), **Diggle** (calling birds on the moor), **Harden** and **Harden Moss** (displaying birds), **Black Hill** (a very agitated pair), and **Featherbed Moss** (2 pairs including singing males).

With the exception of **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, which held birds throughout most of the year, records after July were restricted to nine localities. At **Blackmoorfoot**, although regularly recorded, numbers rarely exceeded 60, with the following exceptions: 67 flew SW on 29th July, 80+ on 19th

November, 220+ the following day and 120+ between 21st and 27th November, 72 on 25th December and 120+ on 28th/29th December. The only other records involved two at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 7th July and two W there on 30th September, c.30 at **Hullock Hill** on 25th July, 50 at **Broadstone** on 30th July with c.40 the following day, a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7th September, 165 (115 S + 50 W) at **Wards End Farm** on 21st October and five N there on 8th November, c.300 at **Ringstone Edge** on 5th November and 355 there on 30th December, and nine on **Norland Moor** on the last day of the year.

A bird amongst the flock at **Snape Res.** on 8th March had been colour-ringed as a first-winter at Ceri Ridgeway, Shropshire on 15th October 2012, having travelled 150Kms NE.

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

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

In January, with the exception of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** which held between 40 and 180 on a daily basis, records were limited to c.80 at **Hartcliff Hill** and 150 at **Spicer House Lane** on 1st, c.100 in the **Cupwith** area on 3rd, a 'large number' at **Cartworth Moor** on 13th, and c.50 flying over **Bretton Park** on 25th. It was a similar situation in February and, once again, only **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held birds on a near daily basis (generally less than 60 with 100 on 1st to 5th and 106 on 27th). Numbers at other locations tended to be smaller; the maximum only consisting of 62 which flew SE at **Dewsbury SW** on 4th, c.50 at **Whitley Edge** on 18th with c.275 there on 28th, c.30 at **Whitley Common** on 22nd, and 120 in fields at **Harden Moss** on 28th. In March, although numbers reduced as birds dispersed to breeding area, there were records from far more locations. Flock size only reached a maximum of 16 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 3rd and 29 at **Maythorn** on 20th.

Breeding was reported from a number of widely distributed localities: **Isle of Skye Quarry** (3 pairs bred), **Meltham Grange** (a pair fledged 4 young), **Brow Grains/Deer Hill/Wessenden** (about 17 pairs), **Head Road Harden, Farnley Tyas** and **Broadstone** (displaying birds), **Brun Clough Res.** (5 pairs bred), **Whitley Common** (a 'few' pairs bred), **Whitley Edge** (1 pair bred), **Wards End Farm, Marsden** (3 pair bred), **Hartcliff Hill** (6 pairs bred), **Horbury** (1 pair bred), **Hoarstone Edge** (a minimum of 25 breeding pairs were found in the tetrad centred round Hoarstone Edge on a BTO survey), **Wessenden Res.** (1 pair bred), **Cheesgate Nab** (3 pairs probably bred), **Snape** (an unknown number of pairs, but 11 chicks were visible by late May), **Carlecotes Ponds** (2 pairs bred), and **Running Hill Gate, Diggle** (3 pairs bred).

Post-breeding flocks began to assemble from mid-July but, although there were numerous records from the usual localities, flock sizes remained low. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, daily counts increased from 65 in the first half of the month to between 150 and 230 daily for the rest of the month. The only other treble figure counts during July, however, related to c.120 at **Broadstone Res.** on 19th and 122 at **Dewsbury SW** on 22nd. In August, with the exception of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** which had up to 300 on a daily basis with 400 on 10th and 650 on 18th, assemblages at other sites were very low, and never exceeded the 70 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 15th, 92 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 17th, and 120 at **Deanhead Res.** on 24th. It was then a similar situation during the rest of the year. Large numbers continued to be recorded daily at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** Up to 400 were present in the first half of September, but the rest of the month never saw numbers rise above 150. Numbers generally remained in double figures throughout October but 120 were present on three dates later in the month, and 250 were seen on 31st. The following two months saw between 200 and 300 daily in November and between 400 and 450 daily in December.

Why the assemblages away from Blackmoorfoot were so abysmal is unknown, but figures rarely reached treble figures. The largest gatherings only consisted of c.100 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 11th September with c.90 there two days later, c.50 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 14th September, c.200 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 22nd October, 60 at **Wholestone Moor** on 5th November, c.50 at **Upper Oldfield** on 25th November, and 285 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 30th December.

Movements over the area were reported from four localities: 60 flew SW over **Scammonden Water** on 14th August, 100 flew W at **Broadstone Res.** on 23rd August, 23 flew NE at **Harden Quarries** on 3rd September and 34 flew SW there on 18th September, 16 flew W at **Wards End Farm** on 20th October and a single did likewise on 23rd November.

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th November had completely white primaries on both wings.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

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

There were reports from 12 localities, one less than last year, but proof of breeding was only obtained at one of these. Two birds present on 10th April were at some point joined by a second pair. By early July both pairs had at least one young each and a fifth adult was present.

Other records were received from:

Ingbirchworth Res – one or two were seen on 11 dates between 3rd April and 9th May.

Carlecotes Ponds – singles on 9th April, 9th and 14th May and two on 25th June.

Hepworth – a single along Bedding Edge Pond on 17th April.

Millbank – one on 4th May.

Dewsbury SW – a single on 4th May.

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 14th May.

Butterley Res – one on 15th May.

Deer Hill Res – a single on 17th June.

Kirkheaton – at least one was present at the former brickworks on 6th and 18th June.

Royd Moor Res – three on 25th June.

Boshaw Whams – a single on 16th/17th August.

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

Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.

There were records from five locations, the same as last year.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a single briefly before flying off to the W on 22nd April (DT).

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 26th April (DJS, AT).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were two records, one in spring and one in autumn: a single was on the south bank with a Dunlin on 1st May (MLD, GK) and a flock of seven flew W at 09.50hrs. on 2nd September (MLD, GBS).

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 7th May (DHP).

Boshaw Whams – a single was present on 21st August, two on 23rd August, and a single from 4th to 7th September (MC, NWM *et al.*).

In addition, a single at **Langsett Res.** on 16th May was too distant to rule out the possibility of Little Ringed Plover (RJB).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

There were eight records from seven localities, six in spring and two in autumn.

Digley Res – one on 16th April was seen to fly off up the valley (MC, NWM, DHP).

Royd Moor Res – a single arrived from the S and departed N after landing very briefly on 18th April (MCW).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single in fields to the west of the reservoir remained between 20th April and 17th May (MLD *et al.*) and one flew W at 10.15hrs. on 15th July (MLD, GBS).

Deer Hill – one on 23rd April (DMP, SP).

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 6th May (MC).

Harden – one on 8th May.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single heard calling on 13th August.

The long staying individual at Blackmoorfoot was most unusual, being the first to be recorded other than on the day of occurrence.

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

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

The first reports were in February and involved singles at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11th and **Tinker Hill** on 22nd, the same day that one was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and a flock of 35 were on the reservoir edge at **Winscar**. By the month end a further five locations had yielded records, some involving double figures: 15 overflew **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25th and 13 were present at **Broadstone Res.** on 28th.

Birds were far more widely distributed in March/April, being recorded from 33 locations, some of which would eventually hold breeding pairs (see below). There were several double figure gatherings during these months. A flock of 15 was feeding in farmland adjacent to **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 3rd March, c.21 at **Dick Edge Lane** the following day, c.59 in a field at **Thick Hollins Moor** on 6th March, 12 (4 on the moor + 7 flew W + 1 N) at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 10th March, at least 30 at **Deer Hill** on 30th March, ten at **Whitley Airfield** on 27th March, c.15 at **Whitley Common** on 30th March, 13 at **Digley** on 1st April, and 14 at **Wilshaw** on 5th April (with 20+ in the same field on 18th April).

Breeding, although not always confirmed, was reported from the following localities: **Bradshaw Moor** (4 pairs), **Harden** (half-grown young in July), **Royd Moor Res.**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Whitley Common**, **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Scout Dike Res.** (displaying birds), **Brun Clough** (2 pairs), **Wards End Farm** (3 pairs), **Hoarstone Edge** (a minimum of 12 breeding pairs were found in the tetrad centred round Hoarstone Edge on a BTO survey), and **Isle of Skye Quarry** (full-grown young in late July).

Although still widely distributed by late July, the usual reduction in the number of birds present was very apparent. With few exceptions reports related to groups of no more than four individuals, but 26 were present at **Lower Maythorn** on 3rd July, c.25 were on **Whitley Common** on 12th July, and eight were seen at both **Harden** and **Harden Quarries** on 6th August. Birds vacated the area very abruptly, and the last sightings of the year, all in early September, related to two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2nd, two at **Harden Quarries** the following day, and a single which flew W at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 6th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rare to scarce passage visitor, increasing.

There were records from four locations, all between 27th June and 27th August.

Ringstone Edge Res – two departed W at c.10.50hrs. on 27th June (DJS).

Ingbirchworth Res - six were present on 29th July (NWM) and 12 on 8th August (MC, NS, MCW).

Harden – two flew WNW, with at least one diverting N, on 21st August (MC).

Boshaw Whams – a single was present on 21st, 23rd and 27th August (NWM, DHP, DT).

Numbers of Black-tailed Godwits in the Huddersfield area in the last ten years:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
3	3	0	0	2	11	0	0	4	25

RUFF *Calidris pugnax*

Rare to scarce visitor.

As in 2015, there was a single record.

Two (juvenile male + juvenile female) were present at **Boshaw Whams** on 6th September (MC, NWM, DHP).

Numbers of Ruff in the Huddersfield area in the last ten years:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	3	2

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were two records, singles during each passage period.

A summer-plumaged adult was at **Wessenden Res.** on 15th May (JMP) and a party of three flew E at 10.50hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 6th October (MLD, GK, SP, GBS).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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

Records followed a similar pattern to last year, there being evidence of probable breeding on some of the higher moors but passage birds were rather thin on the ground.

Ingbirchworth Res – singles on 18th April, 2nd May and 10th November.

Chew Res – one on 20th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were only four records. In spring a single was on the south bank with a Ringed Plover on 1st May and four flew W the following day. Later in the year singles flew W on 25th July and 23rd August.

Wessenden Head Res – two on 12th May and a single on 23rd June.

Deer Hill Moss – a purring and displaying bird was present on 14th May and 6th June.
Featherbed Moss – single birds on 15th May and 5th June were considered to be on territory.
Rocher Moss – distraction display was witnessed from a single bird on 16th May.
Brun Clough Res – one on nearby moorland on 16th May.
Boshaw Whams – in September three were present on 3rd, and two from 4th to 6th.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

There were records from 21 locations, five less than last year.

The first arrivals concerned a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th/16th April and two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16th/17th April. With the exceptions of these two reservoirs, which had up to three throughout the rest of the month, the only other April records involved two in the **Wessenden Valley** on 19th, two at **Redbrook Res.** on 26th, a single at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on the same date, one on the stream between **Ryburn** and **Baitings Reservoirs** on 29th, and a single at **Broadstone Res.** on 30th.

Passage birds became more widely distributed in May but, even though they continued to be regularly seen at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Ingbirchworth Reservoirs**, numbers never exceeded three. During the breeding season, despite several reservoirs holding birds throughout, breeding reports were minimal. The only proof of breeding came from the **Wessenden Valley**, where courtship display was noted at **Butterley Res.** and a pair fledged young at **Wessenden Res.**

As birds dispersed in July/August, although they were noted at several new localities and the reservoirs at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Ingbirchworth** continued to maintain their monopolies, numbers remained low, only exceeding two on 11 occasions: the three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7th July had increased to five the following day, four were present on 11th/12th and 18th, and three on 23rd and 28th, three were present at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 21st July and 19th August, and three were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 24th July and 21st August.

September only produced records from three localities: **Ingbirchworth Res.** held two on 1st/2nd and a single on 5th; **Boshaw Whams** had singles on five dates with the last on 14th; and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held one or two on 17 dates until the last, a single, on 23rd.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Reports were received from nine locations, three more than last year, and spanned all months with the exceptions of May, June and October.

Clayton West SW – a single in a muddy stubble field on 6th January (DHP).

Bretton Park – singles on 25th January (KW) and 21st February (BBS).

Dewsbury SW – up to three (usually 1 or 2) were present in the general area between 4th February and 10th March (JH) and a single was seen at the SW on 24th April (DT). There were then no records until 4th July, when two appeared. Thereafter, birds were recorded on a near daily basis until 24th August, when four were present. Numbers usually remained below four, but six were present on 8th July (JH). The only record thereafter involved a single on 26th December (JH).

Savile Town – three on the River Calder on 23rd February with a single on 26th April and three on 7th July (JH).

Ossett Spa SW – a single on 10th April (DHP).

Earlsheaton – one on 22nd April and 20th September (JH).

Millbank – four on the River Calder on 4th July and a single on 19th, 24th and 30th July (JH).

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 22nd September (MCW).

Horbury – singles on the River Calder on 29th November (DHP) and 28th December (DBu).

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

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

The number of localities from which this declining species was recorded reached an all-time low. Unlike last year, there were no records from the River Calder catchment.

Ingbirchworth Res – singles on 23rd/24th March and 26th September.

Brun Clough Res/Round Hill – at least two, but probably four birds were present on 4th April, after which two birds were seen on a number of occasions until 23rd May. Display was noted on the first mentioned date but no further breeding evidence was forthcoming.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in July, singles flew W on 10th and 18th and one flew S on 26th, a single was heard calling on 13th August, two were present on 9th November and a single the following day.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from six localities, one more than last year. Of these six, four sites held birds during the first winter period and five during the second winter period.

Scout Dike Res – singles were seen on 1st January, 10th February and 29th October (RJB).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles on 20th January and 19th November (DWS).

Wholestone Moor – singles on 30th March (DT) and 29th October and 5th November (KW).

Skelmanthorpe – a single flew in a westerly direction level with the rooftops on 12th April (DBu).

Isle of Skye Quarry – singles on 15th and 18th October and 27th November (DHP).

Broadstone Res – one on 4th November (NWM).

(EURASIAN) **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2), 25-75 pairs. Uncommon winter visitor.

There were only four sightings during the first winter period: a single at **Netherthong** on 24th February, one was disturbed from under the kitchen window at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 15th March, a single was seen in Orange Wood at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st March, and one was present at **Longwood** on 25th March.

During the breeding season birds were recorded from the **Little Don Valley**, **Holme Moss** and **Langsett** (a minimum of 4 on 21st June), but the only roding birds were reported from the **Yateholme** area.

As is usual, there were more records later in the year, but these only amounted to a single at **Langsett Res.** on 17th August, one at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd September, one at **Carlecotes Ponds**

on 1st October, a single in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 20th and 29th October, one at **Merrydale, Slaithwaite** on 12th November, and a single at **Horbury SW** on 28th December.

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

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

The first winter period saw records from 13 locations but, as in 2015, most records referred to no more than a handful of birds. The largest gatherings involved 16 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 1st January and eight there on 10th February, five at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4th and 11th January and 4th February, c.12 at **Dewsbury SW** on 16th February, and five at **Wholestone Moor** on 19th February.

Indications of breeding, mainly in the form of drumming and chipping birds, came from a number of upland locations: **Snape Res.** (up to 3 displaying birds), **Wards End Farm, Marsden** (up to 3 displaying birds), **Isle of Skye Quarry** (nest with 3 eggs), **Winscar** (1 displaying bird), **Law** (1 displaying bird), **Blackmoorfoot** (1 short-lived displaying bird), **Windleden Edge** (1 displaying bird), and **Yateholme** (1 displaying bird). Small numbers of birds, never more than three, were recorded at a further dozen potential breeding sites, but evidence of breeding was not forthcoming. At **Hoarstone Edge**, 11 birds were found in the tetrad centred round Hoarstone Edge on a BTO survey in early June.

There were very few records after the breeding season, which is normal, but between early August and late September birds had appeared at 12 scattered locations. Numbers were always in low single figures, the maxima being as follows: four at **Harden Quarries** on 6th August with four flying SW there on 11th September and 15 W on 18th September, up to five regularly at **Boshaw Whams** between 10th August and 26th September, five flew W at **Hartcliff Hill** on 7th September, and four at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 27th September. Numbers began to rally slightly in October, but the number of localities holding the species decreased to nine. Although the number of birds generally remained below three, a party of eight dropped on to the moor at **Wards End Farm** on 6th October, c.20 were on **Wholestone Moor** on 22nd October, and five were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25th October.

November/December records were confined to five localities. A single flew E over **Wards End Farm** on 1st November and singles were present there on 3rd November and 26th December with two the following day, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a single on 3rd November, two on 10th November and one on 1st December, a single arrived during a visible migration watch at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 4th November, and singles were present at **Wholestone Moor** on 5th November and **Cheesegate Nab** on 28th December.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were spring records from two localities.

Ingbirchworth Res – summer-plumaged adults were present on 9th and 11th May (MC, MCW *et al.*).

Blackmoorfoot Res – three summer-plumaged adults arrived at 10.15hrs. and departed E at 11.10hrs. on 11th May (MLD, GBS).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Recorded from three localities (5 in 2015) with birds occurring between 30th May and 17th August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one arrived at 12.05hrs. and departed NW at 12.20hrs. on 30th May. Later in the year an adult departed S at 09.00hrs. on 1st July, an adult was present on 19th July, three juveniles departed E at 09.00hrs. on 1st August and an adult flew W at 16.15hrs. on 7th August.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – an adult flew W, along with 25 Black-headed Gulls, at 18.00hrs. on 20th July.

Langsett Res – a single was present on 17th August.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There was a widespread inland movement of this species on 2nd May, but this only resulted in two records from the Club area.

Ingbirchworth Res – two were seen on 12th April (DHP) and eight were present during the afternoon on 2nd May (MCW).

Whitley Common – a tern, almost certainly this species, flew NW during the afternoon on 2nd May (DHP).

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

Rare to scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

There were five records, all of singles, from three localities.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a first-winter flew W at 10.10hrs. on 13th January (MLD, GBS), a first-summer flew SW at 10.20hrs. on 27th April (MLD, TW) and an adult flew S at 11.05hrs. on 5th September (MLD, GK).

Langsett Res – an adult seen on 10th March (MCW).

Winscar Res – an adult was present on 3rd May (MC, DHP).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

Blackmoorfoot roost counts produced the following monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
nc	6700	nc	nc	19	90	150	450	350	nc	4000	4600

Counts from the **Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike/Royd Moor/Broadstone** area produced the following monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
600	600	200	72	50	40	20	70	120	350	350	1330

As is usual, small parties were seen at a number of widely scattered localities throughout the year, but the only treble figure counts involved the following:

Castle Dam – c.150 on 1st January.

Hartcliff Hill – c.300 on 1st January.

Langsett Res – c.880 roosted on 6th January, 1,200 on 13th February, 166 on 5th August, 353 on 17th August and 659 on 20th September.

Whitley Common – c.500 on 26th February.

Dewsbury SF – 280 on 27th February, 350 on 31st May, 160 on 3rd November and 360 on 19th December.

Digley Res – c.100 on 27th February.

Winscar Res – 162 on 12th July.

Lower Maythorn – c.1,500 feeding in fields on 12th November.

The recently established colony at **Winscar Res.** appeared to be active in early May but no further records were forthcoming.

Visible migration was noted at two localities:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a total of 2832 birds were noted passing over the area on 101 dates throughout the year. Most birds flew in a westerly direction and, as is usual, most occurred during the second half of the year. Numbers were generally small, less than 40, and the only three figure counts were all in July: 130 (110 W + 20 E) on 13th, 100 W on 15th, 304 W on 17th, 113 W on 18th, 269 (262 W + 7 E) on 20th, 146 W on 21st and 100 W on 22nd.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 39 flew SW on eight dates between 30th August and 4th November, with a maximum of ten on 3rd November.

LITTLE GULL *Hyrdocoloeus minutus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

An adult was present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 9th January (MLD, GK, GBS); an adult was photographed as it fed over a field at **Broadstone Lodge** on 16th January (DMP, SP *et al.*); **Ingbirchworth Res.** had an adult on 10th April and a flock of ten the following day (NWM, DHP); and a first-summer bird flew low to the W into a 6-7 gale force wind at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 2nd May (DWS).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare to scarce visitor.

Ingbirchworth Res – an adult with a full black hood was seen on 26th/27th February (DBu, MCW) and a first-winter was present on 17th October (MC).

Digley Res – an adult in near full summer plumage was seen on 27th February (DMP, SP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were four records, probably involving as many birds: a first-winter departed S at 10.55hrs on 4th October (MLD, SP, GBS), single first-winters were present on 12th October (GK) and 14th November (MLD, GBS) and single adults were present on 16th November (MLD) and 4th December (GK, TW).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Records during the first winter period were from a number of widely scattered localities, especially in the east of the area, but counts rarely exceeded 30, the following being the exceptions:

Blackmoorfoot Res – 1250 roosted on 12th February.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.200 on 28th January, 50 on 16th February, c.80 on 23rd February and 3rd March and 48 on 15th Marsh.

Broadstone Res – c.60 on 23rd February and 40 on 13th March.

Apart from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, which had up to four (but usually 1 or 2) on 31 dates between early May and mid-September, the only other records during these months were as follows:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a total of 81, mainly flying in a westerly direction, were recorded on 18 dates between 10th May and 15th August. Generally fewer than six were involved but 12 flew W on 18th July with 12 (11 W + 1 E) on 15th August.

Ingbirchworth Res – three on 10th May and a single the following day.

Broadstone Res – two on 10th May.

Langsett Res – a single on 5th August and 11 on 17th August.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 9th and 17th August.

Royd Moor Res – a single on 5th September.

Numbers began to build from mid-September and, although widely distributed, numbers were uninspiring, rarely exceeding single figures, the only exceptions being as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – 19 were present on 30th October with 17 on 19th November. A total of 900 roosted on 12th November, as did 1000 on 14th December.

Broadstone Res – c.40 on 17th December.

Royd Moor Res – c.70 on 17th December.

Ingbirchworth Res – 40 on 18th December.

Visible migration was noted at two localities:

Wards End Farm – a total of 419 flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on 30 dates between 3rd January and 26th March. Numbers rarely reached 20 (usually less than 10) but there were 40 (21 SE and 19 S) on 5th January, 48 (33 W and 15 S) on 28th January, 121 W on 1st February, 28 W the following day and 50 W on 22nd February. Later in the year a total of 54 flew over, all in a W or SW direction, on 17 dates between 12th September and 26th December. With the exceptions of nine which flew SW on 12th December and ten which did likewise two days later, all other records were of less than six.

Pule Hill, Marsden – singles flew SW on 23rd and 30th September, 30th October and 3rd November and ten flew SW on 4th November.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

The only site with regular counts was **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where the following monthly maxima occurred:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	3	4	17	82	19	23	9	14	14	11	15

With the exception of the Blackmoorfoot Res. records noted above, the only other records during the first winter period were as follows:

Broadstone Res – six on 1st January.

Castle Dam – a single on 1st January.

Bretton Park – one on 1st January.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a total of 147 flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on 35 dates between early January and late April. Low single figures were usually involved, but, in February, 11 flew W on both 1st and 2nd, 12 did likewise on 7th and 11 flew W on 22nd.

Scout Dike Res – c.40 on 9th January.

Ladywood Lakes – two on 15th January.

Farnley Tyas – c.10 on 10th February.

Ingbirchworth Res – three on 16th February and singles on 3rd March and 18th April.

Hartcliff Hill – a single on 25th February, two on 8th March and one on 30th April.

Ingbirchworth Moor – a single on 21st April.

From early May until late October birds were reported from a number of widely scattered localities but numbers at most localities rarely reached double figures, the exceptions being as follows:

Ingbirchworth Res – following a flock of 23 on 23rd May, there was a build-up 61 by mid-August and an isolated flock of c.400 on 7th September. The only record thereafter involved 53 on 12th October.

Slaithwaite – 18 on 7th June.

Whitley Common – 43 on 18th July.

Langsett Res – 84 roosting on 5th August had increased to 664 by 17th of that month and 787 by 30th September.

Royd Moor Res – 12 on 30th August.

With the exceptions of the Blackmoorfoot Res. records noted above and movements over Marsden (see below), the only other November/December records were as follows:

Ingbirchworth Res – c.32 on 2nd November and six on 18th December.

Broadstone Res – three on 16th November.

Movements over the area, other than the few mentioned above, were noted from four localities between early May and late December.

Wards End Farm – a total of 356 flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on 67 dates between 1st May and the year end. Most records were concentrated between early June and late October and rarely reached low double figures, the only exception being 67 which flew NE on 28th August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in May, 13 flew W on 11th, nine W on 20th, seven S the following day, and 17 SW on 26th. After 21 had flown SE on 10th June, a total of 23 juveniles flew W on 26th August, 13 S on 1st October, 14 W on 31st October and 6 E on 27th November.

Pule Hill, Marsden – two flew S on 22nd May, a single flew SW on 3rd September, three flew NE on 11th September and one flew SW on 3rd November.

Harden Quarries – four flew SW on 3rd September.

There were three interesting sightings of colour-ringed birds at **Ingbirchworth Res**.

A bird colour-ringed as a nestling at Isle of Pradda, Isle of Arran (Ayrshire) on 7th July 2015 was seen at Ingbirchworth on 2nd August 2016, having travelled 161kms SE. A bird colour-ringed as a first-year on Walney Island, Cumbria in 2002 and re-sighted in Spain in 2009 was seen at Ingbirchworth on 8th and 10th August 2016. The other bird, colour-ringed as a first-winter on Langeoog Island, Germany on 7th July 2015 and reported in Leicestershire on 18th June 2016 was seen at Ingbirchworth on 11th August 2016.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

As is now normal, the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** rarely held more than single figures during either winter period with the exceptions of 17 on 1st January, 12 on 24th January and up to 30 in late December. Interestingly, more birds were recorded in movements over the area than actually roosted: in January, 22 flew W on 15th, 16 SW on 18th; 12 flew E on 28th February with 16 W the following day and ten flew W on 4th April. Later in the year, in November, 31 flew W on 13th, 19 W on 20th, and 42 E on 28th; in December 77 flew E on 2nd, eight did likewise on 4th, and 37 flew NW on 11th.

There were records from a further 15 localities (18 in 2015 and 16 in 2014), showing that the species is nowhere near as common as formerly. A large proportion of the records relate to passage birds over Wards End Farm, Marsden, although there was a build-up of birds at Ingbirchworth during the first winter period and small numbers were seen at Oldfield during December.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a total of 675 flew W on 29 dates between 1st January and 28th March. Numbers reached high double figures on a few occasions and there was a maximum of 157 on 24th January. Records during the summer were limited to single which flew W on 4th and 21st April, four W on 19th June and a single W on 24th June. Movements commenced again in mid-July, and by the year end a total of 487 had passed over, mainly in a westerly direction, on a total of 53 dates. Number involved rarely exceeded 30, but 93 flew SW on 11th December.

Castle Dam – a single on 1st January.

Ingbirchworth Res – up to 20 were present on seven dates between 1st January and 3rd March. In May, two were seen on 11th and three on 23rd. The only other records involved a single on 28th September, three on 29th October and one on 12th November.

Shepley – a single few SSE on 1st January.

Winscar Res – three on 4th January.

Ladywood Lakes – six on 15th January, three on 20th January and two on 5th February.

Hartcliff Hill – two flew S on 16th January.

Baitings Res – seven flew W on 23rd January.

Booth Wood Res – 24 flew W on 23rd January.

Elland GP – a single on 21st February and two on 14th April.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single flew S on 3rd April and nine flew NW on 13th November.

Langsett Res – three on 17th August.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a single flew SW on 30th October and 11 did likewise on 3rd November.

Oldfield – small numbers were regularly present throughout December, with a maximum of six on 26th.

Deer Hill Res – two flew SW on 17th December.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

Most records, as last year, reverted to the previous pattern of occurrences, with most being in the second half of the year. There was a good run of records from the Ingbirchworth area (mainly Ingbirchworth Res.) between late July and late September.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were four records, involving four different birds: a second-winter on 25th January (MLD, GK, GBS *et al.*), a third-winter on 6th March (MLD, GK, GBS), a first-summer on 25th June (MLD, GBS, DMP) and an adult on 1st August (MLD, GBS).

Ingbirchworth Res – an adult was seen on most dates between 18th April and 1st May (DBu, MCW), a second-summer was present on 23rd May (MCW) and four sub-adults were seen on 29th July. Singles, which included birds of all age groups, were then seen on 31st July, three dates in August, five dates in September, 29th/30th October, 12th November and 18th December (NWM, DHP, MCW *et al.*)

Broadstone area – what may have been some of the birds recorded from Ingbirchworth Res. (see above) were seen as follows: an adult and a younger bird on 29th July (MC, DHP), a sub-adult on 31st July (JMCL, NWM, DHP) and an unaged bird on 8th August (NWM).

Hoylandswaine – a third-summer on 6th August (RJB).

Whitley Heights – a sub-adult on 12th August (DHP).

Hartcliff Hill – an adult on 14th August (MC, RJB).

Langsett Res – in August, four unaged birds were present on 17th (MCW), a juvenile roosted on 20th (RJB), and two adults roosted on 29th (RJB). Two adults and a third-winter were present on 20th September (MCW).

Whitley Common – an unaged bird was seen on the airfield 24th August (NWM).

Lower Maythorn – a second-summer on 17th September (DMP, SP).

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Rare visitor.

This species was recorded in the Club area for the fifth year in succession.

There were two birds, a juvenile and an adult, in the Ingbirchworth area which, although sometimes present on the same date, their presence can be better understood if they are documented individually.

A colour-ringed juvenile was present in the **Broadstone/Ingbirchworth** between 29th July and 1st August (MC, DHP, MCW *et al.*) and roosted at **Langsett Res.** on 31st July (MCW). The same bird was again seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** between 7th and 10th, 13th, 18th/19th and 27th August. A first-winter bird at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21st/22nd, 26th October and from 30th October until 2nd November (DMP, SP *et al.*) may have been the colour-ringed juvenile which had moulted but, unfortunately, the legs were always obscured from view. This same bird roosted at **Langsett Res.** between 30th October and 2nd November.

The adult was located at **Broadstone Res.** on 29th July (MC, JMCL, DHP *et al.*) and was then seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 31st July and 1st, 5th/6th, 8th to 12th and 18th August. It roosted at **Langsett Res.** on 31st July and 5th, 6th and 12th August. It was located at **Whitley Common** on 3rd and from 5th to 7th August but it also visited **Royd Moor Res.** on 6th August (MC, DHP *et al.*). There were then no sightings until what was presumably the same bird was relocated at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 3rd, 19th to 24th, 26th and 29th October (JMCL, MCW *et al.*).

The colour-ringed juvenile (yellow-X215) had been ringed as a nestling at Reddern, Oberspreewald-Lausitz (Brandenburg), Germany on 6th June 2016.

In addition, an adult roosted at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** between 16th and 21st December (MC, MLD, NWM, DHP *et al.*). The bird, which had distinctive bill markings, relocated to Winterset Reservoir, Wakefield the day following its last visit to Blackmoorfoot. This is the 218th bird species to be recorded from the reservoir.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

This species is becoming less frequent in the Club area as the years progress, not only in the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, but also in the area generally. Passage birds were noted at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on a number of dates but numbers never exceeded 24 on any one day (see below).

The only site with regular counts was Blackmoorfoot Res., where the following monthly maxima occurred:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	9

The only other records were as follows:

Ingbirchworth – four on 1st January and three on 19th April,

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a total of 133 flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on 25 dates between 1st January and 18th April. Maximum numbers rarely reached double figures, but 18 flew W on 22nd February and 24 flew E on 28th February. There were then no records until five flew W on 17th July. Thereafter, a total of 109 flew over, again mainly in a westerly direction, on a further 33 dates until late December. Numbers were generally very low, rarely exceeding six, and the only double figure count involved 15 which flew W on 31st July.

Ladywood Lakes – a single on 15th January.

Hartcliff Hill – a single flew S on 16th January.

Booth Wood Res – a single flew W on 23rd January.

Elland GP – one on 12th April.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a single on 22nd April.

Marsh – one flew over on 8th July.

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 15th August.

Pule Hill, Marsden – two flew SW on 30th September.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Once again this species was under recorded, there being records from only 12 sites, and none from the main centre of populations in Huddersfield town centre.

Birds were present throughout the year in a number of gardens but assemblages never reached double figures. A flock consisting of 50-60 birds was present in **Scissett** on 2nd January (the observer commented that a flock of this size is not unusual at this site), c.30 were present near the Co-op car park in **Holmfirth** on 16th April and c.80 were feeding on the banks of the Plover Road pond in **Lindley** on 31st July.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

Records were received from 30 widely scattered localities (33 in 2015).

Although up to six (usually 2-4) were present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot** there was no evidence of breeding. It was a similar situation at **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, where up to six

(usually 2-4) resided throughout the year. These figures are in sharp contrast to the much higher assemblages recorded last year. A pair which bred at **Wards End Farm** was the only breeding evidence reported, but birds were singing at a number of locations.

As has now become the norm, there were several gardens records: in **New Mill** (1 or 2 almost daily throughout most of the year), **Netherthong** (1 or 2 on 14th January, 2 between 12th and 19th March and 2 on 3rd May), **Holmfirth** (up to 3 between May and August), and **Almondbury** (1 or 2 in May/June).

The only double figure counts involved a flock of c.30 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 9th January which had increased to at least 70 by 6th February, ten at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 27th April and 11 at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 16th May.

Birds considered to have been on migration were recorded as follows:

Wards End Farm – a single flew SW on 10th February and the following day four flew W and ten N. Later in the year all birds flew N: two on 20th July and three on 1st, 22nd and 23rd October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – the following flew SW: six on 30th August, one on 3rd September and two on both 30th October and 3rd November.

Harden Quarries – a single flew SW on 11th September.

(COMMON) **WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4), 2,000-2,500 pairs. Numerous but irregular winter visitor.

As in 2015, although the number of records exceeded 300, even at the migration watch points, numbers were abysmally low. There were no treble figure counts in the first half of the year. Later in the year, although numbers rallied, they were pitifully low and, with the exception of migrating birds (see below), the largest flocks only involved c.100 in a ploughed field at **Farnley Tyas** on 12th August, c.130 leaving a roost at **Scout Dike Res.** on 26th October and c.100 at **Thurstonland** on 16th November.

Visible migration was witnessed at four sites, being particularly heavy at one of these:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – small numbers (never more than 21) flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on 23 dates between 1st January and 10th May. Later in the year a total of 31,762 passed over on 34 dates between 21st October and 29th December. Unlike 2015, when most birds flew SW or W, however, this year there was no consistency, with birds flying in every compass direction. Treble figure counts were not unusual, but occasionally high four figure counts were achieved: 14,500 flew SW on 31st October (10,350 between 07.05hrs. and 08.05hrs.); in November, 1,480 flew NW and 775 SW on 1st; 2,900 SW on 2nd; 2,400 SW on 3rd; 1,300 SW on 5th; 2,600 SW on 6th and 1,300 SW the following day.

Rastrick – all birds flew S: c.50 on 5th March, 1,000 on 31st October, 4,600 on 2nd November and 200 on 25th November.

Pule Hill, Marsden – all birds flew S or SW: 635 on 30th October; 3,124 on 3rd November and 656 the following day.

Fixby – c.2,500 flew SW between 07.00hrs. and 08.50hrs. on 31st October.

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

This widely distributed species continues to be recorded from numerous gardens and urban areas, but records away from these conurbations remained few.

As in 2015, there were records from nine gardens, most of which held birds throughout the year. Numbers were very subdued, however, never reaching more than eight with the exceptions of 16 in a **Helme** garden on 3rd October and 11 in a **Lockwood** garden on 13th December.

The only proof of breeding came from **Taylor Hill** and **Crosland Moor**, where single pairs fledged young. Up to four were present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot**, but the 13 which roosted in Orange Wood on 17th August were unusual.

The only sign of migration involved five which flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 30th August and a party of six which flew N at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 9th October.

(EUROPEAN) **TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur*
Rare passage visitor. Former migrant breeder.

A single singing at **Harden** on 5th May (MC) was the first record in the Club area since 2010.

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

There were records from 18 localities, an alarming drop from the 28 in 2015 and 30 in 2014. As has now become the norm, the majority were from upland/moorland locations. As in 2014, there were very few records from the Langsett area, an area which has been particularly favoured in the past.

A single at **Langsett** on 23rd April was the first, but there were no other occurrences that month. Birds became more widely distributed in early May, but most records only involved singles.

Other birds, all singles unless otherwise stated, were reported as follows:

Panna Mills Dam – 1st May.

Deer Hill – 4th May and a few other dates that month, but none after early June.

Holmfirih – 6th May, then occasional calls were heard from the vicinity of Cheesegate Nab/Hullock Bank in late May/early June.

Isle of Skye Quarry – occasionally between 6th May and 28th July.

Harden – 7th May, 2nd June and 3rd July.

Ingbirchworth Res – 8th and 10th May.

Butterley Res – 8th and 12th May.

Broadstone Res – 10th May.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – occasionally between 12th May and 3rd June.

Little Don Valley – 16th May.

Wood Nook – 16th and 30th May with two the following day.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 18th May and 10th August.

Dunford Bridge – 22nd May.

Meltham – 3rd, 4th and 6th June. Heard from a Thick Hollins garden, the song was thought to emanate from the Wilshaw area.

Digley Res – 3rd and 5th June.

Meltham Mills – 6th and 10th June with two the following day.

Slate Pits Wood – 9th June.

The only bird after these dates involved one at **Harden Quarries** on the rather late date of 6th August.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor. Occasional breeder.

Although five pairs bred in the area in 2015, this year only a single nest was located (at a site used last year) but no further information was forthcoming.

The only other records relate to singles at four other locations but, with the exception of one at **Ossett** which was present from 2nd October, these only amounted to single day occurrences.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

There was a further drop in the number of localities from which this nationally declining species was reported and, rather alarmingly, only two breeding pairs were located. Of the 21 localities which held birds (same as last year) most were for short periods only, and only two localities, **Lower Hagg** and **Blackmoorfoot** (see below), held birds throughout most of the year.

Birds were more in evidence at **Blackmoorfoot**, where the species has become decidedly scarce, with one or two birds present on a wall to the west from late March to late August. Although present throughout the summer months there was no evidence of breeding. A pair at the western end of Meltham Cop, present for approximately the same time, produced one young. The only record thereafter involved a single in the SW corner overflow field on 5th to 19th November.

The only other breeding record was from **Norland Moor**, where a pair had a single fledged young in mid-July.

An observer in the Holmfirth area commented that birds were becoming harder to find as they disappear from once-reliable sites such as **Brown Edge** and **Barnside**. Another cause for concern involves the renovation of old barns, and the same observer added that **Wards Place**, where birds have reliably been seen since 1981, is now being redeveloped, and the deserted farm buildings at **Hade Edge**, another hitherto reliable site, are also up for sale.

On a more positive note, an observer in the **Ingbirchworth** area commented that it was good to see this bird back on a site that had been a permanent territory for the species but has remained largely unoccupied for a number of years.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Only reported from 26 localities, a marked drop from the 33 in 2015. Unlike 2015, when no locality held birds for extended periods, this year birds were present throughout the year at three localities: **Almondbury Wood**, **Meal Hill** (roosting birds) and **Brockholes** (up to 3 calling birds). As in 2015, a good proportion of records related to singles during the autumn months and presumably involved dispersing juveniles.

The only proof of breeding came from **Fixby**, where a pair raised two young. A pair were thought to have bred at **Skelmanthorpe** but the evidence was inconclusive.

An observer in **Netherthong** had a few sleepless nights in February/March as birds were heard calling between 02.00hrs. and 04.00hrs. on a number of dates.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

A single was seen at **Lower Green Owers** on 1st February and 8th and 10th March (DWS).

As in 2015, the observer in the south of the Club area had few opportunities to survey for breeding birds this year, and only a single pair was located. Only a single pair nested in the NW of the Club area, but it is thought that any young most likely starved to death due to a crash in vole numbers.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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

All records this year were confined to the first half of the year and, although display was noted at two locations, there were no breeding attempts. Birds, usually singles but occasionally up to three, were reported from ten potential breeding sites.

(EUROPEAN) **NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare visitor. Former migrant breeder, which may occasionally do so. Red listed.

At the same location which held birds on 2014 and 2015, up to three (2 males + a female) were seen on a number of occasions between 30th May and 18th July.

At a traditional site in the south of the area, two males and two females were present on 21st June.

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

Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Two in the **Horbury Strands/Wyke** area on 28th April were the first. These were quickly followed by a single at **Skelmanthorpe** and four at both **Blackmoorfoot** and **Harthill** on 30th April. Birds then became more widely distributed but, as in 2015, assemblages rarely reached treble figures. Although birds bred in the nest boxes on **Slaithwaite** viaduct, no count was forthcoming.

Following the first at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 30th April (see above) birds continued to be seen on a near daily basis until the last (3) on 18th August. As in 2015, birds were present in smaller numbers than normal, with assemblages only reaching high double figures on a handful of occasions with the only treble figure counts involving 100+ on 18th June, 140+ on 20th June, 110+ on 1st July and 200+ the following day.

The low figures at Blackmoorfoot were also reflected across the rest of the Club area and, even from well-watched sites, the only other three-figure count involved 250 at **Dewsbury SW** on 31st May.

A total of 717 birds were recorded overflying **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 58 dates between 25th May and 16th August. Most birds flew in a westerly direction, but only occasionally did numbers reach double figures, the maxima being 80+ NW on 22nd June, 64 W on 6th July and 50 W on 10th July. At least 60 flew W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 3rd August.

Birds became less frequent by late July, and during the first half of August, despite being recorded on a near daily basis, only five localities held birds. The last records involved five at **Crosland Moor** and a single which flew ESE at **Wards End Farm** on 16th August, four which flew W over **Fixby** the following day, and three at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18th August.

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

This species once had a healthy population in the Club area but the last three years have seen a marked decrease in localities holding the species. As in 2015, there were records from 19 sites and no breeding attempts were reported. Although decreases in the breeding population are normally associated with prolonged inclement winter weather, this is obviously not the causal factor for this recent slump in population.

There was a welcome increase in records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** The only occurrences in the first half of the year involved a single on four dates between late January and mid-February. Later in the year up to two, but usually only one, were recorded on 92 dates between 19th July and the year end. The longest staying individual involved a single which was seen on a daily basis between 26th November and 31st December.

Two 'pairs' were seen almost daily along the River Calder between **Dewsbury** and **Ossett** and birds, usually a single, were seen regularly throughout the year at a number of locations along the River Colne. As noted above, however, there was no evidence of breeding. Other localities which held birds for extended periods were **Panna Mill Dam** (1 or 2 throughout the first winter period), **Gunthwaite Dam** (1 or 2 throughout both winter periods), and the River Calder at **Cooper Bridge** (1 or 2 between late August and late October).

(EURASIAN) **HOOPOE** *Upupa epops*
Rare visitor.

A single in the fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** between 15th and 18th April (TD *et al.*) was the second record from the locality. At the time over 50 were present in the British Isles, having overshot their Mediterranean breeding area.

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

Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

The number of sites from which this species was recorded slumped from the 30 in 2015 to 23 this year. Only four localities, **Hepworth** (2 sites), **Cheesgate Nab** and **Wards End Farm, Marsden** held birds (never more than 2) throughout most of the year. Despite being widely distributed during the summer months there was no evidence of breeding.

There was a sharp drop in records from **Blackmoorfoot**, where birds were seen on only four dates: singles in the south bank wood on 23rd April and along the west bank on 6th July, one flew W over the reservoir on 30th July, and a single near the inflow on 6th August.

A single in a garden at **Crimble Clough** on 1st January was only the second record there in over 30 years (AD).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

There were records from 35 widely scattered localities, a sharp drop from the 54 last year. As in 2015, birds were present throughout most of the year in five gardens and there was a sharp increase in garden visits from June onwards when adults took their young to garden feeding stations.

Although drumming birds were heard at a number of sites, including up to four at **Bretton Park**, the only proof of breeding came from **Blackmoorfoot** (a pair fledged young), **Longley Woods** (young heard in nest), **Hey Green** (pair feeding young in nest), **Windy Bank Wood** and **Yateholme** (pairs fledged young). The number of family parties visiting feeding stations in June/July, however, suggests that breeding was far more widespread than reported. The decline reported from a **New Mill** garden in the 2014 and 2015 reports continued, as birds, all singles, were only seen on five dates.

The only bird noted on migration involved a single which flew low to the W across the moor at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 20th March.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1), 1-10 pairs. Red listed.

There was a single record, a marked decline from the five in 2015.

A male was heard in **Menagerie Wood** on 13th April (DBu).

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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Not much change, being recorded from 67 sites compared to the 70 of the previous year with 242 dated records to the 244 last year.

However, breeding activity records were down from the six of 2015 to just two, these consisted of a pair seen copulating at **Digley** on 23rd March (this is not always indicative of local breeding as

females can sperm store) and young being fed in early May at **Higher Green Owlers, Marsden** in an old Carrion Crow's nest (not the one used last year as that one had been re-occupied by Carrion Crows).

At regularly watched sites birds were seen throughout the year suggesting much more breeding than noted above. Most records only involved one or two birds, with the maximum being seven over **Harden Quarries** on 19th September. Otherwise the highest counts were of four around **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 1st August and 5th/6th September with three at the same location on 12th August and 1st September, and three also at **New Mill** on 9th October.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were present throughout the year. For the fourth year, however, no interest was shown in the nest box secured to the tower by YW in 2012.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

Some 60 records were received which was only one down from the 61 in 2015, these however came from 16 locations rather than the 12 of last year. Birds were observed in every month apart from May with 50% falling between July and September. Once again the majority of records stemmed from the daily watched site at Wards End Farm, Marsden. There was no confirmation of breeding this year.

Other records were as follows:

Hartcliff Hill – one flew NW before returning 25 minutes later with prey on 16th January.

Marsden – a male flew low to the W alongside Waters Road on 27th January. The observer was able to 'clock' it as it travelled at 40 km/hour until it got to Hey Green when it turned N towards higher ground.

Coal Pit Lane – a female on 16th February.

Deer Hill – a female was being harassed by Carrion Crows on 28th February and singles were seen on 31st August and 30th October.

Wards End Farm – there were 42 records, all singles, with none in January, May or unusually, October. The months with most records were July (13 dates), August (8) and September (6). They were often seen chasing Swallows and Meadow Pipits and on 26th June a Mistle Thrush.

Hoylandswaine – one on 15th March.

Winscar Res – a single on 19th March.

Broadstone Res – a male was seen on two occasions on 21st April.

Close Moss, Marsden – a single on 22nd April.

Redbrook Res – one flew N across the moor on 28th June.

West Nab – a single on 11th September.

Harden Quarries – two on 11th September and one flew SW whilst briefly chasing Meadow Pipits on 18th September.

Law Bottom – a single on 19th September.

Holt Head – a single being pursued by Jackdaws on 16th October.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single on 26th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the only record involved a single which flew N over the reservoir on 30th October.

(EURASIAN) **HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

As can be seen from the table below records were a little down again this year although they did stem from 13 localities (10 in 2015). The earliest bird was on 27th April and the last was on 10th September. Breeding was suspected though not proven at one location.

Thornhill Millbank – one attacking Sand Martins along the River Calder on 27th April (JH).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were six records (4 in 2015): a single flew S at 11.40hrs. on 20th May (MLD, GK, TW); one flew W at 12.15hrs. on 8th June (GK); in July, one was chasing hirundines over the reservoir at 09.20hrs. on 13th (MLD, GBS, TW) and a single flew W at 10.05hrs. on 16th (MLD, GBS *et al.*); in September, one flew N at 10.30hrs. on 9th (MLD, SP *et al.*) and two were present over the reservoir at 09.00hrs. the following day (MLD, GBS).

Bank Wood – a single on 7th June (KW).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – one circling over the A62 before departing W on 19th June and two flew high to the W on 21st June. Then singles, mainly circling over the observers' house, attracted by Swallows on four dates in July and 13th August (all DWS).

Black Hill – one flew E towards Bilberry Res. on 23rd June (SMS).

Boshaw Whams – a juvenile appeared after a shower of rain then departed W on 23rd June (MC, NWM).

Panna Mill Dam – a first-summer on 3th July (DMP, SP). Birds in this plumage usually remain on their wintering grounds in Africa.

Wessenden Valley – a first-summer was hunting insects and interacting with an adult before they went their separate ways on 4th July (DMP, SP). As birds in this plumage are rarely seen in this country it is possible that this was the same bird as that seen a Panna Mill Dam the previous day (see above).

Baitings Res – an adult flew W on 20th July (PG).

Harden – a single chasing hirundines on 17th August (MC).

Scout Dike Res – an adult on 30th August (NWM).

Red Lane, Meltham – an adult flew fast and low over fields on 8th August (DMP, SP).

Ringstone Edge Res – an adult chasing hirundines on 15th August (DT).

Records of Hobby in the Huddersfield area during the last 10 years:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
8	8	11	12	16	28	18	34	29	25

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

More records (65) were received this year compared to the 50 of 2015. These came from 24 localities as opposed to the 21 of last year. Most records consisted of single flyover birds but unsuccessful breeding took place at one site and probably took place at another. The breeding pair failed at the egg stage and a second-calendar year bird remained around the locality until mid-June.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – birds were recorded on 20 occasions and were seen in all months apart from May, but there were no records between 1st September and 9th November. All sightings involved singles, apart from two on 13th January and 14th December.

Winscar Res – there were four records: a juvenile on 23rd January; one ‘toying’ with three Common Buzzards on 10th September; two, one of which was a large immature female, were doing the same on 5th October; and two were interacting with Common Buzzards on 19th November.

Gunthwaite Dam – a large juvenile was seen carrying a Lapwing on 23rd January.

Dove Stone Res – a single was glimpsed in blizzard conditions on 30th January and one was seen between here and Chew Res. on 18th August.

Cheesegate Nab – two joined an aerial dispute between four Ravens and two Common Buzzards on 3rd February.

Ramsden Res – a single interacting with a Common Buzzard on 12th March.

Huddersfield Town Centre – ten records were received from around this area with birds seen regularly around Leeds Road where up to two were seen on five occasions, though no proof of breeding was forthcoming (despite press reports to the contrary). Two birds were seen on 16th and 25th March and 3rd April. One was viewed from Costa Coffee in the town centre on 17th April, singles were seen around the University on 9th June and 12th July, and one was noted over Cowcliffe on 17th October.

Snailsden Res – an adult was in the air with two Common Buzzards on 19th March.

Riding Wood Res – two on 19th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were six records (7 in 2015): in April, a single flew W on 5th and one was circling over the N bank on 23rd; an adult flew W on 20th August; singles were over the fields to the west were chasing Lapwings on 7th September and Starlings on 23rd October; and a single was present on 28th December.

Little Don Valley – a single on 16th May.

Pule Hill, Marsden – one on 22nd May

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single on 23rd May.

Redbrook Res – an adult on 19th July.

Harden – there were five records: a ‘huge’ bird was chasing Curlews on 24th July; two distant individuals were seen on 6th August; and singles were noted on 14th and 15th September.

Harden Quarries – singles were seen on 6th August and 11th September, one was sitting on a distant post on 17th September and two flew over the following day.

Marsden – a juvenile was over the town centre on 9th August.

Wessenden – an adult male on 6th September.

Penistone – two flew W accompanied by a Red Kite on 20th September.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Introduced.

There were only two records: a single in a **Holmfirth** garden between 28th August and 3rd September (TAD) and two on garden feeders in **Greetland** in early December (RR).

(COMMON) **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

This widely distributed and generally common species is, nowadays, rarely recorded in double figures. The species remains a common visitor to a good number of gardens but, although present throughout the year at most of these, numbers never attained double figures, indeed they rarely reached half a dozen.

The only double figure counts were as follows:

Marsden – 14 on 3rd March and 16 on 20th March.

Grimescar Valley – 16 on 10th March, 23 on 19th March and 11 on both 21st April and 5th May.
Flockton – 11 on 23rd and 31st March.
Bradley Park GC – 11 on 28th April.
Golcar – 11 on 24th September.
Wooldale – 14 on 30th October.
Fixby – c.40 on 8th December had departed from a nearby roost.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*
Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

This secretive species, although present throughout the year and maintaining a wide distribution in the Club area, was only recorded in low numbers and no breeding attempts were reported. Birds visited many gardens, some throughout the year, but these never exceeded the five in a **Holmfirth** garden on 10th July and the same number in a **Cowcliffe** garden on 17th October. For the second year in a row, there was no autumn increase in numbers. Indeed, there was only a single double-figure count for the whole year and no birds were recorded at the visible migration watchpoints.

Most records, even from the well-watched areas, rarely involved more than four individuals, the following being the exceptions:

Blackmoorfoot Res – present throughout the year but once again there was no evidence of breeding. Between two and four were generally present although in the second winter period up to six were not infrequent.

Meltham Mills – birds were present throughout the year with a maximum of seven on both 22nd April and 7th November.

Almondbury – ten on 10th March.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*
Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

Present throughout the year with large aggregations being noted from a number of locations. There were numerous garden records, most of which never attained double figures, but a garden in **Holmfirth** held good numbers throughout the year, peaking at 75 on 3rd January and 60 on 6th March. Despite this wealth of birds, breeding was only confirmed at **Hepworth, New Mill** and **Lockwood**.

Flocks of anything up to 30 were widely distributed, those in excess are outlined below:

New Mill – c.200 flew over, probably to an unknown roost, on 1st January.

Lockwood – 80+ were regularly seen during both winter periods as they flew to roost.

Dean Brook Road (near Honley) – flocks of up to 50 were regularly present on farmland throughout the year.

Slaithwaite – c.80 on 8th January.

Thurlstone – c.120 in fields on 22nd February and c.150 on 12th August.

Marsden – c.80 on 27th January.

Castle Dam – c.200 on 1st February.

Hey Green – 42 on 2nd February.

Brockholes – c.50 in the village on 13th February and 15th October.

Stocks Moor – 39 on 15th March.

Flockton – 39 on 23rd March.

Holmfirth – c.120 on 24th March, c.50 on 26th December and c.100 two days later.

Digley Res – c.50 on 21st April.

Bretton Park – 31 on 5th May.

Grimescar Valley – 36 on 5th May and 45 on 30th May.

Whitley Common – c.60 on 8th August.

Farnley Tyas – c.50 in a ploughed field on 12th August.

Royd Moor Res – c.40 on 30th August.

Scout Dike Res – c.80 on 28th September.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 35 on 19th October, c.120 on 20th/21st October and c.30 on 2nd November.

Fixby – c.120 flew SE heading for an unknown roost on 29th December.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

Wards End Farm – ten flew high to the E on 20th March and 100 W on 21st October (when c.120 were present).

Harden Quarries – nine flew SW on 18th September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 41 flew SW on 3rd November.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs (2,450 during the Club survey in 2005).

Although this species remains fairly common in rural parts of the Club area, and flock sizes were up slightly on last year, there is still concern about a dwindling population.

Nest counts were only received from four localities. The 2005 Club survey (see *Birds in Huddersfield 2005*) revealed a total of 106 rookeries in the Club area. The species is obviously under recorded and, as a consequence, it is worth repeating last year's plea. **In order to understand the fluctuating fortunes of this species it is essential that members continue to submit all records of rookeries including negative records from past breeding locations.**

A party of six in a field at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 9th September was unusual, and the observer can't remember ever seeing the species in the area previously. They eventually flew off towards Marsden with two Jackdaws.

The only flocks in excess of 50 were as follows:

Castle Dam – c.100 on 1st February.

Thurlstone – c.120 in fields on 22nd February and c.260 on 12th August.

Ingbirchworth – c.100 on 16th March.

Royd Moor Hill – c.150 on 13th June.

Hepworth – c.230 were on freshly cut grass at Barnside on 6th July.

Whitley Common – c.100 were taking advantage of muck-spreading operations on 16th February and c.120 were present on 22nd February, c.80 on 12th July and 53 on 25th July.

Farnley Tyas – c.100 in a ploughed field on 12th August.

Royd Moor Res – c.60 on 30th August.

Scout Dike Res – c.80 on 28th September.

Nests were noted as follows:

Crosland Moor – three nests (same as last year).

Fullshaw – at least six nests on an electricity pylon (no data available for 2015).

Hepworth (Lark's House) – seven nests (11 in 2015).

Hepworth (Red Lion) – no nests (7 or 8 in 2015).

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

Once again this much maligned species was under recorded. There were a few large aggregations reported, especially during the first half of the year, but breeding was only confirmed at a handful of sites. As is usual, there were a good number of records from gardens, but none exceeded the six in an **Almondbury** garden on 19th June.

Most records were of fewer than 20, the following being the exceptions:

Whitley Common – c.40 feeding with Black-headed Gulls and Rooks on 9th January.

Grange Moor – c.40 on 8th March and 37 on 31st March.

Grimescar Valley – 22 on 10th March and 27 on 14th April.

Stocks Moor – 25 on 15th March.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – c.20 on 8th April and a similar number on 18th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there was a maximum of 37 in the fields to the west on 8th May.

Lockwood – 53 were on the playing fields on Yews Hill Road on 14th June.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

There were records from about 32 localities, a slight increase on last year, but still seven less than 2014. Birds were seen fairly regularly throughout the year at some locations but there was no evidence of breeding. Most records involved no more than two birds, only occasionally up to four, but eight flew E at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 1st January, six were at **Whitley Edge** on 8th April, five were at **Harden** on 17th August, eight were at **Harden Quarries** on 18th/19th September and nine flew SW at **Wards End Farm** on 8th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were 12 records, the highest number ever recorded. All sightings involved one or two birds, with most being seen over Meltham Cop. Occurrences spanned January (2 records), March (1), April (1), May (2), July (1), September (2), October (1), and November (2).

An unusual record away from the hills concerned a single which flew NW over **Fixby** on 28th November.

With birds being present throughout most of the year at **Wards End Farm** it is difficult to be certain whether birds overflying the area were actually on migration. Most overflying records, which were during the winter periods, usually involved less than four birds (see above) but there was no consistency, with birds flying in every compass direction.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from 23 localities, a sharp decrease on the 37 in 2015, but a return to the level of 2014.

Most occurrences only involved one or two birds for no more than a few days duration during the winter periods, but up to three were present throughout the year in gardens at **Meal Hill** and **Fixby**. There were no confirmed breeding records but it was considered possible at **Fixby**. The only assemblages above three were all associated with tit flocks: **Silkstone SW** held c.11 on 6th January

and ten on 23rd March, there were 11 at **Langsett Res.** on 20th September and 12 along the River Calder at **Horbury** on 28th December.

There were slightly more records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** than usual, but this only amounted to sightings on a total of 17 dates. Records in the first half of the year only involved singles on 29th March and 10th April. There were then no records until a single was seen on 19th September. Thereafter one or two were present on a further 14 dates until 20th December.

Is this drop in records real, or are we all going deaf as we age?

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare visitor.

A single at **Silkstone SW** on 2nd January remained, to the delight of many, until 11th January (NWM, DHP, GS *et al.*). There were then no records until 13th February when what was presumably the same individual was relocated, the bird then remaining until 12th March (BBS).

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

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

Continues to be recorded from a large diversity of habitats, but the large winter flocks of years gone by seem to be a thing of the past. There were a good number of breeding records, both from garden nest boxes and natural holes, a good number of which produced young; the young of a pair in a nest box in **Fixby** died in nest, however,

The only double figure counts, some of which involved family parties, were as follows:

Kirkheaton – ten on 3rd March.

Grimescar Valley – 26 on 10th March. Up to 19 were then present until late July.

Stocks Moor – 12 on 17th March.

Castle Hill – 14 on 21st March.

Bradley Mills – 11 on 22nd April and 8th May.

Marsden – 11 on 26th April.

Lindley Moor (Blackley) – 11 on 27th April.

Bradley Park GC – 17 on 28th April.

Kilner Bank – 11 on 29th April and 5th June.

Bretton Park – 16 on 5th May.

Scout Dike Res – 12 on 6th July.

Brockholes – ten on 24th July.

Ingbirchworth – 13 on 25th July and 23 on 19th September.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – c.10 on 30th August.

Holmfirth – 12 in a garden on 20th November. Despite being recorded from numerous gardens this was the only double figure count.

At **Wards End Farm** a total of 21 (3 groups) flew out N across the moor on 1st March, a single flew high to the SW over **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 30th September and a single flew high to the S over **Harden Quarries** on 3rd October.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

A high proportion of records, as is usual, came from gardens, but numbers never attained double figures. Despite this wealth of data, breeding records were very limited. What few breeding records there were, however, suggested a good breeding season, but a pair in a nest box in a **Fixby** garden failed due to bees colonising the nest box.

Even in the wider environment most records were in single figures, the only exceptions being as follows:

Grimescar Valley – 19 on 10th March and 17 on 19th March.

Marsden – 13 on 26th April and ten on 22nd June.

Lindley Moor (Blackley) – ten on 27th April.

Bradley Park GC – 11 on 28th April.

Bradley – ten on 8th May.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

Records were received from 28 widely scattered localities, a slight increase on the 25 last year, but much less than the 34 in 2014. Birds were present throughout the year in a number of gardens but no breeding was reported. Even in the wider environment, the only breeding evidence involved a bird gathering nesting material at **Menagerie Wood** in mid-April.

As is usual, most records involved no more than three individuals, the only exceptions being five at **Digley Res.** on 21st April and nine at **Langsett Res.** on 20th September.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

Harden Quarries – two flew S on 3rd October.

Wards End Farm – in October, two flew W on 3rd, one flew S on 10th and three W on 21st.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Unlike last year, when records were received from ten locations, this year only produced sightings from the species' main stronghold at the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs.

Ingbirchworth Res – present throughout the year with a pair excavating a nest hole in late April. The increase in birds, up to six, from mid-June suggests that they had been successful.

Royd Moor Res – one or two were present between early February and late August and a pair bred, at least two recently fledged young being seen in late June.

Scout Dike Res – singles were seen/heard on 20th February, 20th March, 18th April and 11th and 13th September.

Broadstone Res – a single on 29th/30th July.

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

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

The only January records involved three at **Lower Cumberworth** on 16th and two at **Broadstone Res.** on 28th. February saw small numbers at a handful of widely scattered localities, but c.10 were on **Deer Hill Road** on 14th, 11 were singing in the **Spicer House Lane** area on 18th, and a flock of c.40 were feeding in a fodder crop at **Hartcliff Hill** on 25th. Between early March and late September birds became more widely distributed, but numbers rarely exceeded single figures, the only exceptions being 26 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 6th March and 35 feeding in the fodder crop at **Hartcliff Hill** two days later.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

Blackmoorfoot – five flew W on 11th February and singles did likewise on 29th October and 17th October.

Harden Quarries – two flew SW on 11th and 18th September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – two flew S on 11th September, five flew S on 30th September and a single did likewise on 3rd November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles flew S on 19th September and W on 19th October.

With the exception of the October/November records noted above the only other records during these months involved three at **Wards End Farm** on 21st October and one at **Dick Edge Lane** on 13th November.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

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

The first records of the year involved six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26th March, three over the River Calder at **Colnebridge** on 30th March, a single which flew N at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and four at **Blackmoorfoot** on 31st March, two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 1st April and three at **Dewsbury** on 3rd April. There were then occasional reports from a further 13 widely scattered localities until the last (both singles) at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 22nd September and **Harden Quarries** on 3rd October.

With the exceptions of birds at breeding colonies and Blackmoorfoot (see below) the only double figure count involved c.20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 16th August.

Breeding evidence came from the following sites:

Aspley – c.20 birds were prospecting for nest holes in missing bricks in derelict mills along the Broad Canal on 17th April. No further information was forthcoming, however.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – c.80 birds were visiting nesting holes on the River Calder on 28th April. No further information was forthcoming, however.

Dewsbury SW – c.50 occupied nest holes were present in mid-May.

Crosland Hill Quarries – at least 12 occupied nests were present by late May.

At **Blackmoorfoot**, following four individuals on 31st March (see above), birds were seen on a further 105 days (75 in 2015) until the last (2) on 17th September. Numbers rarely reached double figures but 20+ were present on five dates with 35+ on 1st May, 50+ on 2nd July, 30+ the following day, and 40+ on 13th July. This remains the only non-breeding locality in the Club area where birds are encountered with any regularity.



Little Egret, Ingbirchworth, 3rd August 2016



Black-necked Grebe, Blackmoorfoot, 22nd June 2016



Buzzard, Holme Valley, 3rd April 2016



Ruff, Boshaw Whams, 6th September 2016



Kittiwake, Winscar, 3rd May 2016



Little Gulls, Ingbirchworth, 10th April 2016



Yellow-legged Gull, Ingbirchworth, 8th August 2016



Caspian Gull, Broadstones, 29th July 2016



Hoopoe, Potato Lane, 16th April 2016



Firecrest, Silkstone, 10th January 2016



Willow Tit, Ingbirchworth, 29th March 2016



Reed Warbler, Dewsbury SW, 11th June 2016



Blackcap, Ossett, 10th April 2016



Waxwing, Marsh, 30th December 2016



Dipper, Meltham, 22nd March 2016



Redwing, Honley, 25th October 2016



Black Redstart, Huntsman Inn, 29th April 2016



Whinchat, Deer Hill, 5th May 2016



Tree Pipit, Carlecotes, 14th May 2016



Common Crossbill, Holme Styes, 16th October 2016

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

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

The first records for the year were in late March: a single at **Dewsbury SW** on 25th, three at **Bretton Lakes** on 29th, and singles at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** in 30th. Birds were more widely distributed by mid-April, but numbers were generally in low single figures, the few larger assemblages being as follows:

Ingbirchworth Res – up to 40 on several April dates with *c.*300 on 18th, *c.*250 on 27th, *c.*200 on 30th and *c.*40 on 11th May.

Dewsbury SW – up to 60 on several April dates with, 250 on 24th and *c.*100 on 26th and 28th.

Blackmoorfoot – 30+ on 24th April and 50+ on 25th May.

As in 2015, numbers during the summer months were generally low, but breeding was reported from a number of widely distributed localities, including six pairs (same as last year) at **Wards End Farm, Marsden**. At other sites in the **Marsden** area, however, breeding numbers were down, with some traditional sites being deserted.

By mid-July a number of larger aggregations had developed:

Wards End Farm – *c.*150 on wires in the evening, the majority of which were juveniles, on 18th July. Thereafter, up to *c.*100 were present on a good number of days until early September when numbers became subdued but 250 fed for a couple of hours on 10th September before departing.

Blackmoorfoot – 60+ on 11th August, and, in September, 60+ on 5th, 100+ on 7th, 70+ on 13th, and 50+ on 21st.

Royd Moor Res – 35 on 15th August.

Ringstone Edge Res – 30 on 15th August.

Ingbirchworth Res – *c.*100 on 5th and 19th September.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

Wards End Farm – in September, 50 flew S on 1st, 60 NW on 16th, 305 W on 17th, 46+ S on 18th, 78 (38 N + 40 SW) on 19th, 100 SW on 20th, 57 (30 SW + 27 S) on 21st and 20 W on 22nd.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 68 flew SW on five dates between 24th August and 11th September, with a maximum of 32 on the last mentioned date.

Harden Quarries – 398 flew S or SW on seven dates between 6th September and 3rd October, with a maxima of 132 S or SW on 11th September and 167 S during the morning of 18th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – *c.*60 flew S on 5th September and *c.*200 did likewise on 13th September.

Blackmoorfoot – in September, 20+ flew S on 28th, 25+ did likewise the following day, and 30+ flew S on 30th.

Isle of Skye Quarry – 12 flew S on 1st October.

Wholestone Moor – three flew S on 1st October.

Most birds had departed by late September and, with the exception of migrating birds on 1st October (see above), the only other October records involved six at **Wards End Farm** on both 2nd and 3rd, two at **South Crosland** on 9th, and the last, a single, at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12th.

A leucistic individual - very pale grey throughout with a slightly darker cap which extended onto the nape – was present at **Helme** on 30th July and **Blackmoorfoot** on 12th and 17th August.

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

Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Common passage visitor.

The first records of the year involved two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 31st March and six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 4th April. Shortly afterwards birds became much more widely distributed, but assemblages generally remained low with the exception of **Dewsbury SW** which held c.100 on 26th April, 300 on 28th April, 200 on 3rd May and c.350 on 31st May.

Following the first record at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (2 on 31st March) birds were present on an almost daily basis until the last, a single, on 3rd October. As in the previous three years, numbers rarely exceeded 25, only very occasionally reaching as high as 50, but 60+ were present on 1st May and 80+ on 2nd July.

Following previous years' requests for all breeding records, breeding was confirmed at 16 sites (22 in 2015) although, rather worryingly, negative records were received from a few previously active colonies. **In order to understand the fluctuating fortunes of this species it is essential that members continue to submit all records of breeding locations including negative records from past breeding locations.**

The breeding sites were as follows:

Black Horse PH, Dalton – no nests (3 in 2015).

Crosland Moor (Blackmoorfoot Road) – three nests (5 in 2015).

Marsden (Waters Road) – at least four nests (8 or 9 in 2015).

Marsden (Mount Road) – at least one pair (2 or 3 in 2015).

Marsden (Glenroyd) – one pair (same as 2015).

Marsden (Warrington Terrace) – no data available (at least 2 in 2015).

Marsden (Hard End) – unknown – nests not visible (2 or 3 in 2015).

Marsden (Plains Lane) – no data available (1 or 2 in 2015)

Marsden (Warehouse Hill) – no data available (at least 1 in 2015).

Marsden (Binn Road) – probably two pairs (1 or 2 in 2015).

Wessenden Lodge – at least six (1 in 2015).

West Slaithwaite (Booth) – no data available (2 or 3 in 2015).

Marsden (Lower Green Howlers) – one nest.

Kirkburton (Thornclyff) – with 36 nests in 2015, this is the largest colony in the area. Unfortunately, however, no data was available for this year.

Lindley (Holly Bank Road) – one nest (there were nests on three houses, but no numbers were provided in 2015).

Honley (Bradshaw Road) – no data available (3 in 2015).

Thongsbridge (Stoney Bank Road) – at least four nests (2 nests in 2015).

Linthwaite (Upper Clough) – five nests (1 in 2015).

Linthwaite (Causeway Side) – no data available (1 in 2015).

Ingbirchworth (Ivy Bank Close) – no nests (2 in 2015).

Meltham Mills – no data available (2 in 2015).

Margaret Wood – no nests (probably 2 nests in 2015).

Newsome Road – three nests on Fairprice Shop.

Lowerhouses (Hall Cross Road) – one nest.

Berry Brow (Newsome Road South) – one nest.

Oldfield – three nests.

Rastrick (Slade Lane) – four nests (the presence of old nests shows that this is not a new site).

Assemblages during the summer months never exceeded 40 with the exceptions of 60+ at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st May and 80+ there on 2nd July and 65 feeding over the filter beds at **Horbury SW** on 1st June.

There was a marked increase in numbers from late July with the following being the largest assemblages:

Ingbirchworth Res – 400 on 25th July.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – c.100 were feeding over the moorland on 2nd and 6th August, as were 150 on 15th August and 200 (which departed W) on 29th August.

Ringstone Edge Res – 200 on 15th August.

Gunthwaite Dam – c.200 on 3rd September.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

Blackmoorfoot – at least 32 flew N on 26th April.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 135 flew SW on five dates between 24th August and 22nd September, with a maximum of 108 on 11th September.

Harden Quarries – in September, four flew S on 3rd, 38 S or SW on 11th, seven NE on 17th and 324 S or SW during the morning of 18th. Seven flew S on 3rd October.

Isle of Skye Quarry – eight flew S on 5th September and a single did likewise on 1st October.

Laddow Rocks – ‘hundreds were seen on passage’ on 18th September, but no flight direction was noted.

With the exception of those noted on migration (see above) the only other October records relate to a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 3rd and two at **Slaithwaite** on 7th.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Recorded throughout the year from about 30 localities (a similar number to both 2014 and 2015) but breeding was only confirmed at **Blackmoorfoot** (see below).

As usual most groups were in single figures, the exceptions being outlined below:

Bretton Park – 11 on 1st January.

Hepworth – present in a garden throughout the year with ten on a number of occasions. The observer makes two interesting comments: birds often competed with Blackbirds at scraps on the feeders and they were also the very last birds foraging at dusk. Is this late foraging due to a lack of competition or is it due to a need to keep feeding until the last possible moment in an effort to survive the winter nights? (HQ).

Silkstone SW – 14 on 6th January.

Holmfirth – present in a garden throughout the year with a maximum of ten on 10th January.

Rastrick – ten on garden feeders on 27th January and 13th – 15th December.

Thick Hollins – present in a garden throughout the year with a maximum of ten on 29th December and 12 the following day.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were recorded throughout the year, but occurrences were sporadic during the winter months. Numbers were always small, only reaching very low double figures on three dates: 14 on 28th/29th October and 11 on 6th November. Two pairs bred, but both were predated at the egg stage. The family party with at least six juveniles on 4th June had probably been reared nearby.

Horbury – c.24 were present along the River Calder on 1st June.

Ingbirchworth Res – 14 on 14th September.

Bradley Mills – 11 on 15th September.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a very interesting observation involved a flock of 15 which circled high before departing in a southerly direction on 15th October.

Cowcliffe – 29 in a garden just before dusk on 18th November were considered to have been a pre-roost gathering.

Clayton West – 16 on 4th December.

Greenhead Park – c.10 on 31st December.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs.

After a blank year in 2015, it is pleasing to report a singing male at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 26th and 30th April (JH). The bird had presumably been present in the interim but went undetected.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

This widespread and increasingly common species was recorded from 62 localities, a decrease on the 79 last year, and a return to the 2014 level.

There was a good run of winter records from **Silkstone SW**: in January, two were seen daily up to 7th and a single was present on 13th, two were present on 10th February with a single on 22nd and 24th February and 12th March. A singing male in the grounds of the demolished St. Luke's Hospital at **Crosland Moor** on 9th February was obviously a wintering bird but a single at **Horbury SW** on 14th March may have been a wintering bird or an early migrant. As with Blackcap, the arrivals/departure dates of true migrants have become clouded due to wintering individuals.

By late March birds, mainly singles, had been recorded from a further nine localities but it was not until mid-April that birds became more widespread. The majority of records involved less than five individuals, mainly singing males, the only exceptions being as follows:

Horbury Strands/Wyke – nine, eight of which were singing males, on 8th April and at least 20 between here and Horbury SW on 13th April.

Elland GP – eight on 14th April.

Marsden – at least 13 males held territories during the summer months.

Dewsbury SW – incredible numbers were feeding around the border fence after extraordinary numbers of blackfly had been blown onto the fence by the wind: number peaked at 42 on 13th July, 32 on 23rd July and 40 on 31st July.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – six on 13th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.14 on 14th September and c.10 on 26th September.

Carlecotes Ponds – 'several', including six in the same bush on 1st October,

The first record at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male on 26th March. Thereafter, two singing males took up territories, each attracting a mate and breeding. These birds remained until early August. Up to four (usually 1 or 2) were then present throughout the remainder of August through to early October with singles remaining until 15th October.

Occurrences during October were limited to one or two birds at eight localities, and the only November records involved singles at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 2nd and **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 29th.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

Records were received from 52 locations, the usual number for this still widely distributed and common species, and spanned the period 27th March to 22nd September.

The first arrivals involved singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27th and 30th March. By mid-April birds were widely distributed, but numbers rarely reached double figures, the following being the exceptions:

Cheesegate Nab – ten on 12th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – 11 singing males on 13th April had risen to 21 by 21st of that month, but had reduced to 12 by 4th May. Numbers then rallied, presumably due to juvenile birds, as up to 22 were present between mid-June and mid-July.

Scout Dike Res – a minimum of ten on 18th April and 13 on 6th July.

Digley Res – c.10 on 21st April.

Royd Moor Res – 12 on 10th May, 13 singing males on 3rd June and 6th July and 11 on 15th August.

Wessenden Valley – 20 singing males on 15th May.

Colne Valley – 30 singing males between Hey Green and Netherwood on 22nd May.

Dunford Bridge – 31 singing males on 22nd May.

Little Don Valley – 15 on 30th May.

Dewsbury SW – 11 on 23rd and 15 on 31st July.

The first arrivals at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved two singing males from 8th to 13th April and four between 14th and 19th. Six males then took up territories and remained throughout the summer months. This figure remained fairly constant until early September and a single from 10th to 13th of that month was the last.

September records were confined to no more than three at seven localities, with a single at **Hepworth** and two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 14th, and singles at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 19th and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 22nd being the last.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

Records were received from 44 localities, a drop of ten from 2015.

With birds returning earlier in spring, it can sometimes be difficult to ascertain whether they are wintering birds or early migrants. A male in a garden at **Cowcliffe** on an almost daily basis between 26th February and 17th March was obviously wintering. A male in sub-song in a **Fixby** garden on 15th March and a male in a **Skelmanthorpe** garden on 29th March are more difficult to ascribe.

From early April migrants began to trickle in and by late April birds had become more widespread but the majority of records involved less than five individuals, the only exceptions being as follows:
Horbury Strands/Wyke – seven, including six singing males, on 22nd April.

Bretton Park – ten singing males on 5th May.

Dunford Bridge – 11 on 22nd May.

Little Don Valley – seven on 30th May.

Royd Moor Res – 15 on 3rd June.

Colne Valley – 19 singing males were counted between Hey Green and Netherwood in early June. This is a marked drop from the 26 singing males recorded last year.

Ingbirchworth Res – seven on 15th and six on 17th June.

The first for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male on 10th April. Three singing males then took up territories, all of which attracted females and bred. Family parties soon dispersed, and the only records after mid-August involved singles on 1st September and 4th October.

By late August birds were becoming very thin on the ground, and September records were all confined to singles: **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st (see above), **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 1st and 22nd, **Scout Dike Res.** on 13th, and **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 15th.

There were three records of wintering birds, all singles, and all from gardens: an unsexed bird was in **Holmfirth** on 27th November, a female was feeding from crab apples in **Brockholes** from 22nd to 24th December, and a male was on feeding from fat balls in **Meltham** on 28th December.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

The number of localities holding this species continues to decrease: from 26 sites in 2014 and 21 in 2015 to only 16 this year. The majority of records were of no more than two singing males, but breeding was confirmed at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Royd Moor Res.** and **Ravensthorpe**. Although the first record followed the normal pattern of arrival (27th April) there were no records after 21st July.

As in 2015, the continued decline of the species warrants the inclusion of all records:

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a singing male on 27th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – a singing male on 3rd May was followed by two singing males which remained until 4th July.

Bretton Park – a singing male on 5th May.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – two singing males on 6th and 24th May and a single singing male on 7th June.

Royd Moor Res – a singing male on 9th May was followed by up to four singing males. At least one pair bred, an adult with young being seen on 25th June. The last bird, a single, was seen on 21st July.

Blackmoorfoot – a singing male in the NE corner on 10th May soon attracted a female, but the nest was predated at the egg stage, and they were not seen after 4th June. Additional birds were seen near the inflow on 18th May and in Orange Wood on 22nd May.

Denby Delf – two singing males on 14th May.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a single on 16th May.

Wood Nook – two singing males on 16th May and a single singing male on 24th May.

Dunford Bridge – three on 22nd May.

Storthes Hall – a singing male on 24th May.

Sparth Res – a singing male on 24th May.

Tunnel End Res – a singing male on 27th May and 7th June.

Horbury – at least four singing males along the River Calder on 1st June.

Ravensthorpe – a pair bred, an adult was carrying a faecal sack/food on 6th June.

Meltham – a single in Slate Pits Wood on 9th June.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

This species has never been anything but scarce in the Club area, but the increase to 12 localities over the five of last year is encouraging. None of these were long-staying individuals, however, and breeding has not been proved in the Club area since a single pair bred in 2013.

Dewsbury SW – a singing male on 21st April, two singing males on 22nd April and three singing males the following day.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a singing male on 23rd April.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – singing males on 24th and 28th April and 15th May.

Blackmoorfoot – a single along Potato Lane on 3rd May was the first since a single on 4th May 2012.

Marsden – a singing male in the town centre on 4th May.

Horbury SW – a single on 5th May.

Skelmanthorpe – a single on 22nd May.

Ingbirchworth Res – a singing male on 31st May and singles on 18th July and 14th August.

Langsett – two on 24th June.

Royd Moor Res – a single on 6th July.

Broadstone Res – a single on 29th July.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a single on 15th September.

(COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

Records were received from 24 widely distributed localities, a massive drop from the 42 last year.

The first records of the year involved singles at **Dewsbury SW** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 13th April, two at **Scammonden Water** on 15th April and a single at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** the following day. By the month end only six further sites had yielded records, however, and it was not until May that the species became more widespread.

The majority of records involved less than three birds, the following being the exceptions:

Dewsbury SW – five males were singing by 3rd May and four pairs were feeding young by late June. There was a maximum of 15 on 23rd July.

Horbury SW – eight on 5th May.

Denby Delf – at least six males were holding territories on 9th May.

Royd Moor – seven males were holding territories on 9th May.

Horbury – four were along the River Calder on 1st June.

Royd Moor Res – five males were holding territories on 3rd June and pairs were feeding young later in the month. Eleven were present on 6th July.

Ingbirchworth Res – ten on 15th, seven on 17th June and 4th July and four on 25th July.

Scout Dike Res – seven on 6th and 21st July.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had a single on 3rd May, but it was not until mid-May that numbers began to increase, four males eventually holding territories. Although the family parties remained until early August, occurrences thereafter were sporadic and involved, in August, a single from 7th to 11th, four on 16th and a single on 29th.

By late August birds were beginning to thin out, and the only September records involved singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7th and **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 13th.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.

As in 2015, there were records from four localities.

Ingbirchworth Res – a reeling male on 15th June (MCW).

Broadstone Lodge – a reeling male on 22nd June (NWM) with presumably the same bird on 25th (JMCL, DHP).

Netherthong – a reeling male on 13th July (DHP).

Scammonden Water – a reeling male on 16th July (KW).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Records were received from ten locations, somewhat of an increase on the five last year, and a return to the 2013 level. As in 2015, breeding was confirmed at two locations. Birds were reported between 5th May and 20th September.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – three birds were present on 5th May and a pair bred.

Marsden (Cellars Clough) – a singing male on 5th May.

Crimble Clough – a singing male on 6th May.

Dewsbury SW – the first record involved a singing male on 15th May. Two males then set up territories and bred. Thereafter, birds were present until the last, a single, on 20th September.

Broadstone Res – a male was singing and seen in song flight on 28th May.

Broadstone Lodge – a singing male on 18th June.

Baitings Res – one on 1st August.

Royd Moor Res – singles on 15th and 28th August.

Brow Grains – one on 24th August.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 12th September.

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

There were records from six localities, an increase on the five during the two previous years. The stronghold for this species remains **Dewsbury SW**. The first record involved two singing males on 21st April, this rapidly increased, and by 11th June c.20 birds were present and 11 singing males were holding territories by 27th June. Although birds undoubtedly bred, the exact figure is open to conjecture. The last, a single, was seen on 13th September.

Colne Bridge SP – following ‘several’ on 12th May, three pairs bred, but no other information is available.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 28th May.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – two singing males on 31st May.

Horbury – two, including a singing male, were present along the River Calder on 1st June.

Broadstone Res – a single in willows along the reservoir edge on 29th July.

As in the two previous years, what was almost certainly the same bird, appeared in a **Linthwaite** garden between 1st and 15th October. The bird gave a clear sub-song, mainly in the early evenings, from thick, stream-side vegetation (DMP, SP). Recordings of the sub-song were taken once again (see *Birds in Huddersfield 2014*) and there is no doubt that this is definitely the song of a Reed Warbler-type species.

(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*
Resident breeder, increased to (2-3), 50-150 pairs.

Records were received from 28 localities, a marked drop from the 37 in 2015 and 16 fewer than 2014. Is this reduction real, or is the species being under recorded? As in 2015, there were a number of garden records, most of which held one or two birds throughout the year. With the exception of breeding at **Blackmoorfoot** (see below) the only other evidence of breeding relates to two juveniles in a **New Mill** garden in June/July, but eight birds were on territories in **Bretton Park** in late March.

The majority of records related to no more than three individuals, the only exceptions being four at **Silkstone SW** on 6th January and four in **Grimescar Woods** on 4th July.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were present throughout the year and a pair attempted to nest in Orange Wood. The attempt, in a new hole to the one used for the previous six years, failed. Single pairs have bred every year since 2007, but this is the first time that the attempt has failed to produce young.

An unusual record involved a single on a telegraph pole near the Twite feeding station at **Deer Hill** on 9th June.

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*
Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

This unpredictable winter visitor appeared at just two venues, right at the end of the year. Seven were feeding on rowan berries near the **Junction Inn, Marsh** on 28th December (SK), and another observer (DWB) found 16 near **Queensgate Market** in Huddersfield on the same day.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*
Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

There were records from 19 locations, a reduction of four on last year. As in 2015, there were a number of garden records, but these never involved more than two birds, and at none of these were birds present throughout the year.

In the wider environment, records were limited to no more than two birds with the exception of five at **Bretton Park** on 1st January. Apart from **Blackmoorfoot** (see below) the only other breeding record was from **Windy Bank Wood**.

As in the previous three years, records from **Blackmoorfoot** were very sporadic. There were only a handful of occurrences until a pair took up residence in Orange Wood in early April. The first breeding attempt failed at the egg stage, but what was presumably a second attempt resulted in

fledged young by mid-June. These birds were not seen after early August and records thereafter only amounted to singles on 26th September and 3rd and 18th November.

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

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

As was the case last year, over 200 sightings have to be quite brutally summarised! In several instances observers kept careful records of garden/local patch activity throughout the year, and indeed sightings were evenly distributed across the four seasons. This versatile and resilient species can be found in a very wide range of habitats, as was reflected in the reports received. Surprisingly, only four observers were able to confirm breeding, at **Fixby**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Scammonden Water**, and **Wards End Farm, Marsden** where birds rebuilt an old Dunnock nest.

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.

Present throughout the year with records from many widely distributed localities with, by today's standards, some large aggregations occurring. These large assemblages were all during the winter months, and most probably relate to migrants from the Continent. Although present throughout the year in a number of gardens, numbers were uneventful, but up to 20 regularly frequented a **Lockwood** garden and 27 were present in a **Holme** garden on 3rd July. As in 2015, juveniles were well distributed by mid-June, suggesting another good breeding season.

The largest flocks were reported as follows:

Winscar (Townhead) – c.100 on 3rd February.

Whitley Common – c.100 on 22nd February.

Broadstone – c.100 on 29th March.

Bradshaw Moor – c.500 on 1st April.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.200 on 15th June.

Deer Hill – c.150 on 17th July.

Blackmoorfoot – the maximum of 350 during September had increased to 500 by 23rd October and 2,000 by the month end.

Winscar (Flight Hill) – c.1,000 on 29th October and a minimum of c.2,500 the following week.

Lower Maythorn – c.3,000 on 29th October.

Lockwood – c.120 on 26th November.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – four flew N on 4th February, 19 did likewise on 12th February, eight flew E on 22nd February and 20 did likewise on 3rd April. Later in the year a total of 4,062 flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on 37 dates between 9th September and 29th December. Numbers exceeded treble figures on several occasions, the maximum being 363 W on 30th October with 317 doing likewise the following day; in November, 204 W on 1st, 407 did likewise the following day, 364 W on 8th, and 503 (363 W + 140 NW) on 11th.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 532 flew W on ten dates between 30th August and 8th November, with a maximum of 94 on 30th September, 97 on 30th October and 231 on 3rd November.

Harden Quarries – 17 flew SW on 18th September.

Isle of Skye Quarry – in October, 18 flew NW on 20th, 67 (10 N + 57 WNW) on 21st and 38 W on 31st.

Broadstone Res – 140+ flew W on 26th October and c.255 E on 16th November.

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

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

There were over 40 fewer reports of this species, relative to last year's tally of 127. As always, certain well-known sites featured regularly among the 25 mentioned in the records for the year, although in only four cases was there firm evidence of breeding, on the River Colne near **Huddersfield Stadium**, where two nests were seen, on the River Holme near **Holmfirth**, in the **Little Don Valley**, where four birds were present in mid-April and **Oxygrains Beck**, where a pair fledged three young. Almost all records submitted referred to one or at most two birds at any given time.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where daily counts enable records to be analysed, singles were seen along the inflow channel on 16 dates between 7th January and 14th March. A single juvenile along the inflow on 9th August was unusual. Later in the year singles were seen on 17 dates between 7th September and 9th November and two were present on 12th October.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

The 31 records for 2016 amount to just half of last year's total, and represent a return to numbers for previous years.

A single male at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on the last day of March was the first spring arrival, this was followed by two at **Chew Valley** on 1st April, with four there on 3rd, and singles on 5th and 20th April, then single males were present at **Whitley Airfield** and **Norland Moor** on 4th April. The three present at **Pots and Pans**, near Dove Stone Res. on 5th April had increased to 12 by 13th April and eight still remained on the last day of the month.

Five flew over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** in bad weather on 6th April, and one was seen the next day in the well-known "bike-field" site on **Cheesegate Nab**, with four being present there on 9th. Up to four birds were then reported at various sites in April, with exceptional counts of 13 on **Marsden Moor** on 26th, and up to 20 on nearby **Great Edge** the following day. The only May sightings were of up to three at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** in the first few days of the month, and two males at **Langsett** on 16th. In autumn up to eight (usually less than 4) were at **Wards End Farm** on several dates in October/early November (the last (4) on 4th November), and four were seen and heard calling as they flew S over **Harden Quarries** on 29th October.

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

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

As usual, well over 300 records have to be ruthlessly edited, with apologies for omitting information from the many observers who follow the fortunes of their garden or local patch birds throughout the year. Most garden counts were of no more than eight birds at any given time, occasionally, as at **Thick Hollins, Meltham**, reaching double figures, and in many cases there was evidence of breeding.

About 30 were present at **Silkstone SW** in January, and 12 were in **Magazine Wood, Fixby** in mid-January. The highest March counts involved 11 at both **Flockton** and **Grange Moor** and 14

in the **Grimescar Valley**, while the highest late April counts were of 11 at **Lindley Moor**, 18 at **Bradley Park GC**, and 14 at **Kilner Bank**. Two woodland counts in the **Grimescar Valley** in May yielded 16 on 21st and 17 on 30th and c.16 were at **Broadstone Res.** on 22nd July.

Having welcomed the success of a second brood in June, the **Wards End Farm, Marsden** observer was pleased to report late nest-building in a hedge in mid-August, with a bird sitting on eggs on 24th, and feeding young in early September. A late October count at **Scout Dike Res.** produced at least 60 birds, presumably migrants, and subsequent reports from **Meltham Mills** in early November referred to mixed thrush flocks including Redwings and Fieldfares.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

Reports for the first winter period outnumbered those for the autumn by two to one, and in many cases refer to mixed flocks with Redwings. Although January/February counts were submitted for most days, there were just three in treble figures, c.100 at **Hepworth** on 6th January, 110 at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** two days later, and c.100 at **Townhead** on 3rd February. The next two months produced some larger gatherings at several venues. March counts included a flock of c.100 heading E over **Cowcliffe** on 3rd, c.150 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 6th, c.100 flying over **Ingbirchworth** on 16th, and then larger flocks later in the month, with 206 at **Whitley Airfield** on 27th and c.250 with c.100 Starlings by Windmill Lane, near **Broadstone Res.** on 29th. Two flocks totalling 120 flew W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st April, **Whitley Common** hosted c.200 on 5th April, and another c.200 were near **Ingbirchworth** four days later, when c.100 were at **Langsett**. The last birds of this period involved a single at **Wards End Farm** on 20th April and 20 at **Harden** on 28th April. Curiously, the only mixed flocks with Redwings in this season were a 'large flock' in a stubble field at **Bretton Park** on 25th January, and 20 were with Redwings at **Brockholes** on 24th March.

The autumn influx began in early October, with a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th and 17 flying E over **Wards End Farm** on 8th. Birds then became more widely distributed, but numbers remained low, the only treble figure counts (with the exception of migrating birds – see below) involved 100+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th November, c.150 at **Deer Hill** on 10th December and an amazing 1,050 in the fields to the N of the reservoir there on 14th December, and 200 at **Wards End Farm** on the same date.

Visible migration was noted at two localities:

Wards End Farm – a total of 3,592 passed over on 35 dates between 8th October and 12th December. Despite the time of year, most birds travelled between NW and NE, only rarely in other directions. Treble figure counts were achieved on numerous occasions, with a maximum of 376 (220 W + 56 N) on 20th October, 364 (170 W + 194 N) two days later, and 413 (363 NW + 50 S) on 29th October.

Pule Hill – 97 flew SW on 30th October and 114 did likewise on 3rd November.

A single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th November had a white head.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.

Just over 100 records were received, mostly referring to the first half of the year, a slight decrease relative to 2015. Many refer to single birds, occasionally two, mostly observed in gardens, but the

only instance of confirmed breeding was in **Fixby**. However, birds held at least 16 territories in the **Marsden** area, and five were singing daily at **Dewsbury SW** early in the year, when several other observers reported singing birds in gardens and woodland. One exceptional count was of eight in the **Horbury** area on 13th April, and four singing males were present there a week later.

Later in the year, two flew NW with four Fieldfares at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 4th November. One in full song early in the morning in cold fog in **Lockwood** on 6th December will have delighted the two listeners, while another began singing daily in **Fixby** later in the month, and up to three were in a **Meltham** garden.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Unlike Fieldfare, the records of this thrush were evenly split between the first and second winter periods. Birds were in short supply during the first winter period, however, and no counts reached treble figures, and the highest tallies only involved 60 at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 7th January and 50+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 29th March (interestingly this was the latest record for the period). Only two reports mentioned the presence of Fieldfares, one referred to a 'large flock' in a stubble field at **Bretton Park** on 25th January, and the other a count of 30 with 20 Fieldfares at **Brockholes** on 24th March. Other substantial counts include 20 at **Hepworth** on 9th January, 40 flying SW over **Rastrick** on 12th February, 32 at **Kirkheaton** on 3rd March, 60 at **Broadstone Res.** and 30 at **Ingbirchworth** on 26th March.

The earliest arrivals were on 2nd October, with 29 at **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, c.10 at **Brockholes** and two at **Newsome**. Birds then became more widely dispersed but, although flocks were large than earlier in the year, they rarely reached treble figures. On the other hand, large numbers of birds were seen on visible migration, being particularly noticeable at **Wards End Farm** (see below). High October counts relate to 42 S at **Harden Quarries** on 3rd, c.100 S or SW over the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 4th, 50 SW over **Rastrick** on 7th and, at **Blackmoorfoot**, 130+ on 18th, 80+ on 19th and 127 on 20th. The highest November counts consisted of 35 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 3rd, c.100 at **New Mill** on 20th and c.150 which flew SW over **Rastrick** on 30th. Crab apples in a **Brockholes** garden attracted two consumers in late December, while more substantial counts featured 25 which flew E over **Cowcliffe** on 8th, 100+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8th (with 120+ the following day, 140+ on 10th, 350 on 11th and 100 on 12th/13th), 20 at **New Mill** on 9th, 200+ at **Wards End Farm** on 10th, and 45 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 19th. Ten were in **Greenhead Park** and in **Horbury** during the last days of the year.

Visible migration, other than those noted above, was only recorded at **Wards End Farm**, where an amazing total of 6,912 passed over on 37 dates between 3rd October and 11th December. There was no uniform directionality, however, with birds travelling in all compass directions, sometimes on the same day. Treble figure counts were achieved on numerous occasions, with four figure counts, all in October, as follows: 1,470 NE on 8th, 1,122 (1109 NE + 13 SE) on 12th, and 1152 (419 W + 713 N + 20 SE) on 20th.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

There were 40 fewer records compared with last year's 150, and half of these were from **Wards End Farm, Marsden** while many others concerned single birds, often in gardens. At least ten

territories were held in the **Marsden** area, and birds also defended territory at **Carlecotes Ponds**, where two adults were feeding a juvenile in mid-May. Except for a tally of seven at **Wards End Farm**, the only counts exceeding three in the first half of the year involved four at **Fixby** on 5th January, and six at **Cowcliffe** on 16th March. There were at least 25 on the playing fields at Colne Valley High School on 3rd July, and indeed the second half of the year generally yielded some higher counts, with eight at **Dewsbury SW** on 23rd July, and 16 on wires on **Cheesgate Nab** on 16th August, surpassed by 30 at **Intake Lake, Meltham** the next day. Juveniles were much in evidence at **Wards End Farm** by late July, where counts of birds in the trees at **Lower Green Owlers** reached a peak of 26 on 29th September. Almost all the records for the last two months of the year were of single birds, except for five at **Horbury** on 28th December.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

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

Fewer than 40 records were received of this nationally declining species, with just nine referring to sightings in the first half of the year (from 8 localities).

The first records of the year were, as usual, in May and involved singles at **Bretton Park** on 5th, **Lower Green Owlers, Marsden** on 7th, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 8th, two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10th/11th, at least five in the **Little Don Valley** on 16th, and two at **Holme Styes** on 22nd. The only June records involved singles at **Hartcliff Hill** and **Hey Green** on 4th.

There were then no records until 7th August when a single was present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** This site then attracted up to four (usually only 1 or 2) on a further eight dates until the last (a single) on 3rd September. Further August records involved a single at **Brow Grains** and four at **Scammonden Water** on 14th, where two were still present the next day, and then a single on 17th, one at **Choppards**, near Holmfirth on 19th, a juvenile at **Higher Green Owlers** on 25th and 27th, singles at **Elland GP** and **Hassocks Lane, Meltham** on 26th, one near **Longwood** and two at **Winscar** on 27th, two at **Hartcliff Hill** on 29th, and one at **Scout Dike Res.** on 31st. September yielded five more sightings, with singles at **Holme Styes** on 4th, at **Harden** on 4th and 8th, at **Scout Dike Res.** on 11th, and finally in **Red Lane, Meltham** on 16th.

(EUROPEAN) ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species, as is reflected in the number of records submitted (about the same as last year) from all over the Club area.

This species was forever present in a good number of gardens and several observers reported breeding. As is to be expected from this very territorial species, all garden records, with the exception of family parties, never exceeded four.

In the wider countryside, a number of localities held larger numbers of birds. There were said to be numerous double figure counts from **Bretton Park** in the first half of the year, but the only quantifying figures involved 11 on 13th April and 5th May; c.10 were present at **Scout Dike Res.** on 28th January and 12 on 26th October; nine birds were singing at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 13th April, 15 were present on 15th June and 14 on 26th September; c.10 were in **Longley Woods** on 5th May; and up to ten fed on feeders at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** throughout December.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*
Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 1-5 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

A very disappointing year, especially after the apparent improvement in 2014 and 2015. There were just three sightings: a male near the Lower Lake in **Bretton Park** on 13th April, a female, seen briefly in **Crimble Clough** on 6th May, and a single near the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th August.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Rare visitor.

There were three records, somewhat of a reduction on last year.

A female-type was in a field opposite Derwent Road in **Honley** on 16th January (AD, JD), a female-type was present around the **Huntsman Inn** car park from 28th April to 1st May (HQ *et al.*) and a female-type at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 23rd July (DWS).

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

The species was recorded from 12 locations, with records spanning 8th April to 30th September, but proof of breeding only came from one of these.

In April, singles, mainly males, were present at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 8th, **Ingbirchworth** on 12th/13th, **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th and 20th, and **Langsett** on 23rd. May only produced a further four records, again mainly single males: **Bretton Park** (Bath Wood) on 5th, the **Little Don Valley** on 16th, **Holme Styes** on 22nd, and **Hepworth** also on 22nd. Only two localities produced records in June, but at one of these, **Cliff Wood** proof of breeding came in the form of a male and female carrying food to a nest box. The other June record involved a single at **Ingbirchworth** on 30th.

There were more records from July onwards: **Blackmoorfoot Res.** hosted one or two on 13 dates between 10th July and 30th September with three on 2nd September. Singles were present at **Royd Moor Res.** on 21st July and **Scout Dike Res.** on 16th August. At least three were at **Brow Grains** on 27th August and a single was at **Holme Styes** two days later.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas).

The first records of the year, all single males, were in April: **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 23rd, **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 23rd and 26th, and **Broadstone** and **Royd Moor Reservoirs** on 30th. The following two months only produced a female at **Wards End Farm** on 5th May with a male and female there two days later, a singing male at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 8th May, four singing males which held territories in the **Deer Hill/West Nab** area, and a territory holding male at **Brow Grains**. The **Deer Hill/West Nab** males, only one of which attracted a female, failed to produce young, but the birds at **Brow Grains** were more productive as they produced three young at the second attempt.

The only July records involved a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 14th and two at **Wards End Farm** on 23rd. There then followed an unprecedented sequence of records from **Wards End Farm**: between 5th August and 15th September up to five (usually 2 or 3) were present on a total of 25 days. Other records at this time involved two at **Brow Grains** on 5th August with a single there on 9th August and three on 7th September, two at **Scout Dike Res.** on 20th August, two at **Harden** on 21st August, four at **Deanhead Res.** on 24th August, and, in September, singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 5th, and **Boshaw Whams** and **Redbrook Res.** on 9th, and two on **Wholestone Moor** on 22nd.

(COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola rubicola*

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

With over 100 records scattered fairly evenly throughout the year it was a similar picture to the previous two years. Although some 17 widely scattered localities held birds at some time, a high proportion of records related to birds from Wards End Farm, Marsden where they were present for most of the year. Breeding was confirmed from at least four localities.

Records were received from the following localities:

Wards End Farm – a male and female were present between early January and early May. There were then no records until a juvenile appeared on 12th July. Thereafter, up to seven (usually 4 or less) were present on a near daily basis until the year end. Despite there being several juveniles in July/August there was no proof of breeding, but it was considered likely that they bred somewhere nearby.

Blackmoorfoot – a male was seen on seven dates between 8th January and 28th February, a male and female were present on 10th March with four (3 males) the following day. There were then no records until two juveniles were seen on Meltham Cop on 13th July and a juvenile was present there on 24th August then, between 1st October and 22nd December, up to three were seen on 14 dates.

Winscar – a single on 18th January.

Deer Hill End Road – a male and female were near the cottages on 14th February.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a female on 13th March, two on 1st August, then singles on 23rd September, 8th and 19th October and 1st November.

Deanhead Res – a male and female were present on several dates between 30th March and 26th April. The only record thereafter involved a female and two juveniles on 24th August.

Wessenden Lodge – singles on 19th and 26th April and 20th September.

Harden – a single on 6th May.

Meltham – a pair on the West Nab side of Muddy Brook fledged at least three young.

Brow Grains – a pair fledged at least two young.

Wessenden Res – a pair fledged at least one young.

Little Don Valley – birds were recorded as ‘present’ on 16th May, but this did include a recently fledged juvenile.

Cheesegate Nab – a juvenile on 23rd September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – one on 23rd September.

Broadstone Res – two on 14th October, a single on 1st November and three the following day.

Deer Hill – in November there was a single on 6th, two the following day, a single on 8th and at least two, possibly four, on 13th. A male was present on 29th December.

Bird’s Nest Lane – up to three were present between mid- and late November and at least one remained until the year end.

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

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

The first records of the year were nine days later than last year, but by early April birds were widely distributed, being recorded from more than 25 localities.

Males at **Snape Res.** and **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 25th March were the first. March also produced four at **Broadstone Res.** on 26th, two at both **Blackmoorfoot** and **Wards End Farm** and five at **Whitley Airfield** on 27th, six at **Whitley Airfield** on 28th and eight there on 29th, 11 at **Broadstone** on 30th, and, on the last day of the month, three at **Deanhead Res.** and singles at **Wards End Farm, Isle of Skye Quarry** and **Snape Res.**

Passage continued throughout April and May, with records from 33 localities, but at only two of these were birds seen on a regular basis. At **Blackmoorfoot** up to nine, but usually less than six, were seen on 30 dates until the last (2) on 7th May. In addition, higher concentrations were recorded as follows: 11 on 8th April, 14 on 16th April, and 11 on 4th May. **Wards End Farm** saw birds on 32 dates until the last (2) on 8th May. Numbers never reached double figures, however, and the total number of bird/days compared with last year was down by about a third.

The other April/May assemblages rarely exceeded more than a handful of birds, the following, all in April, being the exceptions: 15 on farmland adjacent to **Whitley Airfield** on 6th with 17 there the following day; 11 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 10th and ten there on 30th; and 15 at **Broadstone Res.** on 30th.

There was no evidence of breeding, and the only records prior to the commencement of the autumn exodus involved a female at **Tinker Hill** on 4th June, a juvenile at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th July, and a single at **Digley** on 11th July.

Autumn movements were first noted on 14th August when singles were present at **Digley** and **Black Hill**, two were seen at **Whitley Edge** and three at **Harden**. Thereafter, birds were reported from a further 17 localities, most of which had held birds in spring but, with the exception of ten at **Blackmoorfoot** on 29th August, numbers never attained the double figures of spring. The highest counts only involved five at **Wards End Farm** on 23rd August, five at **Boshaw Whams** the following day, six at **Hartcliff Hill** on 7th September, and six at **Digley** on 18th September. Interestingly, at none of these sites, even the two daily watched sites at **Wards End Farm** and **Blackmoorfoot**, did birds linger for any length of time.

October records were confined to singles at **Boshaw Whams** and **Holme Styes** on 16th and **Wards End Farm** on 31st.

A single with an all white tail was present at **Wards End Farm** on 6th September.

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

There were three records of birds showing characteristics of this race: a male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 23rd April (JMCL, DMP, SP) and singles were at **Wards End Farm** on 17th September and 31st October (DWS).

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

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

Almost 200 records were received for this still common and widely distributed species, evenly spread throughout the year. Several conscientious observers maintained regular weekly or monthly scrutiny of their garden or local patch, and in some cases found evidence of successful breeding. Thus, two pairs bred at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** and also at **Dewsbury SW**, and three at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** where ten birds were recorded on 6th July, while **Almondbury** and **New Mill** garden watchers as well as observers at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** reported the presence of juveniles. As many as four or five birds were also counted in **Netherthong, Holmfirth, Meltham** and **Rastrick** gardens, in **Grimescar Woods**, at **Elland GP** and **Flockton Moor**.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Records were received from 27 sites, the majority, as usual, from gardens. The decline of this once prolific bird is worrying, but this year's records seem to show some stability.

Birds were regularly seen in the following gardens:

Lockwood – up to 20 were present daily with a maximum of 30 in June/July.

Marsh – seen throughout the year, the largest flock being 17 on 23rd October.

Almondbury – present throughout the year, the maximum being 22 on 24th July, and 20 on 20th November.

Rastrick – 10+ were present throughout the year.

Netherthong – a regular visitors, with up to 20 seen on several occasions.

New Mill – 10+ were present throughout the year.

Away from gardens the only double figure counts were of 12 at **Wooldale** on 7th January, 14 at **Flockton Moor** on 23rd March, 11 at **Lindley Moor** on 27th April, ten at **Shepley** on 22nd May, ten in **Huddersfield Town Centre** on 28th May and 8th October and c.20 in **Greenhead Park** on 31st December.

Breeding was confirmed at **Fixby** where two pairs nested in boxes originally made for tits. Nest building was noted in a **Rastrick** garden on 14th May and juveniles were reported from a **Lockwood** garden, **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, and in several areas of **Crosland Moor**. In **New Mill** four young were being fed by adults during June and July.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a male was along Potato Lane on 15th May and, rather unusually, up to three were seen in the village on a daily basis between 10th June and late July.

A single **Wards End Farm** on 15th June had a twisted beak.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

There were only 12 sites reported on this year, most of which were different from the two previous years. Is it possible that we are seeing a lack of observer coverage in certain areas, or are the birds

moving around finding new locations? Interestingly, the only breeding sites that were used again this year were the two which were provisioned with nest boxes.

The site discovered at **Wilshaw** in 2014 held small numbers throughout the year (never more than 8) and the nest boxes erected at Three-halfpenny House attracted three breeding pairs with another pair nesting in the gable end of the house.

A **New Mill** garden continues to attract as many Tree Sparrows as House Sparrows, c.10 daily. On 25th March a bird was seen carrying nest material into a nest box and young were evident in late May/early June. A flock of 13, consisting of both adults and juveniles, were seen below the feeders on 3rd June and c.15 were present in the same spot on 10th September. Unusually, four birds were seen sitting in an open nest box on 24th December.

Elsewhere birds were reported from the following locations:

Holmfirth (Cooper-Binns Lane) – birds were present throughout the year, with a maximum of 12 in January.

Clayton West SW – eight present on 6th January.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles on 13th March and 14th, 24th and 30th April.

Harden – a single on 20th March. This is a rare sight at 1,200 feet above sea level and a very apt sighting on ‘World Sparrow Day’.

Bird’s Nest Lane – a single on 10th May.

Royd Moor Res – two on 21st May.

Broadstone Res – one on 28th May.

Skelmanthorpe – two pairs fledged young from nest boxes.

Dick Edge Lane – a flock of c.15 present in late June/early July included several juveniles.

Castle Dam – two on 3rd July.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

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

The 19 records between mid-April and early October is two more than last year.

A single was seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18th April, followed, three days later, by another in the company of two Pied Wagtails at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and at least three on farmland near **Broadstone Res.** Two, then four, were seen in late April at **Dewsbury SW**, and the only other spring record was a single with cattle near **Marsden** on 8th May. A single flew S at **Blackmoorfoot** on 19th July and two or three juveniles were in a ploughed field near **Broadstone Res.** on three days at the month end. Three mid-August records featured up to three in the **Whitley Edge** area, followed by two in a field near **Royd Moor Res.** on 20th. Single juveniles were seen in mid-September at **Wards End Farm** and **Ingbirchworth Res.**, and lastly, two flew south over **Rastrick** on 3rd October.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

A total of 200 records maintains the pattern of recent years, with reports evenly spread throughout the year, almost all referring to just one or two birds, and although relatively few observers specifically confirmed breeding there were several records of juveniles.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were only sporadic occurrences of one or two birds in January/February. Birds were seen on a daily basis from early March to the year end and two pairs fledged young, a further nest in July was considered to have been a second brood. Two pairs bred at **Dewsbury SW**, rearing eight young, and as many as twelve were counted at **Meltham Mills SW** in early March. Birds were observed at seven sites in the Marsden area in the breeding season. The only double-figure count was of ten at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 5th May. Three days later two young were with five adults on the River Colne at **Bradley Mills**, and by 29th the number of young had risen to five. Meanwhile, two juveniles were seen at **Digley Bottom** on 22nd May, and a pair were feeding three young on the River Calder near **Colne Bridge SP** five days later. Many further sightings, including records of birds on migration (see below), and of garden visitors, covering a wide range of sites, were submitted throughout the rest of the year.

Visible migration was noted at three localities:

Harden Quarries – a total of 24 flew S or SW on eight dates between 3rd September and 9th October, with a maximum of six SW on both 11th and 18th September.

Isle of Skye Quarry – singles flew S on 29th August and 1st October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – five flew SW on 23rd September and two did likewise on 30th September.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

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

Almost 200 records were submitted, a similar tally to those for recent years, reflecting the widespread distribution of this conspicuous species across the Club area, and its continuing presence through the seasons. There were fewer reports featured large gatherings, however. Inevitably, many records referred to gatherings at sewage works and similar attractions.

Silkstone SW attracted 18 birds on 4th February, and by 3rd March numbers had reached 39. A group of 15 were present in fields on **Cheesgate Nab** on 4th March, while counts for this month at **Whitley Airfield** and **Horbury Strands/Wyke** also reached double figures. At least 50 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 24th April, and five days later snow drove one to a bird table at **Wards End Farm, Marsden!** Three pairs raised 15 young at **Dewsbury SW** during May and June, while other breeding evidence came from several sites.

Throughout most of September, up to 36, probably reflecting a large turnover of migrants, visited **Marsden Cricket Club**, while at least 100 flew over **Huddersfield** town centre on 28th. Meanwhile, counts at **Dewsbury SW** reached 172 by 13th September, falling to 88 by 21st. Small numbers continued to be seen in October at various venues. The filter beds at **Horbury SW** attracted 80 on 11th December, while the birds drawn to Dewsbury's rival attraction reached 85 the following week.

Visible migration was noted at two localities:

Pule Hill – a total of 53 flew SW on eight dates between 3rd September and 8th November, with a maximum of 24 on 23rd September.

Harden Quarries – a total of 41 flew S or SW on five dates between 6th August and 3rd October, with a maximum of 21 S on the last mentioned date.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Of the 14 records, almost all came from **Ingbirchworth Res.**, where up to five (usually 1 or 2) gave excellent views to various observers on ten dates between 6th April and 2nd May (DBu,

DHP, DT *et al.*). The only exceptions were from **Silkstone SW** which had two on 23rd March (GC) and a single two days later (RJB), and the only autumn sighting, two birds in a field by **Botany Lane, Lepton** on 29th September (DS).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A singing male at **Carlecotes Ponds** on four dates in May (first on 9th) were the only spring sightings, but autumn proved more productive, beginning with good views of a single bird at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2nd August. Two were in a flock of Meadow Pipits flushed from a willow plantation at **Broadstone** on 29th August and three were seen on migration over **Harden Quarries** on the same day. A further three flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 3rd September and a single flew S there on 10th September. There were two other September records, a single at **Wood Nook** on 7th and one which flew S at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12th.

A single which flew S over **Harden Quarries** on 16th October was the latest ever recorded in the Club area by 11 days. In an effort to rule out the possibility of a vagrant Olive-backed Pipit (the calls of which are very similar), a sonogram was obtained of its call, the analysis of this being enough to rule out this possibility (DHP).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

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

Birds were present throughout the first winter period at both **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and **Blackmoorfoot** but, although these assemblages rarely reached double figures, 30 were present at Blackmoorfoot on 16th January and 25 the following week. The first signs of a return to other sites came in the form of a 35-strong flock at **Scout Dike Res.** on 25th February. Counts at all three venues reached peaks of 50 in late March, when small numbers were also being recorded elsewhere, with one observer reporting several birds performing their “parachuting” song-flight. More sites, such as **Broadstone Res.**, **Wessenden Head**, and **Redbrook** received their first visitors in April and early May, and some counts were in double figures. At **Carlecotes Ponds** several pairs were displaying by mid-May, but counts were generally low, the highest involved 23 at **Wessenden Head** on 23rd June, and 43 at **Upper Windleden Res.** on 12th July.

With the exception of the large numbers of migrating birds (see below) autumn assemblages were small, but at **Blackmoorfoot** up to 40 were present in August, with 70+ by the month end and September saw a build-up to 200+ later in the month, and 70 were present at **Hartcliff Hill** on 7th September. There were only two double figure counts in October, *c.*40 were foraging in short grass on **Castle Hill** on 20th, and *c.*30 were on **Wholestone Moor** two days later. The only double figure counts in the last two months of the year involved ten at **Rastrick** on 2nd November and up to 25 on the filter beds at **Dewsbury SW** in the latter half of December. Birds were present throughout the second winter period at both **Blackmoorfoot** and **Wards End Farm**, but numbers never exceeded a handful.

Visible migration was noted at six localities:

Blackmoorfoot – in March, 25+ flew N on 21st, 70+ flew N on 30th and 60+ did likewise the following day. At least 80 flew S on 26th September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 1,454 flew SW on 11 dates between 24th August and 4th November, with a maximum of 442 on 23rd September and 456 on 30th September.

Harden Quarries – a total of 5,215 flew S or SW on eight dates between 30th August and 22nd October, with a maximum of 413 SW on 11th September and 881 SW on 18th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – 35 flew W on 5th and 12th September.

Wards End Farm – a total of 1,586 passed over on 34 dates between 9th September and 26th November. The September/early October birds generally flew S or SW, but thereafter the direction of movement tended to be northerly. The maxima involved 300+ SW on 30th September, 150 S on 3rd October and 150 W on 31st October.

Isle of Skye Quarry – 346 flew SSE in just 1 hour 45 minutes on 1st October.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

A single, first seen in the overflow channel at **Deer Hill Res.** on 6th November by DMP, appears to have remained in the same vicinity for the rest of the year, being reported on a further seven dates until 29th December (although it was not recorded between mid-November and mid-December). The bird was never very approachable, but high-quality photographs (NWM, DHP) and video footage (SP) confirmed its identity. Several observers commented on apparent aggression towards Pied and Grey Wagtails.

This is the first record in the Club area since a single at Dewsbury SW on 28th October 2008.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

This unpredictable winter visitor was recorded from 18 locations, with only a handful of birds in the first winter period, but a noticeable influx during the latter months.

Only five locations held birds early in the year as follows:

Singles were present at **Cooper-Binns Lane, Holmfirth** from 3rd to 9th January, five were at **Bella Vista Farm, Penistone** on 23rd January, with four at **Thurlstone** on 6th March, and a **Netherthong** garden had up to five on several late February/March dates while **Ingbirchworth Res.** had two on 18th and 23rd April and eight on 27th April.

Two which flew SE over **Harden Quarries** on 3rd October were the forerunners to what was, these days, quite an impressive influx. By the year end birds had been recorded from a further 16 locations. Although there were no assemblages to equal those of years gone by, good numbers were counted as they passed over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** (see below). Birds visited gardens at five widely distributed locations, but numbers were very low, and never exceeded three.

Double figure counts came from:

Ingbirchworth Res – c.15 were present on 19th October, c.30 on 29th October, c.40 on 2nd November and c.50 on 27th November.

Deer Hill End Road – a flock of 20 to 40 assembled between 21st and 28th October.

Meltham – c.20 were present on Red Lane on 30th October.

Marsden – in November up to 40 were present at Wards End Farm on the first three days, with 45 on 11th and 65 on 26th. A flock of 25 were at Hey Green on 7th November.

All records from **Blackmoorfoot** were during this period: in October, a flock of ten was present on 4th, four on 17th and a single on 19th and 24th. A single took up residency between 4th and 9th November and three were present on 26th/27th December.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

Harden Quarries – two flew SW on 3rd October

Pule Hill, Marsden – c.40 flew SW on 30th October and four did likewise on 8th November.

Wards End Farm – a total of 533 birds flew in various directions, but mainly W or SW, on 15 dates between 9th October and 23rd November with a maximum of 194 (178 W + 16 SW) on 3rd November and 110 W on 8th November.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This species is widely spread across our area and was recorded at 49 locations (down from 58 the previous year). Although a common species, the numbers observed remain low – does this reflect the true status of this bird? The number of migrating birds was also substantially down on previous years.

Several observers' gardens held small numbers of birds throughout the year and most other sites produced single digit counts, the exceptions being as follows:

At **Wards End Farm, Marsden** ten were present several occasions throughout the year. There were 13 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6th April, ten at **Elland GP** on 14th April, and 12 at **Bretton Park** on 5th May. The ten reported from **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11th May included seven singing males and 17 were present on 15th June. A flock of ten were at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 2nd November.

Singing males were reported from 12 widespread localities but confirmed breeding was only noted at **Wards End Farm** and **Blackmoorfoot**.

Visible migration was reported from three sites:

Harden Quarries – a total of 160 flew SE on five dates between 3rd September and 3rd October, the maximum being 74 on 3rd October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 581 flew SW on seven dates between 22nd September and 8th November with a maximum of c.310 on 30th September.

Wards End Farm – a total of 465 flew over, mainly N or W, on 20 dates between 5th October and 6th November, the highest count being of 55 which flew NE on 12th October.

(EURASIAN) BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

This colourful finch was observed at 32 widely scattered sites and in every month of the year. Birds were attracted to 11 garden feeding stations.

The only counts of more than three were as follows:

Blackmoorfoot – two or three were present throughout the year with six on 24th/25th October and four on 4th December.

Holmfirth (Cooper-Binns Lane) – four on 3rd January.

Meal Hill – four on 7th January.

Elland GP – six at the feeding station on 14th April.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – eight on 21st April were coming to the feeding station.

Almondbury – five on 19th June included two juveniles.

Dewsbury SW – ten on 29th November.

Fixby – eight on 2nd December

Meltham – four on 19th December.

Breeding was only confirmed at a handful of locations: **Blackmoorfoot** (a pair was predated at the egg stage), **Fixby** and **Scammonden Water**.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 14 (in small groups) flew S on 3rd November, with two doing likewise the following day.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

This species was only reported from 24 sites compared to 37 last year. The majority of records came from gardens which regularly attracted birds all year round. One observer noted that the decline in numbers seems to have been arrested in his garden, whilst another commented that a nearby site had been deserted. Most counts were mainly in single figures with the exception of one location where birds regularly roosted. Migration counts this year were low, most probably as a consequence of the inclement weather conditions.

The roost was at a farm in **Rastrick** where birds were settling in evergreen bushes; 27 were present on 12th January, 50 on 16th January, 30 on 23rd January, 40 on 3rd February.

Most sites held less than seven birds, the only higher counts being of eight in a **New Mill** garden on 31st March, 13 seen on a walk from **Marsden** to **Wards End Farm** on 26th April and nine at **Wards End Farm** on both on 19th September and 12th October.

In the breeding season singing males were heard at **New Mill** in April, May and June, with young recorded from May to August; a displaying male was present at **Blackmoorfoot** in April/May; a juvenile was noted in a **Brockholes** garden on 15th June, but it was killed by his neighbour's cat; at **Wards End Farm** single juveniles recorded on a number of dates between mid-June and mid-August suggests double brooding at least, and two juveniles were seen in an **Almondbury** garden in late June.

Visible migration was reported from the following locations:

Wards End Farm – four flew W on 17th September and seven did likewise on 15th October.

Harden Quarries – 26 flew SE on 18th September and five flew SE on 3rd October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 33 flew SW on six dates between 23rd September and 8th November, the maximum being 19 on 20th September.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Linaria cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Over the last few years the number of sites where birds have been report from has fluctuated tremendously, this year they have only been recorded from 23 locations.

The only winter record involved four at **Skelmanthorpe** on 6th January. There were then no records until 13th March when a flock of 22 were present at **Broadstone Res.** Birds then became more widespread, but the only double figure assemblages involved c.30 at **Flockton** on 31st March, 15 at **Brow Grains** on 9th April, 12 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27th April, and an outstanding flock, by today's standards, of c.200 in stubble fields opposite Potters Gate at **Windmill Lane** on 1st May.

At **Blackmoorfoot** the first birds (4) returned on 16th March and up to six were then present throughout the summer months, although there was no evidence of breeding. Numbers at the **Deer Hill** Twite feeding station were well down on 2015 figures, never reaching double figures.

The only evidence of breeding involved two juveniles at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on both 19th June and 23rd July, suggesting double brooding or two pairs.

The usual autumn build-up never materialised, or went under-recorded, as the largest assemblages only amounted to c.80 at **Deer Hill End Road** on 24th July and 25 at **Dewsbury SW** on 15th October.

Visible migration was witnessed as follows:

Harden Quarries – 149 flew SE on four dates between 11th September and 16th October, the highest count being 58 on 16th October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 62 flew SW on four dates between 22nd September and 30th October, the maximum being 23 on 30th September.

The last records of the year were from the **Marsden** area on 30th October: a single was present at **Wards End Farm** and 17 flew SW at **Pule Hill**.

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

This moorland finch continues to decline in our area. Most records come from the four main sites but potential breeding pairs were only noted at one of these.

Deer Hill – the first birds at the feeding station were three which arrived on 12th March. Numbers slowly built up but generally remained in the low 20s throughout much of April (maximum of 30 on 17th), and most birds had dispersed by mid-May. On many dates in early June it was encouraging to see three probable breeding pairs, with males singing and performing parachuting display flights. Several colour-ringed birds were present at the feeding station (the majority having been ringed by Jamie Dunning at Rishworth) (DMP, SP *et al.*).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – the first to return were six on 21st March, after which birds were seen regularly until late April, with the highest count being of ten on 21st April. Thereafter,

although birds were heard calling on 5th May and three were present on 10th May, it was not until mid-June that birds were seen with any regularity, the maximum involved ten on 19th. There were then no records until mid-July, but birds then became regular until early October. Flock size usually remained in low single figures, but 17 were present on 2nd August, in September double figure counts occurred on 15th (25), 17th (15), 19th (20) and 21st (10), and ten were also present on 3rd October. The only record thereafter involved four on 31st October (DWS).

Wessenden Valley – calling birds were heard on several dates during the breeding season (DMP, SP) and four were present at **Wessenden Res.** on 30th June (KW).

Records from other sites were as follows:

Blackmoorfoot – at least two were heard as they flew NNW along Potato Lane on 3rd May (MC). This is the first record since two were present on 11th May 2012.

Marsden, Eastergate – two on 4th May (JMP).

Pule Hill, Marsden – three on 8th May (JMP).

Carlecotes Ponds – two on 14th May (DBu, AK).

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

This species was recorded from 24 sites, but the majority of sightings came from six gardens in the period from January through to April, although numbers were always low. Breeding was confirmed at three sites. As is usual, the number of birds fluctuates greatly from year to year, and this year numbers were somewhat reduced, especially during the second half of the year.

A garden in **Meltham** regularly held birds until early April, but numbers never exceeded the four present on both 14th and 24th January. Likewise in a **Holmfirth** garden, birds were present throughout a similar period, but the maximum involved was five on 7th February. The largest gathering was of 13 in a **Fixby** garden on 12th April. Another three gardens occasionally attracted birds but they were for very limited periods and only involved one or two individuals.

Away from gardens, the largest gathering involved a party of c.40 at **Bretton Park** on 1st January, five at **Clayton West** on 20th January with 12 noted in **Longley Woods** on the same date, 15 in **Windmill Lane, Broadstone** on 28th January with 30 here on 18th February and ten at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 22nd April.

Breeding was confirmed at **Dewsbury SW** (nest building on 21st April), **Crosland Hill** (fledged young by mid-June) and at **Carlecotes Ponds** where a small breeding colony seems to have established at the eastern end of the site.

With the exception of a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 25th September and two in a **Meltham** garden on 17th December, records during the latter part of the year were all from the **Marsden** area. **Wards End Farm** had a single on 12th August, three on 4th September, a single on 19th September and five on 21st October. Two were with Siskins at **Blakeley Res.** on 20th September, two were at **Hey Green** on 2nd November and six visited **White Syke** on 18th December.

Visible migration was only reported from **Wards End Farm, Marsden** where six flew W on 19th September and **Pule Hill, Marsden** which saw c.24 fly SW on 23rd September, three SW on 30th September and 17 which did likewise on 30th October.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

The increase in the numbers of birds and sites is very encouraging and indicates a much better year for the species. Most sightings were in the Yateholme and Langsett areas.

Reports came from the following sites:

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles flew W on 11th February (MLD, GK, GBS) and 16th August (MLD).

Riding Wood Res – eight on 19th March (MC, NWM, DHP, DMP) included an intriguing female which had two distinct wing bars on each wing (see also the autumn records from Holme Styes, immediately below). Later, six were present on 17th September (MLD, DMP, SP, GBS) and 15 on 10th October (DMP, SP).

Holme Styes – c.10 on 17th September and nine on 16th October (DHP). On this latter date the same or another female with two wing bars on each wing was present (see photo on page 76). A small flock, which included a male with two distinct wing bars, was present on 23rd October (DHP).

Harden Quarries – ten on 17th September (MCW) and nine on 22nd October (NWM).

Little Don Valley – a flock of c.40 were present on 16th May (RJB).

Langsett – six were present on 5th July (BBS) and seven were gathered there on 23rd September (NWM).

Langsett Banks – six, including a female feeding a juvenile, were present on 30th September (GC). In most passerine species the feeding of fledged young can be taken as local breeding. With Crossbill, however, feeding can continue for some time after fledging, even when on migration.

Carlecotes Ponds – c.35 on 24th June (MC).

Winscar Res – three on 13th November (MC).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a single female in the garden on 5th June and 15 flew W on 23rd October (DWS).

Pule Hill, Marsden – a small flock were heard heading S in the mist on 30th October, five flew SW on 3rd November and three flew S the following day (JMP).

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

This charming finch was reported from 48 sites (54 in 2015) with most records stemming from ten gardens although the only large assemblages were from ‘wild’ sites. Figures were well down on last year with smaller flocks and fewer juveniles being recorded.

In the first winter period gardens produced the bulk of the records, but most of these were only single figure counts. Three gardens did, however, produce double figure counts: **Cooper-Binns Lane, Holmfirth** held ten on 3rd January, 12 on 7th February and 23 on 28th February; 12 were in a **Hepworth** garden on 14th January; and ten were seen in a **Meltham** garden on 21st January.

Away from gardens, 23 were present at **Wooldale** on 10th January, **Wards End Farm, Marsden** held 13 on 27th February with 30 at nearby **Bank Top** the same date, 13 were also at **Bank Top** on 13th March. In **Lockwood** a gathering of 48 birds briefly on Armitage Crescent on 10th March was an unusual record.

Breeding season records came from **Lockwood** where two singing males were present though not thought to have bred as no young were seen. Singing males were also heard at **Ingbirchworth Res., Crosland Moor, Blackmoorfoot** and **Brockholes**. Ten birds gathered at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10th May and 12 were present the following day, there were also 12 reported from

Broadstone Res. on the same day. At **Wards End Farm** the first juveniles to be reported were two on 21st June, then a further two on 6th July, and 14 on 21st August. Two juveniles were also seen at **Broadstone Res.** on 10th August and a juvenile was seen in an **Almondbury** garden on 26th June.

The largest assemblages post breeding season were as follows:

Wards End Farm – 20 on 20th July, 50 on 10th September, 25 on 3rd October, 13 on 30th November and 25 on 2nd December.

Cooper-Binns Lane, Holmfirth – where 32 were present in a garden on 24th July and 30 on 16th October.

Meltham – a flock of 60 on 4th August,

Blackmoorfoot – 40+ on 11th August, 20 on 22nd September and 40+ three days later, 20 on 12th October and 17 on 21st December.

Marsden – a flock of 40 at Hey Green on 20th August and 50 at **White Hull** on 31st August.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.30 on 7th September and c.25 on 28th September.

Gunthwaite Dam – c.30 on 2nd November.

Meal Hill – c.20 on 12th December.

Almondbury – c.50 were present in the area on 21st December.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 89 flew SW on nine dates between 3rd September and 30th September, the maximum being 35 on 11th September.

Harden Quarries – 146 flew SE on seven dates between 3rd September and 3rd October, with a maximum of 49 on 3rd October.

Wards End Farm – 26 flew S and 30 W on 10th October, 19 W on 13th October, ten N on 20th October, 3 N and 5 W on 27th October and 6 N on 30th October.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Spinus spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

Recorded from 31 locations with sightings spanning every month except December. The majority of records stemmed from nine gardens but, unlike last year, there was no autumn upsurge in sightings. Indeed, the number of records was down on 2015 and smaller flock sizes were reported.

During the first half of the year up nine birds were regularly seen in gardens, with ten gathered in a **Meltham** garden on 2nd January. In the **Marsden** area 15 were sighted in a **Higher Green Owlers** garden on 20th January and 20 were present at **Smithy Holme** on 14th February. A flock of 20 were feeding in Alders at **Elland GP** on 1st April and **Ingbirchworth Res.** attracted 12 on 17th June. Small numbers, never more than nine, were also present at the following sites during this period: **Yateholme, Greenfield Res., Binn Green, Langsett** and **Winscar**. At this latter mentioned site there were said to be ‘plenty’ on 9th May, but no count was forthcoming.

Only a handful of sites held birds during the breeding season and the only suggestion of breeding involved three juveniles at **Mount Road, Marsden** on 5th June.

Noteworthy accumulations during the latter part of the year came from **Ingbirchworth Res.** where 25 were present on 14th September, **Yateholme** had 20 on 17th September, c.20 frequented **Blakeley Res.** on 20th September, and c.25 visited **Carlecotes Ponds** on 1st October.

At **Blackmoorfoot** the only records in the first half of the year involved a single on 12th February, one on 7th June and two the following day. There were then no records until 25+ were present near the inflow on 28th October, but the only other occurrences concerned two which flew W on 13th November and four on 6th December.

Visible migration was witnessed at four sites:

Harden Quarries – 276 flew SE on six dates between 10th September and 16th October, the maximum being 156 on 25th September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 22 flew SW on 23rd September, 12 SW on 30th September, eight SW on 30th October and a single SW on 3rd November.

Isle of Skye Quarry – 12 flew S on 1st October.

Wards End Farm Marsden – 29 passed over, mainly between N and W, on ten dates between 2nd October and 10th November.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

The only record involved a single at **Deer Hill Res.** on 14th December. The bird was photographed on the dam wall and was thought to be a female of the Icelandic race *insulæ* (DHP).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Observations were received from only 17 sites (21 in 2015), continuing the decline of this species in our area. All records were of less than four birds, the only exceptions being at **Hartcliff Hill** with c.11 on 16th January, **Gunthwaite Dam** held six on 8th October and a flock of 30+ assembled there on 2nd November.

As the distribution of this species is now very restricted the following lists gives all locations which held birds during the breeding season: **Wood Nook** (the observer commented that this was the first breeding season record at this site for 20 years), **Hartcliff Hill**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Broadstone Res.**, **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, **Stockmoor**, **Meal Hill**, **Thurgory Lane**, **Wilshaw** (another new site as far as the observer is aware), **Dewsbury SW** and **Castle Dam**. Although juveniles were noted at **Royd Moor Res.** and **Gunthwaite Dam** they may not have originated there as they were very late in the breeding season.

A single on Meltham Cop at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th July was the first record there since one on 3rd May 2007. A male at **Old Mount Road, Marsden** on 4th November was the first that the observer had seen in that area since 2001.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Reports were received from only 26 rural sites and, rather surprisingly, there were none from gardens. This is a marked reduction in locations compared to the 45 reported from last year. Is this decrease real, or is the species going under-recorded?

The stronghold for this species continues to be **Ward Ends Farm, Marsden** where birds were present throughout the year. The highest counts during the first winter period were of ten on 18th January, up to 13 throughout February, ten on 18th March, and nine on 29th April. Smaller numbers were present during the breeding season although none were reported as singing and no juveniles were noted. Later in the year, good numbers were again present. From October onwards there were several double figure counts, the maxima involved 18 on 22nd November and 25 on 13th December. The observer commented that numbers this year have been conspicuously higher than in previous years.

A very early singing male was heard at **Scout Dike** on 10th February with the return to breeding territories beginning in earnest in early March. Singing males were heard at the following sites: **Gunthwaite Dam, Ingbirchworth Res.** (a juvenile was seen on 23rd June), **Broadstone Res., Cheesgate Nab, Royd Moor Res.** and **Carlecotes Ponds**. The only confirmed breeding, however, was from **Dewsbury SW**, where two pairs raised five young.

Away from the favoured locality at Wards End Farm, assemblages rarely exceeded low single figures, the exceptions being nine along the River Calder at **Horbury** on 10th March with ten there on 14th March, seven at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11th May with 16 there on 15th June and ten two days later, seven at **Royd Moor Res.** on 3rd June, seven at **Scout Dike Res.** on 6th July, 12 gathered at **Red Lane, Meltham** on 30th October, and 13 were at **Old Mount Road, Marsden** on 8th November.

Rather surprisingly, **Blackmoorfoot** only hosted singles on four dates: 26th March, 9th and 27th April and 18th September.

Visible migration was witnessed at three sites:

Harden Quarries – six flew SW on 11th September, one SW on 18th September and *c.*30 did likewise on 22nd October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – four flew SW on 23rd September, eight SW 30th September, five SW on 30th October, three SW on both 3rd and 4th November, and one SW on 8th November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 13 flew NE on 12th October, 8 N on 13th October, 12 N on 20th October, seven N on 24th October, six W on 31st October, 12 N on 7th November, and 12 N on 10th November.

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Introduced.

Two were present at **Bretton Park** on 29th March (GC).

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

Introduced.

Although not recorded in 2015, the stronghold of this species remains **Hagg Wood**. It is understood that a non-Club member who lives adjacent to the wood regularly has them visiting her garden throughout the year. The only birds reported by Club members in 2016, however, were a male on 27th April (WDH) and two males on 27th July (MLD).

ADDITIONS TO THE 2013 REPORT

There were three interesting ringing recoveries which have only recently come to light.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

L684691	first-year	1 st March 2011	Setmurthy, Cumbria
	freshly dead	18 th August 2013	Slaithwaite 149km SE

Movements over 100km of this very sedentary species are unusual.

(BOHEMIAN) WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

BV05885	first-year male	2 nd March 2013	Orrel, Wigan, Greater Manchester
	freshly dead	3 rd May 2013	Huddersfield 60km ENE

(EUROPEAN) GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

X985645	first-year male	9 th October 2009	Stainland
	caught by ringer	26 th December 2013	Burghfield Common, Berkshire 258km SSE

The breeding population of this partial migrant, especially those from northern populations, winter in France and Spain.

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO THE 2015 REPORT

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Rare visitor.

The 2015 report makes reference to a single at **Butterley Res.** on 25th May. The date was actually 25th July and, as a consequence, the statement that this was the first spring record for the Club area is also erroneous.

YNU Adjudication Panel decisions

The following records, published in the 2015 report as still being assessed by the YNU, have all been accepted by that authority.

(EUROPEAN) HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Scarce passage migrant.

Ingbirchworth Res – excellent views were had of a bird low over the dam wall which, when mobbed by Carrion Crows, departing slowly NNW towards Shepley on 4th June.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot – a single flew N along the east bank at 10.55hrs. on 25th February.

Butterley Res – a long-dead bird was found on 30th May.

The following records, published in the 2015 report as still being assessed by the YNU, have all been found to be not proven by that authority.

(EUROPEAN) HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Wards End Marsden, Marsden – one on 27th July was seen again very briefly on 28th and 30th.

March Haigh Res – a single on 9th September.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a ringtail on 20th August.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Holme Moss – two on 17th February.

EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS

	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2016		EVER		2016	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	3/4	Ingbirchworth	29/9	1969	17/8	Boshaw Whams
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	15/4	Blackmoorfoot	21/11	1959	23/9	Blackmoorfoot
Common Tern	31/3	2010	30/5	Blackmoorfoot	16/10	2001	17/8	Langsett Res
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	23/4	Langsett Res	27/10	1977	28/7	Isle of Skye Quarry
Swift	13/4	2013	28/4	Horbury Strands	8/11	2001	18/8	Blackmoorfoot
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	26/3	Ingbirchworth	23/10	1971	3/10	Harden Quarries
Swallow	10/3	1959	25/3	Dewsbury SW	5/12	1995	12/10	Blackmoorfoot
House Martin	20/3	2005	31/3	Blackmoorfoot	27/11	1959	7/10	Slaithwaite
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	9/5	Carlecotes Ponds	16/10	2016	16/10	Harden Quarries
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	18/4	Ingbirchworth	24/10	1952	3/10	Rastrick
Redstart	21/3	1942	8/4	Horbury Strands	24/10	1976	30/9	Blackmoorfoot
Whinchat	11/4	1949	19/4	Meltham	9/11	1999	22/9	Wholestone Moor
Wheatear	1/3	1997	25/3	Snap Res & Marsden	4/12	1997	31/10	Marsden
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	31/3	Isle of Skye Quarry	25/12	1855	4/11	Marsden
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	15/6	Ingbirchworth	29/8	2000	16/7	Scammdon
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	15/5	Horbury Strands & Marsden	26/9	1999	20/9	Dewsbury SW
Reed Warbler	20/4	2011	21/4	Dewsbury SW	29/9	2001	13/9	Dewsbury SW
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	27/4	Horbury Strands	24/11	1984	21/7	Royd Moor Res
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	21/4	Dewsbury SW	27/9	1973	15/9	Marsden
Whitethroat	1/4	2011	13/4	Dewsbury SW & Ingbirchworth	12/10	1999	13/9	Healey Mills
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981	26/4	Healey Mills	4/9	1956		no records
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	27/3	Ingbirchworth	27/10	1987	22/9	Ingbirchworth
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	5/5	Bretton Park	16/10	1985	16/9	Meltham
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	13/4	Bretton Park	19/9	1969	31/8	Blackmoorfoot

Denotes a new earliest/latest ever record.

Note: Blackcap and Chiffchaff dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds.

LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS

	LATEST				EARLIEST			
	EVER		2016		EVER		2016	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Whooper Swan	3/5	2006	12/4	Ringstone Edge	12/9	2015	3/10	Blackmoorfoot
Pink-footed Goose	12/4	2009	6/4	Dewsbury SW	11/9	2007	1/10	Marsden
Redwing	7/5	1975	29/3	Blackmoorfoot	27/8	1941	2/10	Marsden, Newsome & Brockholes
Brambling	13/5	1976	27/4	Ingbirchworth	13/9	1983	3/10	Harden Quarries

 Denotes a new latest/earliest ever record.

Note: in view of the fact that Fieldfare previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has been removed from the table.

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Barnsley Bird Sightings
Barnsley Bird Study Group
Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

POSSIBLE CAUSE OF BREEDING FAILURE OF PEREGRINES

I have, over the last 20 years or so, observed breeding Peregrines at one particular isolated locality within our recording area. As far back as 1990 my good friend Tim Duckworth and I suspected a breeding attempt here when the species was still a relatively scarce breeding species in Yorkshire.

The nest site is situated such that observation can be carried out with the aid of a decent telescope at a safe and sensible distance without affecting the bird's behaviour or drawing attention to them in any way. The habitat consists of a seemingly insignificant looking millstone grit outcrop set in moorland dominated by bracken and heather. The nest site itself is usually sited in a recess in the rock face and in 2011 four young were reared to the flying stage, despite the fact that two of them fell/jumped out but were still attended to on the ground by the adults. In 2013 and 2015 the pair forsook the usual rock face site and amazingly bred on sloping ground nearby (ground nesting by Peregrines outside of the Arctic is rare); a single young (2013) and two young (2015) were reared successfully from these nests and were ringed under licence.

In 2016 I first visited the location on 25th March and saw the female entering a likely looking nest site with the small, smart looking male perched up near-by on a favourite rock. On my next visit on 10th April everything was fine with the female obviously incubating and the male perched up near-by. I returned for a further look on the evening of 23rd April accompanied by Michael Trowman, another long standing friend and fellow Peregrine fanatic. At first all seemed well with the female sitting, but as I scanned for the male with my telescope, I was surprised to find a different Peregrine. This bird was obviously not the usual male, it appeared somewhat bigger, moreover it was still mainly in juvenile plumage showing brownish-grey upper parts, heavily streaked underparts on an off white background and a dark brown, not black moustachial stripe set against a buffish face, much less contrasting than any adult, so this was an obvious second-calendar year bird.

What happened next will live long in my memory and was definitely a case of being in the right place at the right time.

As I pondered this unusual situation a Common Buzzard flew over the nesting rock fairly low. Suddenly absolute mayhem ensued, the female Peregrine came off the nest alarm calling and turned the hapless Buzzard upside down sending it on its way minus several feathers before turning her attention on the intruding male Peregrine. The female who was much bigger than the intruder knocked it off its perch before chasing after it down the valley, both birds twisting and turning and putting on the most amazing flying display we had ever seen. I felt sure she would have killed the intruder had she caught it but both birds disappeared round a hillside so the outcome wasn't witnessed. At no time when all this was going on did we see anything of the presumed resident male.

The evening was bitterly cold with a sneaky easterly breeze drifting directly into the nest site and so we expected the female to return fairly soon. After more than half an hour, however, there was no sign of the returning female, only a distant hunting Short-eared Owl kept us slightly distracted before we had to depart.

On my next visit on 2nd May the weather had closed in with rain and thick mist so seeing anything on the nest was impossible, but a shape on one of the near-by rocks, somehow told me that the intruder was back. I returned for a look early morning on 12th May, after early morning mist the day turned into glorious sunshine, but despite over two hours observing no Peregrines were seen. I concluded that the intruding juvenile had disrupted the resident male, or even injured him in a

tussle so that the female was forced to hunt for herself causing chilling of the eggs and ultimately failure.

This is not the end of the story however.

Mid-July saw me yomping the moors again. Upon checking the Peregrine site I was amazed to see the presumed same female perched near the attempted nesting site and in full view of her was the presumed same immature bird that I now was convinced was a male. Has she accepted him? Is he going to be the future Daddy? Who knows?

Dave Pogson

BOOK REVIEW

The following review of Mike Denton's recent book appeared in edition 142 of the Yorkshire Naturalists Union's publication *The Naturalist* and is reproduced here by kind permission of the YNU. The reviewer Paul Simmons is a member of the Editorial Board of *The Naturalist* and a specialist in Lepidoptera.

A Natural History of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Huddersfield by Michael Denton. 2017. pp528. Published by Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club. £25 plus £5 p&p.
Tel: Mike Denton on 01484 646990 or email michael@atheta.plus.com.

This substantial work is a fitting testimony to the efforts of Mike Denton and his colleagues over at least 4 decades. Mike has produced a book which will be a regular reference point for those who have any interest in Natural History in the Huddersfield and wider West Yorkshire area. As both an ornithologist and an entomologist, and with a deep interest in all wildlife, Mike is an ideal person to produce this authoritative work.

The table given in Chapter 2 summarises the 'life-forms' which have been identified in the reservoir's neighbourhood by Mike, Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club members and invited specialists, and indicates a total of 2407 species – remarkable by any standards. The bulk of the book is made up of accounts of each of these species, detailing their general habitat needs and outlining their status in Britain, Yorkshire, and at Blackmoorfoot.

Because the book is sponsored by the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, and relies considerably on records from its members, it is not surprising that the first main chapter covers the birds seen in the area. Records for some go back to the 1960s with an inevitable increase in reports in recent years, giving plenty of scope for analysis and comparisons. The other main chapters cover flowering plants and invertebrates, with the latter comprising some 23 sub-sections dealing with all the major groups. The chapter on plants is largely credited to Jill Lucas, whose knowledge of this topic in West Yorkshire will have been of great value. Other chapters cover the remaining taxa, from lichens to mammals.

Mike himself will have been responsible for most of the section on beetles – an astonishing 854 species are described and discussed but most of the other groups are also well covered, except perhaps moths which could benefit from more work. There seems plenty of scope to increase the total of 150 species, especially the micro-moths, and to be able to investigate any changes in the distribution of Lepidoptera which have occurred in the last 30 years.

The book contains a number of fine photographs of birds and insects seen around Blackmoorfoot and has indexes to all species, of both common and scientific names. All contributors are acknowledged and there is an impressive list of references. Inevitably with a book of this nature, it is out of date as soon as it reaches the printing press, but its value lies in its thoroughness and attention to detail. It is a book which all naturalists in the Huddersfield area and beyond will want to refer to because it is a comprehensive snapshot in time and will allow comparisons to be made for many years to come.

PS

OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret that I have to record the deaths of two of our long-standing and well respected members, Donald Haigh (died 9th February 2017) and Stephanie Coghlan (died 2nd July 2017).

Donald Haigh, although not a founder-member, joined the Club shortly after its inception and had served the Club exceedingly well in a number of official capacities. Donald was Field Meeting Organiser between 1976 and 1979 and, not wanting to retire from officialdom, took on the role of Honorary Treasurer the following year, a position he maintained until 1989. In the years 1990 through to 1993 Donald took a well-earned rest from Club duties but, in 1994 he took on the role of President, a position he commanded with total ease for the next two years. For his dedication to the Club, Donald was honoured with Life Membership shortly after his retirement from official duties. Donald was always a stabilising presence if a committee meeting looked like getting out of hand and he made many valuable contributions at several annual general meetings when not an official.

Stephanie Coghlan, like Donald Haigh, was not a founder-member, but she had served the Club as Honorary Secretary between 1981 and 1986. Stephanie's presence at Club meetings was always welcomed, and at committee meetings she usually managed to bring sense to any mayhem that ensued. Stephanie was never one for letting the grass grow under her feet, and was one of the few amateurs who managed to turn an interest in natural history into a profession (it is perhaps easier now, but it wasn't then). She had obtained a teaching certificate in 1965 and, following a period of teaching biology, had expanded her professional skills by becoming the Summer Education Officer at WWT Martin Mere in 1981 and 1982, the YOC Schools Project Officer between 1981 and 1986, and a part-time lecturer in ornithology at the Universities at Leeds and Bradford between 1986 and 1992.

In 1987 Stephanie started Snail's Pace Natural History Holidays. Her company, which offered wildlife/flora holidays to various world-wide and European destinations (especially Crete), was a tremendous success. I am aware of a number of Club members who have benefited from her teaching skills. One such member has commented that he, along with his wife, "Have been on many wildlife/flora holidays with Stephanie as leader both in the capacity of her own company Snail's Pace and as a leader for The Travelling Naturalist. We learnt a lot about natural history from these holidays with her, and her generosity with her help and advice".

Stephanie's abilities didn't stop there, for she had been editor and compiler of the *Annual Crete Report* since 1986 and the Honorary Secretary for the Crete Records Committee since 1992. During this period she also found time to publish a number of books: *Easter Birdwatching in Crete* (1985), *Birdwatching in Crete* (1988, 3rd ed. 1993), *A Birdwatching Guide to Crete* (1996, 5th ed. 2001) and *A Birdwatching Guide to Brittany* (2003).

For several years Stephanie had undertaken survey work for the BTO's Breeding Bird Survey, diligently working her allocated 1km square for the data so valuable in understanding the fluctuating fortunes of Britain's breeding birds. Due to Stephanie's scientific upbringing, this data was always forwarded to the Club recorder for inclusion in the annual report.

Their presence at Club meetings will be sorely missed. Our deepest felt condolences go to their respective families.

Mike Denton

REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

It is imperative for all Club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the Club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e. ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the Club forum; to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the Club area then do contact Mike Denton (01484 646990) who holds the necessary licence to monitor and document proceedings.

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place, then contact Mike Denton or the recorder urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from Mike Denton. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within the Club area. It is by leaving

these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species

Black-necked Grebe
Bittern
Pintail
Garganey
Honey-buzzard
Red Kite
All harriers
Goshawk
Osprey
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Avocet
Stone-curlew
Little Ringed Plover
Dotterel
Red-necked Phalarope
Little Tern
Barn Owl
Kingfisher
Firecrest

Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area

Nightjar
Buzzard
Raven
Short-eared Owl
Long-eared Owl

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

The following is a list of the 273 species of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2016. Thirteen additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species, then the less common 'additional' race(s).

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union's The British List (eighth edition, 2013), as described in detail in Ibis 155: 635-676.

The 'Description required' column indicates those species and races for which records of sightings must be accompanied by a description and, if possible, photographs, as required by the Club (HBC), the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee (YNU) or British Birds Rarities Committee (BBTC). Consult the YNU and BBRC websites for lists of other species and races for which these organisations require descriptions. Descriptions for the YNU and BBRC should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarce species, to the Recorder (see page 134).

Note that for some species distinguishing between races can be problematic at certain times of year and allocation to species only is advised – refer to a quality field guide.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	YNU
	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>	YNU
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	HBC
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	HBC
	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>	HBC
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	HBC
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	
9	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	
10	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	HBC
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla bernicula</i>	HBC
	Pale-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	HBC
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	YNU
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	HBC
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	HBC
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	
23	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	YNU
24	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	BBRC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
25	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	
26	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	
27	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	YNU
28	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	
29	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	HBC
30	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	
31	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	HBC
32	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
33	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	
34	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	
35	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	
36	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	
37	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
38	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	
39	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	
40	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	
41	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	
42	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	
43	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	HBC
44	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	HBC
45	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	HBC
46	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	HBC
47	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	HBC
48	Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	HBC
49	Leach's Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	HBC
50	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	HBC
51	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
52	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	HBC
53	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	HBC
54	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	YNU

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
55	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
56	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	HBC
57	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
58	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	YNU
59	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	HBC
60	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	HBC
61	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	YNU
62	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	HBC
63	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
64	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	
65	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	HBC
66	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	HBC
67	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	HBC
68	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	YNU
69	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	
70	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	YNU
71	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	HBC
72	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	HBC
73	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	YNU
74	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	HBC
75	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	
76	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	
77	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	YNU
78	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	YNU
79	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	HBC
80	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	
81	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	HBC
82	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	BBRC
83	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	HBC
84	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
85	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	
86	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	HBC
87	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	HBC
88	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	HBC
89	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	
90	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	
91	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
92	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	
93	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
94	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
95	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	HBC
96	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
97	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
98	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	HBC
99	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
100	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
101	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
102	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	
103	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	HBC
104	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	HBC
105	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
106	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
107	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	HBC
108	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	HBC
109	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	YNU
110	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	YNU
111	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	YNU
112	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	BBRC
113	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
114	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	HBC
115	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	YNU
116	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
117	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	BBRC
118	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
119	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	
120	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
121	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	HBC
122	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
123	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	
124	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	
125	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
126	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	BBRC
127	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	HBC
128	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	HBC
129	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	HBC
130	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	HBC
131	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	HBC
132	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	HBC
133	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	HBC
134	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	HBC
135	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	HBC
136	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	HBC
137	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	YNU
138	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	HBC
139	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
140	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	HBC
141	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	HBC
142	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	
143	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
144	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	
145	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	HBC
146	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	
147	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	YNU
148	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>	HBC
149	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentus</i>	
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>	HBC
150	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	HBC
151	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachimans</i>	YNU
152	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	HBC
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>	HBC
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	YNU
153	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	HBC
154	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	
155	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>	BBRC
156	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)	
157	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	
158	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
159	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
160	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	
161	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	
162	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	HBC
163	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	
164	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	
165	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	
166	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	
167	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
168	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
169	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	YNU
170	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	HBC
171	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	BBRC
172	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	
173	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	HBC
174	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	
175	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	
176	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	
177	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	
178	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	YNU
179	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
180	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	
181	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
182	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	
183	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	HBC
184	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	HBC
185	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	HBC
186	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	
187	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	
188	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	
189	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	
190	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
191	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	
192	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
193	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	
194	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	HBC
195	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	
196	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	
197	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
198	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	
199	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	HBC
200	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	HBC
201	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	
202	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	HBC
203	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
204	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
205	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	
206	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	YNU
207	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	
208	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	HBC
209	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	HBC
210	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	HBC
211	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>	
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	YNU
212	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	
213	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	
214	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	
215	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	
216	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	
217	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	
218	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	
219	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
220	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	
221	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	
222	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	
223	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	
224	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
225	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	YNU

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
226	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	
227	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	
228	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
229	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	
230	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	
231	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	
232	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
233	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	
234	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	
235	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	HBC
236	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	
237	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	HBC
238	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	
239	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	
240	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	
241	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	HBC
242	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	
243	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
244	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	
245	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>	
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	HBC
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	HBC
246	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
247	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>	
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	HBC
248	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2016

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
249	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	
250	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	HBC
	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus petrosus</i>	HBC
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>	HBC
251	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	HBC
252	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	
253	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
254	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	
255	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	
256	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	
257	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	
258	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	
259	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	HBC
260	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	
261	Two-barred Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	BBRC
262	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	
263	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	BBRC
264	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
265	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	
266	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	HBC
267	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	HBC
268	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	
269	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	YNU
270	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	YNU
271	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	
272	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	BBRC
273	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	

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NOTES

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HUDDERSFIELD RECORDING AREA

The bird recording area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits and Dewsbury Sewage Works.

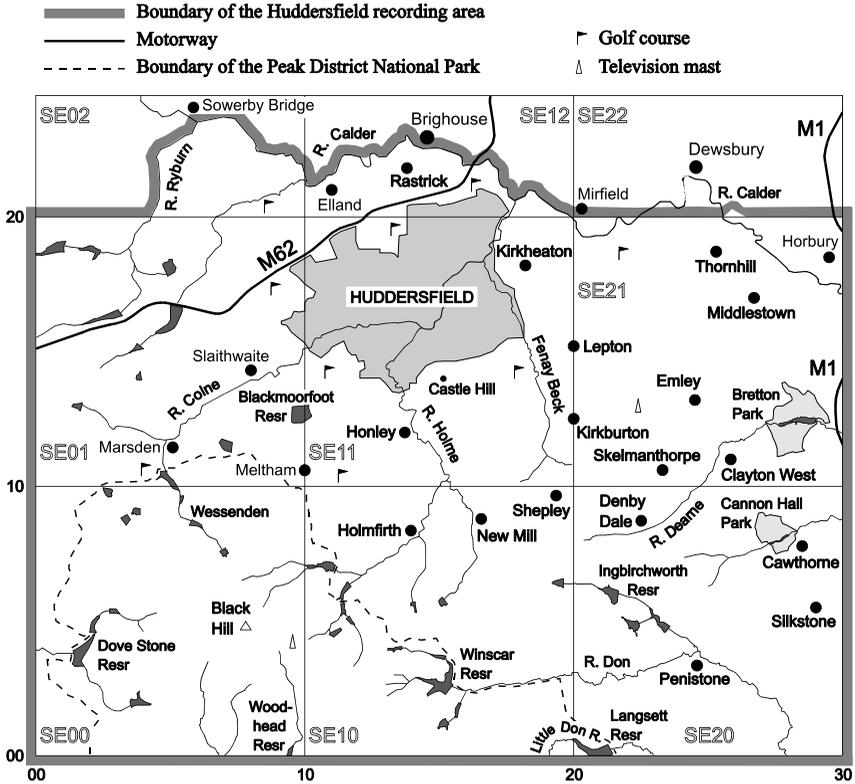


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296



**A remarkable flight shot of a Black Tern,
a scarce passage migrant,
at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 10th May 2016.**



www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

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