



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

# Birds in Huddersfield

## 2007



Little Auk *Alle alle*

*Birds in Huddersfield 2007* is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of such reports produced annually by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and a number of systematic surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Front cover: **Little Auk** *Allo alle* by Stuart Brocklehurst.

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# **Birds in Huddersfield**

## **2007**

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Stuart Brocklehurst is a wildlife artist and you can see more of his work on his web site:  
[www.wildlifewithpenandbrush.blogspot.com](http://www.wildlifewithpenandbrush.blogspot.com)

## FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

No sooner have you finished reading the 2006 report than another one arrives. Two reports produced within the first half of a club season represents a great achievement and reflects very well upon the collective ethos of the club. When the need arises and real effort is required there are always those ready and willing to rally around, without fuss or glory, to make things work. Having decided that we needed to make a major effort to catch up on the backlog of reporting for the club area, Mike Wainman set to and recruited a group of willing volunteers to write this report. They set to with vigour to produce this report at speed, and a fine job they have done too. Many thanks to all those involved – I hope that you found it to be ultimately rewarding. It has been said many times before that the activities of the club can be compared with a swan (or a duck, even) which progresses serenely along yet there is frantic activity going on just beneath the surface.

Not only has the report been produced in record time, but the opportunity has been taken to modernise the appearance by the inclusion of a number of colour plates. This is something that we would have done previously but the time is now most opportune thanks to continuing developments in printing technology that allow this to be achieved at reasonable cost. In addition digital photography has now led to a massive increase in interest in bird photography as exhibited by the development of digiscoping and the like. This means that we have been able to take advantage by the inclusion of a number of excellent shots by our contributors, with special thanks to John Hamilton, David Pennington and David Tattersley for giving us permission to use their photographs. This trend will continue into the future, so all budding photographers should make sure that we see the fruits of their efforts one way or another. These photographs will not replace the excellent drawings that we continue to include, rather they serve to complement them, as the photographic image tends to struggle to catch the characters, the jiz of the bird itself in a way that an illustration can as you will see for yourselves. Once more our thanks go to Russ Boland and Stuart Brocklehurst for these.

Our third most productive year on record in terms of species is worthy of note. Does this mean that there are more bird species visiting the club area nowadays or are we just better at spotting them, thanks to greater interest and participation in birdwatching in general? Certainly, as many national and regional surveys show, it isn't a result of an increase in the number of birds in general; in fact quite the opposite is the case for many species. This is illustrated by the inclusion of Red Data List indicators for those species that have been identified as having high conservation concern deriving from the RSPB review "The Population Status of Birds in the UK". Red data species are defined within this review as those showing a severely declining UK population, severely contracting UK breeding range or being globally threatened. Some of the species contained within the red list may be surprising and would certainly be so to those who were active birders 20 or 30 years ago. The data generated in producing club reports such as ours all contributes in one way or another to the efforts that go into species monitoring, so this makes all of our records increasingly more important as time passes. Once again I would ask all of you reading this report to ensure that all of your records relevant to the club area are forwarded to the club Recorder, preferably on a monthly basis. Without the efforts of the 70+ contributors listed at the back of the report we would have no information to include; so as well as enjoying your birding, which we all do, take the time to make notes and records so that you can contribute to the future reports that you will have the pleasure of reading.

Alf King

## ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

### **Studying and recording the wild birds of the area and publishing an annual report:**

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Club Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering over 40 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological research and *Birds in Huddersfield 2007* 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 new 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.

We also publish the *Huddersfield List*, a checklist of all the species of wild birds and additional races that have been officially 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 Public Library, go to many regional and national ornithological and wildlife conservation bodies and are on sale in local bookshops and regional RSPB reserves.

### **Promoting education of the public about wild birds and their habitats:**

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

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

The forum on our web site is open to public view and shows the latest local bird sightings posted by members, often with photos, as is a great way of finding out what is about.

### **Supporting research into conservation of wild birds and their habitats:**

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

The Club has played a major role in many bird life surveys of local, regional and national importance, including over 50 for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), RSPB, National Trust, English Nature (now 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.

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

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

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

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

Simply contact any member of the Committee (see page 130) or visit our website for more information.

[www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk](http://www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk)

## 2007: THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 178 species were reliably reported in the club area in 2007. This was the third-most productive year on record - five off the record 183 set in 1998. There was one new addition to the area list, with a good number of the scarcer species also recorded.

The year got off to a flying start with a Black-necked Grebe taking up residence at Blackmoorfoot (see also the article on page 103), while up to 30 Goosanders could be seen at both Bretton Lakes and Elland Gravel Pits. Mandarin ducks are fairly site-faithful, so a gaudy drake at Scout Dike was a good find and certainly enlivened proceedings here early month. Back at Elland an adult Little Gull was an unusual mid-winter visitor. Rather more expected, but still good to see, was a Mediterranean Gull roosting amongst several thousand of its commoner cousins at Blackmoorfoot at the month end.

The anticipated big Pink-footed Goose movement occurred later than usual, with numerous skeins heading W/NW in the first couple of days of February, while the Black-necked Grebe continued its stay at Blackmoorfoot. Up to 100 Bramblings were present in the Windybank area and up to 200 Redwings at Storthes Hall was also a good total.

As spring gradually arrived, several species were on the move and local birders' would find much to fill notebooks with. Sadly, Blackmoorfoot's Black-necked Grebe was found dead in early March, but moving on positively, a Bar-tailed Godwit dropped in to Ringstone Edge and Whooper Swans passed over Fixby and visited Scout Dike. Up to three Green Sandpipers were at Dewsbury Sewage Works and were joined by a Water Pipit briefly. Two sightings of Red Kites were made and the only Kittiwake of the year visited Ringstone Edge. A real surprise late month came in the guise of a brief drake Eider at Ingbirchworth, while four Common Scoters at Blackmoorfoot added to the maritime theme. Of our summer migrants, only Little Ringed Plover and Wheatear arrived before the month was out.

April began with another Black-necked Grebe; this time it was as a bird in splendid breeding garb at Ingbirchworth. Two days later a Black Redstart was at Brow Grains, followed by an Osprey over Deer Hill, its choice of prey hardly enamouring it to fancy fish lovers! As our summer visitors began to arrive in force, an early Hobby was seen over Shelley and another Red Kite was recorded, but arguably the most popular birds of the month were Ring Ouzels - several small parties of what were probably Scandinavian bound birds made April 07 one of the best months on record for this charismatic upland thrush. A White Stork was picked up high over Emley and Bretton, but the probability of it being a tagged bird 'free-flying' removes the shine, somewhat.

As spring migration began to peak, early May produced a Little Gull at Horbury and an Arctic Tern at Blackmoorfoot. Next came a trio of excellent waders: most welcome, by the twitchers at least, were three Dotterel at Whitley Common; a Wood Sandpiper and Turnstone at Dewsbury completed the hat-trick, whilst Sanderling and Greenshank brought something of a 'wader-fest' to the club area. An excellent total of 6 Grasshopper Warblers 'reeled' on the western moorlands. Turtle Dove and Corn Bunting put in their first appearances, albeit briefly, for a few years, giving hopes of a return to the days of yore.

Early June brought one of the reports of the year - the club area's second ever Red-backed Shrike, and a male booby, had been photographed in a garden in Holme village. Further Hobbies were seen at Carlecotes and Shelley again, a Black Redstart was at Marsden and a nice party of 20 Crossbills were at Bretton late month.

During the breeding season there were encouraging signs for some species, but precious few for others, although some truly awful summer weather must have brought with it great difficulties, especially for species nesting in the more exposed areas. For our rarer day and night hunters, only Peregrine was confirmed to have bred. Although there was no breeding reported for Common Buzzard, the increase in records does give cause for optimism, likewise Barn Owl, with a notable increase in sightings.

Perhaps Lapwing aside, it was a disappointing showing for our wading birds, with predators and probably the weather getting the upper hand. Golden Plover may be just hanging on, but Dunlin and Redshank now appear to be only passage visitors. Of our summer visitors, again there were indications that Wood Warbler may be making a something of a comeback, but Pied Flycatcher just retains its toe-hold in the area. There was a paucity of Yellow Wagtail records this year, and there seemed to be little change in the situation for Redstart, Ring Ouzel, Tree Pipit, Whinchat and Spotted Flycatcher. Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat appear to be doing better, however. Two resident red listed species Willow Tit and Tree Sparrow are reportedly holding their own, indicated by the number of locations recording birds.

In July the anticipated Common Scoter passage became quite a procession at the favoured Blackmoorfoot site, with up to 30 birds logged. A fine Mediterranean Gull also briefly put in an appearance here, and the 'Little Bunting field' at Shepley attracted a calling Quail.

In early Aug another Quail called at Ingbirchworth, a Marsh Harrier passed through Blackmoorfoot, an unseasonal Scaup was a good find at Ringstone Edge and a good number of juvenile Twite were present at Deer Hill. Later, up to six Green Sandpipers could be seen at Dewsbury Sewage Works, while Blackmoorfoot hosted 27 passing Shelducks and a Black-tailed Godwit.

For those willing and able to put the time in, September served up local birding par excellence. Pick of the bunch was the club area's first Pectoral Sandpiper which obliged at Dewsbury Sewage Farm for several days. Close behind was a superb, but this time brief, Great Northern Diver at Ringstone Edge. A fine supporting cast of birds included Little Egret at Blackmoorfoot, Little Gulls at Dewsbury and a Black Redstart at Harden. The first Pink-footed Geese of the autumn passed over earlier than usual, and Redwings began to over fly the area late month, when strong northerlies no doubt helped deliver an Artic Tern to Scout Dike and a Sandwich Tern to Dewsbury.

As the days shortened with the onset of autumn proper, October began with a Firecrest at Ryburn Res. As the month progressed numerous skeins of Pink-footed Geese passed over, ever a splendid sight, and a large influx of Fieldfares took place mid-month. A good movement of Whooper Swans through Blackmoorfoot, yet another Black Redstart, up to 5 Water Pipits, a late Garganey at Dewsbury and Rock Pipits through Deer Hill and Dewsbury ensured the rich vein of form continued.

November opened with welcome large flocks of Siskins in the Yateholme and Riding Wood areas. Wildfowl were on the move early month, with Whooper Swans at several localities, a Common Scoter at Royd Moor and a Scaup at Scammonden the highlights. The major find of the month was Blackmoorfoot's first ever Little Auk - but only those local birders quick off the mark were to enjoy this wind-blown waif. News of a very late Wheatear at Ingbirchworth did raise a few pulses, before hopes of it being something much rarer were quickly dashed! Five Water Pipits, and up to 5 Green Sandpipers continued to grace the mud of Dewsbury Sewage Works,

whilst a passing Glaucous Gull was identified during a passage of Herring Gulls at Scammonden - a fine bit of opportunistic birding.

The first half of December was typically quiet until mid-month, when a notable passage of Pink-footed Geese took place. There was a sole Water Pipit sighting at Dewsbury and up to 30 Yellowhammers foraged at High Hoyland, but the surprises hadn't finished as the area's 2<sup>nd</sup> ever Green-winged Teal was photographed at the unlikely locality of Bretton Lakes. Further wildfowl interest was created by up to 18 Goosanders at Elland Gravel Pits and, even more so, by the five European White-fronted Geese found in fields near Penistone as the Christmas dinner was being prepared. Keen local birders had just enough time to escape the family festivities to take a 'gander' at these fine birds. A party of 15 Redshanks passing over Lindley Moor brought a very eventful year to a close.

Russ Boland

## THE WEATHER IN 2007

2007 will go down as the year when records were broken. January was the warmest since 1916, as well as being very windy and including a wind speed of 91mph an all-time record high, April the driest since 1990 and the warmest for 300 years, June the wettest since records began and December had the second warmest day on record.

After the warmest January for almost 100 years and sunshine levels well above average, February continued to be mild but also wet, in fact the wettest since 1990. March was also mild with above average sunshine levels and only about half the normal rainfall and the weather in April made it feel like summer. It was the warmest and sunniest on record with very little rainfall. Things then began to change however and May disappointed with unsettled weather and in some parts of the country was the wettest ever with some very cold days near the month end.

"Summer" never came. June was the dullest month on record despite temperatures being about average, rainfall was three times the monthly average (four times at Emley Moor) and July was not much different. August continued in the same vein, with average sunshine hours but above average rainfall and the coldest temperatures since 1993.

Things improved in autumn. September had only half its expected annual rainfall and above average hours of sunshine and this situation continued throughout October and November. Despite more unsettled weather and some heavy rain and frosty nights and fog, December brought the year to a close relatively mildly.



## NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

The area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE 12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits. See also the map on page 131.

In 2005, 2006 and 2007 there were major changes to the taxonomic order, which now follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

Anseriformes (swans, geese and ducks) and Galliformes (grouse, partridges, pheasants and rails) were moved to the beginning of the Systematic List.

Changes have also been made to some scientific names and to the species order of shanks (genera *Xenus*, *Actitis* and *Tringa*), gulls, warblers and tits.

The following were split from the *Larus* genus of gulls – Little Gull becomes *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* and Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. Little Tern becomes *Sternula albifrons*.

Great Skua becomes *Stercorarius skua* and Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*.

The *Sylvia* warbler sequence was re-arranged and became Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* and Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

The Tits (genus *Parus*) were split into smaller genera and their order re-arranged. New scientific names were applied to the following: Blue Tit becomes *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Coal Tit *Periparus ater*, Willow Tit *Poecile montana* and Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*. Rose-coloured Starling became *Pastor roseus*.

Other minor changes in order were made to conform to the latest BOU advice.

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

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

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

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

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

Species that are 'red listed' in the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) 2009 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
N	-North
S	-South
E	-East
W	-West
CP	-Country Park
GP	-Gravel Pit
NR	-Nature Reserve
SF	-Sewage Farm
SP	-Sludge Plant
Res.	-Reservoir

On page 118 is a complete list 'The Huddersfield List' of the 267 species, plus eleven additional distinct races, of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2008.

Please note that The Huddersfield List now incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

## THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2007

### MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

Reported from 11 sites this year, with successful breeding once again at Bretton, and a nest built in the Horbury area.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - two juveniles on 14th December remained until 20th.

**Bretton Lakes** - a pair present from 8th January, nested and produced three cygnets; all remained to the year end. Four young birds were reported on 11th July. Another pair was present on 20th March, and an extra adult on 6th and 18th October; an adult on the Lower Lake on 12th October.

**Colnebridge SP** - an adult flew over on 13th May, and an immature did likewise on 22nd September.

**Cooper Bridge** - a pair with a nest, plus another adult on 14th April. An adult over on 13th May and an immature on 22nd September

**Dewsbury SF** - one on the River Calder on 20th, 25th, 27th and 29th October.

**Elland GP** - two on 8th and 18th January and 22nd March, with singles on 13th May, 11th July and 13th to 20th November.

**Horbury area** - a pair on a farm pond on 29th January, and a nest there on 14th March (when a pair and an immature were on the River Calder); the pair were again present on 25th April and 5th July, after which an adult was seen regularly until at least 25th September. One was there on 16th October, with two on 6th December.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** - one on 16th and 20th May.

**Sands Lane GP** - an adult on 4th December.

**Shelley Woodhouse** - an adult pair on a private mill pond all year.

### WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Birds were recorded in January, March, October, November and December, the majority of records being in the second winter period, although the largest herd was in March.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - in October two adults arrived from the E at 09.00hrs. on 18th and remained all day (MLD, CH, MS), two adults (presumably those from 18th) flew S then E at 08.15hrs. on 19th (MLD, CH), a single adult was present on 27th (MLD, CH), four adults were present on 30th (CH) and nine (not aged) flew W then N at 09.25hrs. on 31st (CS). On 6th November six (2 adults + 4 juveniles) arrived from the E at 08.20hrs. and departed W at 08.50hrs. (MLD, CH).

**Deer Hill Res.** - two adults and four juveniles on 6th November - presumably the same as at Blackmoorfoot. (DHP).

**Fixby** - on 3rd March two flew E at 16.45hrs; and a small herd going W at 22.45hrs during a lunar eclipse (DT).

**Ringstone Edge** - two on 18th October (HBC), two on 4th (see below) (HBC) and a single on 9th November (JB).

**Scout Dike Res.** - 10 adults on 12th March (SRG, RJB). Swans, probably this species, were reported by anglers on 24th January and 19th December (per RJB).

On 4th November, two adults were seen heading N over the **A635 Greenfield Road**, between The Ford and The Huntsman at 11.18hrs. They were then observed over **Thick Hollins**, heading

towards **Deer Hill** and **Blackmoorfoot** (DHP). The same birds arrived at **Ringstone Edge Res** at 11.32hrs (JB), where there was also one on 9th November (HBC).

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

With approximately 2600 birds recorded, passage in the early part of the year was fairly average. Skeins were recorded passing on 14 dates scattered through January and February, with 1st February seeing a movement of 994 birds over five sites, and the 3rd, with 440 birds over four sites plus two skeins heard during the small hours at another. As is normal, the vast majority of birds moved W or NW. Passage continued into early March and between one and five remained near Scout Dike until the 1st of April.

As might be expected, the majority of records come from well-watched sites, or the vicinity of observers' homes, but this species migrates on a broad front, and records are well scattered. The night-time records represent an under-recorded aspect of this migration; moonlit nights may be the most likely time for this phenomenon.

**6th January** - 30 W at 14.00hrs at Blackmoorfoot Res.

**13th January** - 10 W at Colnebridge SP.

**14th January** - 65 W at 14.50hrs. at Blackmoorfoot Res and 90 W at Hartcliffe Hill at 14.20hrs.

**15th January** - one from the E at 12.50hrs. landed in the large field to the W. of Blackmoorfoot Res.

**19th January** - 150 NW over Bradley GC at 12.30hrs and a skein flew NW at Bretton Park.

**20th January** - 19 W at Cooper Bridge, and c. 60 NW over Deanhouse in three skeins.

**30th January** - nine W at 15.20hrs. and 27 W at 15.55hrs. at Blackmoorfoot Res.

**31st January** - 55 E at 09.20hrs. at Blackmoorfoot Res., 150 NW over Meltham and a skein heard there at 23.00 hrs.

**1st February** - 32 W at 08.45hrs. + 150 W at 09.30hrs. + 85 W at 15.25hrs. all at Blackmoorfoot Res. At Oldfield, c. 250 flew W at 09.15hrs., an uncounted skein went W at 11.50hrs. and c. 230 W at 12.00hrs. 50 W at Bradley Park GC at 08.00hrs., 47 NW over Bradley at 09.45hrs., and 150 NW at Ainley Top at 12.30hrs.

**3rd February** - skeins were heard over Netherthong at 01.30hrs. and 04.30hrs., 50 NW at Fixby at 12.40hrs., c.70 NW at Meal Hill, c.170 W over Hartcliffe Hill at 11.30hrs. and c.150 NW over Wilshaw at 13.30hrs.

**4th February** - 12 W at 08.50hrs. at Blackmoorfoot Res.

**17th February** - 85 NW at Deer Hill at 10.00hrs.

**22nd February** - 20 N at 12.30hrs. over Rishworth Moor.

**25th February** - four NW at rooftop height over Skelmanthorpe at 07.50hrs.

**4th March** - 80 NW over Bradley Hall Farm at 08.45hrs. and 250 NE there at 09.40hrs.

**7th March** - 61 W at 14.50hrs. at Blackmoorfoot Res.

Grounded birds were at **Scout Dike Res.**, where up to five were present in nearby fields between 2nd January and 1st April. **Ringstone Edge Res.** had 13 on 7th January, with singles on 2nd February and 3rd March. At **Ingbirchworth**, four were with Canada Geese on 7th January, with six there on 8th, while at **Blackmoorfoot** during the late afternoon on 30th January, 108 were in the large field to the west of the reservoir, with two there between 4th and 15th February. **Boothwood Res.** held a single on 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February and 17 were in fields at **Meltham** on 5th February.

Movement in the last three months of the year, which involved about 4495 birds, was perhaps above average. Although the first birds were very early, it was not until mid-October that the larger skeins were seen. During September, October and November, about 75% of birds moved in an easterly direction as would be expected. All the birds moved W or WNW during December. The only day of marked passage was 12<sup>th</sup> December, when 914 birds moved W or NW at six sites.

**11th September** - a skein heard going E at 09.50hrs. over Shelley. The earliest ever in the Club area.

**12th September** - 15 S at Shelley at 07.40hrs.

**16th September** - 56 W over Colnebridge SP.

**22nd September** - 65 E at 07.55hrs. over Shelley and 70 E at Shepley at 08.00hrs.

**14th October** - 50 W at Scout Dike at 11.05hrs., with a further 150 E at 12.50hrs., 400 NE over Marsden at 12.00hrs and 50+ 'over' Meltham.

**15th October** - 300 E at Bradley Park G.C. at 09.00hrs., 200 ESE over Crosland Hill at 09.35hrs., 45 E at Hartcliffe Hill at 09.30hrs. and 30 E there at 09.50hrs.

**16th October** - 65 ENE at Scout Dike, with another 31 E at 11.07hrs.

**17th October** - 250 SE at Bradley Park GC at 09.15hrs and 150 S at Shelley at 09.45hrs.

**20th October** - Large skein heard going NE at 10.57 over Marsden and c. 200 NW over New Mill

**23rd October** - 130 W over Wholestone Moor at 10.25hrs.

**24th October** - at Blackmoorfoot Res., one from the W U-turned and departed W at 14.50hrs.

**27th October** - 43 SE at Green Moor.

**31st October** - 50 E over Whitley Park at 09.25hrs.

**1st November** - 45 E over Oldfield at 10.30hrs.

**3rd November** - 50 NW at 16.05hrs. at Blackmoorfoot Res. and 65 dropped into fields at Scout Dike at 12.30hrs., departing W at 15.30hrs.

**12th November** - 65 E over Oldfield at 07.00hrs.

**22nd November** - 250 'over' Elland GP.

**7th December** - 30+ W over Slaithwaite at 08.45hrs.

**12th December** - 200 W over Shelley at 10.40hrs., 80+ W at Crosland Moor at 10.45hrs., 60 W at Deer Hill at 14.35hrs., c. 90 at Broadstones, c. 200 W at Dalton and 84 NW at Baitings Res..

**13th December** - c. 120 WNW over Oldfield at 10.10hrs. and 100 W at South Crosland at 10.15hrs.

**14th December** - 80 W over Scout Dike at 14.30hrs.

**15th December** - 200 W at Skelmanthorpe at 11.00hrs.

**30th December** - 100 W at Shepley at 10.00hrs., and 100 W over South Crosland at 10.20hrs.

**31st December** - 50 W at 15.00hrs. at Blackmoorfoot Res.

Single birds were present on **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 28th October and 23rd December; 10 which arrived from the E at 15.10hrs. on 7th November, landed in the fields to the W. At **Ringstone Edge Res.**, two stayed from 16th -26th December. Two were with White-fronted Geese north of Mossley Road, **Penistone** on 24th December.

(GREATER) **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons*

Rare visitor.

**Eurasian White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons albifrons*

Five birds (3 adults and 2 juveniles) were found on 23rd December at Castle Dam, **Penistone**

(B. Penistone). They were relocated nearby, in fields north of Mossley Road, south of Penistone, the following day, accompanied by two Pink-footed Geese (DHP *et. al.*).

#### **GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*

Uncommon, decreased to rare/scarcely passage visitor, increasing feral visitor.

Reported from seven sites this year, mainly in the first half of the year.

**Baitings Res.** - one on 24th March.

**Battysford** - one on 12th May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - singles were present on 8th January and 2nd March. Three arrived from the S at 08.50hrs. on 11th April **Bradley Hall Farm** - one on the River Calder on 21st January.

**Bretton Lakes** - a feral bird apparently paired with an Emperor x ? hybrid on 9th April.

and a single arrived from the S at 08.45hrs. on 26th September.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** - two on 29th May, one on 4th and 6th September, and another on 4th and 18th November.

**Royd Moor Res.** - three on 27th January, six on 24th March, with two on 7th and three on 9th October

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

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

Although this bird must turn up on just about every stretch of open water in the area, records came from only 12 sites

Breeding was only recorded from **Langsett Res.** (6 young), River Calder at **Dewsbury SF** (5 young), **Ramsden Res.** (6 young), **Wessenden Res.** (5 young) and **Digley Res.** (n/c).

Monthly maxima at regularly counted sites were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	62	72	4	4	0	3	42	57	74	37	104	62
Bretton Lakes	c.20	26	60+	c.70	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	43	c.60
Royd Moor/ Scout Dike	500	400	n/c	60	n/c	n/c	250		200+	n/c	n/c	n/c
Broadstones Res.	90	57	60	n/c	n/c	n/c	29	n/c	n/c	56	177	200-250
Scammonden	90	57	60	n/c	n/c	n/c	29	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c

Maximum counts of 30 or more from other sites were as follows:-

**Boothwood Res.** - 100 on 17th July.

**Digley Res.** - 35+ on 3rd September.

**Elland GP** - 57 on 5th February.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - 283 on 7th November, with 200-300 on 13th December.

**Langsett Res.** - 30 on 1st August.

**March Haigh Res.** - 31 adults on 19th June.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** - 120 on 8th September and c.80 on 14th October.

**Sparth Res.** - 67 on 15th February, 58 on 1st March.  
**Wessenden Valley** - 55 on 28th June.

At **Blackmoorfoot**, a basically white bird that was considered to be a Canada x Greylag hybrid was present with all flocks between 1st January and 11th February. It was also seen at **Wessenden Res.** on 7th April.

**BARNACLE GOOSE** *Branta leucopsis*

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

Very few records this year, from just four sites.

**Langsett Res.** - one on 1st January.

**Boothwood Res.** - one on 3rd and 4th February.

**Bretton Lakes** - one throughout the year.

**Royd Moor Res.** - one on 27th January, two on 4th and two on 15th September.

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

Uncommon passage visitor.



Birds occurred in every month except May and June, records coming from nine localities. Blackmoorfoot had its usual lion's share of sightings, including this year's largest flock with 17 on 30th August.

**Baitings Res.** - four on 2nd September.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - two on 14th and a single on 24th January, two on 2nd, and a single which

departed W at 08.45hrs. on 17th February, five on 13th March and three on 9th April were the only first winter period records. On 30th August 17 (of which at least 10 were juveniles) departed W at 09.45hrs. and 10 (at least three juveniles) arrived at 10.30hrs. The only other records concerned four NW at 08.30hrs. on 28th September and singles on 3rd October, 8th November and 19th December.

**Boshaw Whams** - four on 30th January.

**Bretton Lakes** - two on 26th April.

**Colnebridge SP** - three NE on 30th August.

**Deer Hill Res.** - two on 2nd February, presumed same as at Blackmoorfoot.

**Dewsbury SF** - four on 28th July and one on 29th September.

**Horbury** - two on 14th February and 1st of March.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** - two on 17th, four on 24th and two again on 25th February. One was present on 30th August, three on 6th, two on 8th and four on 28th September.

### **MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor.

Records came from five sites this year.

**Bretton Lakes** - a male on 21st April.

**Dewsbury SF** - two males and a female on the River Calder on 26th March (DT), three on 3rd, four (one male) on 4th, two females on 5th and four on 29th September, with a single female on 27th October (JH).

**Scout Dike Res.** - one on 6th and 8th January (RJB, WDH).

**Marsden** - A confiding male, which was reported approaching drinkers outside the Riverhead pub in the village centre on 22nd April, was also seen on the canal near Sparth on 5th May and was probably from a collection at Booth, West Slaithwaite (JMP).

**Ryburn Res.** - a male on 6th and 14th, with two on 28th January, and a male again on 7th and 8th May.

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

Fewer birds were seen at five fewer sites than in 2006. In the first winter period, only a handful of birds were found, but from mid October to the year end there were significant numbers, especially at Blackmoorfoot and in the Broadstones/Ingbirchworth area.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - the only records during the first winter period concerned eight on 16th, a single on 20th, two on 30th January and a single on 1st February. The first birds of autumn were not seen until 13th September (4), with three the following day, four on 20th and a single on 29th. In October up to five were counted on nine dates between 3rd and 24th, but 19 were present on 20th and an impressive 44 on 23rd. November had up to three on nine dates between 4th and 25th, but 17 were seen on 7th. In December birds were only noted on six dates between 12th and 22nd, the maximum being seven on 26th.

**Broadstones Res.** - one on 30th September, 35 on 15th, 30+ on 19th, 58 on 22nd October, 11 on 7th, 13 on 17th, 22nd November, 39 on 14th, with 48 (27 males) on 16th December. These birds commuted between here and **Meal Hill** (HQ).

**Horbury Wyke** - one on 20th September, seven on 6th and c.30 on 10th December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - six on 1st March, three on 20th September, three on 10th and two on 29th



October, nine (four males) on 7th, and nine (two males) on 14th, down to one on 17th November.  
**Ringstone Edge Res.** - two on 24th February, nine on 5th April, three on 3rd, a male on 7th and 10th and two birds on 23rd October, two on 13th November and finally two on 31st December.  
**Royd Moor Res.** - three on 15th, two on 19th and seven on 22nd October, 43 on 26 December.  
**Wessenden Res.** - the reservoir was partially drained during October, creating shallows at the southern end which attracted a small flock between at least 17th and 21st, with a maximum of 11 on 18th.  
**Windy Bank Res.** - five from the latter end of the year and into 2008.

Reports from other sites were: **Deer Hill Res.** - four on 28th September, **Baitings Res.** - four on 10th October, **Scammonden Res.** - three on 14th October, **Scout Dike Res.** - two on 21st October, **Elland GP** - four on 8th and one on 18th January, **Boshaw Whams** - a female on 6th February and a male on 10th December.

#### **GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

With twelve records scattered through the year coming from four localities, this was a slightly above average year for this scarce species.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - a male on 21st January (CH), a male and female on 4th April (CH), an eclipse male between 23rd and 26th June (MLD, CH), a male and female on 16th July (CH) and a female-type on 21st October (MLD, CH).

**Elland GP** - a female on 1st and 6th January (HBC).

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - two on 26th March (DT), a male on 7th June (DBut), a male and female on 14th October (AK) and a female on 20th December (DBut).

**Scout Dike Res.** - a female from 7th to 14th January (RJB).

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

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

As in 2006, records came from a total of 13 localities, with Dewsbury SF and Horbury again being the most favoured. Both sites had good numbers during October in particular, with up to 100 each in the third week of the month.

The only suspicion of breeding came once again from a former nesting site at Cupwith Res.

Maxima from the regular sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	4	4	0	33	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5
Bretton Lakes	45	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	25+
Dewsbury SR	5	0	5	2	2	0	0	0	7	c.100	42	21
Elland GP	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
Horbury	15	37	35	0	0	0	0	4	70	100	3	50
Ringstone Edge Res.	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	3	4	4	7	9

Reports from other sites were:

**Broadstones** - four on 4th April, male and female on 27th October and one on 17th and 22nd November.

**Cupwith Res.** - a male and a female on 24th April.

**Deer Hill** - two on 28th September.

**Gunthorpe Dam** - three on 21st October;

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - seven on 27th September, four on 7th and a single on 17th and 22nd November.

**Langsett Res.** - a male and a female on 30th March.

**Meal Hill** - a female on 3rd January

**Wessenden Res** - a small flock with Wigeon between at least 17th and 21<sup>st</sup> October, with a maximum of 15 on 21st October.

#### **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** *Anas carolinensis*

Rare visitor.

The second Huddersfield record for this species.

**Bretton Lakes** - a male photographed on the Upper Lake on 16th December (W. Forrest's blog)

#### **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Once again, breeding records received must under-represent the true situation. Records of broods seen came from 13 localities, but success or failure was only noted at two sites.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - of 122 ducklings hatched out, only 19 reached the flying stage. Five (from a brood of 7) were runts, hatching on 7th August but not flying until the end of October. Elsewhere, broods were noted at **Boshaw Whams** (2 broods); **Broadstones** (1 brood); **Colnebridge SP** (3 broods); **Dewsbury S.F.** (8 broods, totalling 76 young, most of which survived); **Horbury** (1 brood of 7); **Ingbirchworth Res.** (at least 2 broods); **Langsett Res.** (1 brood of 4); **Winscar Res.** (1 brood of 9). Unquantified breeding occurred at **Bretton Lakes**, **Digley Res.**, **Flight Hill** and **Scout Dike Res.** In addition, pairs were reported in the breeding season at **Isle of Skye Quarries**, **Marsden area** and **Stockmoor Common**.

Maximum numbers at the most regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	20	36	14	11	14	17	47	72	47	47	47	53
Bretton Lakes	96	24	39+	c.30	n/c	n/c	n/c	80+	n/c	n/c	60	135+
Elland GP	12	n/c	n/c	n/c	20	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	36	n/c
Ingbirchworth Res.	22	n/c	20	n/c	20	16	n/c	60+	65	40	22	44
Ringstone Edge	n/c	2	2	7	6	5	5	4	34	8	4	7

Counts of 20 or more came from **Birkby** - 36 on 30th September; **Bradley Hall Farm** = 30 in January; **Broadstones Res.** - 108 on 10th November; **Cupwith Res.** - 170 on 9th August and 66 on 17th November; **Dewsbury SF** - 77 on 28th July; **Elland GP** - 30 on 8th January; **Hagg**

**Wood** - 20+ on 13th February; **Horbury area** - 20 on 30th July; **Langsett Res.** - 20 on 18th September; **Longroyd Res.** - 20+ on 20th August; **Marsden village centre** - 38 on 15th November; **Royd Moor Res.** - 160 on 4th September, 47 on 14th October and 61 on 26th December.

Smaller numbers were noted at **Boshaw Whams**, **Digley Res.**, **Isle of Skye Quarries**; **Meal Hill**, **Windy Bank Res.**, **Shelley** and **Stockmoor Common**.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

With eight records coming from just five localities, this was another poor year for Pintail.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - the only records concerned a female on 11th January, three on 31st August, two on 19th and a single on 25th September.

**Broadstones Res.** - a male from 30th September to 22nd October.

**Dewsbury SF** - a female flew W up the River Calder on 25th July.

**Horbury Strands** - an eclipse male on 14th and 15th August.

**Ringstone Edge** - two on 29th August

**GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula*

Rare passage visitor.

A female at **Dewsbury SF** on 23rd October (JH) was the second latest ever record of this near-annual visitor.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.



18 records from six sites made this an average year. The series of records from **Horbury** during January to March is, however, of particular interest.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - a male on 27th March was the only record in the first winter period. One was seen on 26th August, three female-types on 28th September and three (a male and 2 female-types) on 30th, three on 22nd October, male and female on 14th November and a male on 22nd December.

**Bretton Park** - a male on 23rd June and another on 24th October.

**Dewsbury SF** - one E along the River Calder on 26th March and four on 15th August.

**Horbury** - 'five or six' on 29th January, at least seven on 14th and six on the 18th February, with 10 on 1st and six on 7th March.

**Ringstone Edge** - three males on 14th December.

**Scout Dike Res.** - a male on 22nd April.

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

Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

This species continues its decline in our area. There were records from just seven sites, the majority being in January, October and December. The largest gathering was at Blackmoorfoot, where there were 20 on 14th October.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - the only early records concerned singles on 2nd February and 15th March. There were no further records until five (1 male) on 28th July. October was better, producing 20 (17 males) on 14th, four males on 20th, a male on 23rd, 10 (7 males) on 25th and a male on 26th. The only other occurrences involved three on 28th November and 14 (6 males) on 23rd December.

**Boshaw Whams** - a male and female on 25th January, a male on many dates in February, seven (one male) on 21st November and a male and female on 1st December.

**Bretton Lakes** - seven on 3rd, three+ on 8th, six+ on 10th and three on 19th January, 10+ on 3rd March, and a male on 18th October. In addition, the species was noted as present on 6th October, and a male 'present in the second winter period only.

**Colnebridge SP** - a male on 8th January.

**Elland GP.** - two from 1st - 11th, three on 13th and a single on 25th, 27th and 28th January, two on 10th and one on 15th February. In the second winter period, two were present from 22nd November to 3rd December, and a single from 7th - 30th December.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - four on 8th February, three on 27th September and two on 26th December.

**Scout Dike Res.** - four on 22nd February and one on 7th October.

**Ringstone Edge** - one on 24th January.

**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*

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

Recorded at 19 sites, Tufted Duck is a relatively scarce bird in the Huddersfield area these days, even the regular wintering sites held a maximum flock of only 29 birds at **Elland GP** in January and February.

Although pairs were seen at several localities during the late spring/summer period, there was no suspicion of even attempted breeding.

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	1	11	5	4	2	12	7	10	3	3	5	8
Bretton Lakes	20	17	20+	14	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	20	15
Elland GP	29	29	3	2	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	28	26
Ingbirchworth	10	5	10	8	n/c	6	10	10	6	2	13	8
Scout Dike	c.10	24	8	13	n/c	n/c	n/c	14	n/c	23	n/c	n/c

Reports from other waters were:

**Bilberry Res.** - two pairs on 1st May and a pair on 8th June.

**Boshaw Whams** - eight on 15th December.

**Broadstones Res.** - a pair 27th April.

**Carlecotes Ponds** - three pairs on 7th March, two pairs on 9th May, two males and a female on 21st May, five (four males) on 19th July.

**Clough Lea (Marsden)** - a pair on 9th September.

**Cupwith Res.** - six on 23rd July.

**Digley Res.** - two pairs on 6th May and two on 3rd September.

**Horbury** - one on 1st March and five on 5th July.

**Langsett Res.** - 12 on 1st August and five on 18th September.

**Meal Hill** - eight (six males) on 1st January, eight (five males) on 3rd and 16 (nine males) on 10th March with a female on 9th December.

**Royd Moor Res.** - 10 (seven males) on 20th February and five on 14th October.

**Scammonden Res.** - two on 11th July.

**Wessenden Res.** - a male on 11th July.

**Windy Bank Res.** - a male on 19th January, three (two males) on 22nd and two females on 27th February, two males on 2nd and a pair on 17th March, three (one male) on 12th November.

### **Aythya hybrids**

One showing Scaup-like characters briefly at **Scout Dike Res.** may possibly have been a Tufted Duck x Pochard hybrid (RJB).

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

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Once again, there were just two records of this scarce sea-duck.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** - a female-type on 2nd, 3rd and 6th August (DT).

**Scammonden Res.** - a female-type on 4th November (JB, JED, DHP).

### **EIDER** *Somateria mollissima*

Rare visitor.

Remarkably, this species appeared for the second year in succession, with a male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26th April (G. Carr, DHP). This was the fifth record of this highly maritime duck.

**COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

There were 12 records this year, involving 54 - 56 birds at only three sites. All but three records came from Blackmoorfoot.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - four males on 29th March (MLD) were unusual. In July 17 males were present on 4th (CH), a single male the following day (MLD, CH), 11 (8 males) on 11th (MLD, CH) and a female on 22nd (MLD, CH). August produced five males on 6th (MLD, CH) and 10 first-winter males flew SW at 17.50hrs. on 23rd (CH). The only other record concerned four females on 28th November (MLD, CH).

**Ringstone Edge Res.** - one on 6th (DT) and a male on the 8th August (JED). The same bird?

**Royd Moor Res.** - a first winter male on 4th November (RJB).

**Ryburn Res.** - one on 25th April (HBC).

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

Uncommon winter visitor.

An average year for this species, with typically rather mobile birds in small and very variable numbers scattered across 19 waters. The largest flock, of 12 (six males) was at Blackmoorfoot on 4th November. Birds were present from the beginning of the year until the last on 11th May, and from 29th September to the year end.

The general reduction in wintering numbers over the past decade or so may be related to the series of mild winters, enabling birds to remain further north and east.

Maxima at the more regular sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	2	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	7	12	2
Elland GP	7	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Ingbirchworth Res.	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
Ringstone Edge Res.	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0

Other sites recorded birds as follows:-

**Boshaw Whams** - a male on 13th January and then from 30th January to 6th February, a pair displaying on 6th and 7th March, and a female on 15th December.

**Bretton Lakes.** - a redhead on 11th December.

**Broadstones Res.** - two on 20th March and two early birds on 29th September.

**Carlecotes Ponds** - a female on 21st November.

**Cupwith Res.** - two on 26th and a male on 30th November.

**Deanhead Res.** - two on 13th November, **Deer Hill Res.** - a male on 14th February.

**Dewsbury SF** - five (three males) on River Calder on 23rd January.

**Digley Res.** - a female on 30th December.

**Langsett Res.** - three (one male) on 30th March.

**Ramsden Res.** - a male and female on 5th, a male and two females on 20th February, and a male on 15th March.

**Riding Wood Res.** - a male on 15th, a female on 21st and a male and female on 29th March.

**Royd Moor Res.** - two females on 4th November.

**Winscar Res.** - one on 9th November.

**Scout Dike Res.** - a female on 6th, 7th, 14th and 20th January, a female on 21st October, an immature male from 15th to 30th December was joined by two females on the last date.

### **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

A typical year, with just three records concerning four birds from the usual very well-watched site.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a male was present on 18th May (MLD, CH, MS), an eclipse male on 2nd October (MLD, CH, DHP) and two redheads on 11th October (DMO, DHP).

### **GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor.

The increase in this handsome species appears to have peaked, but with records coming from 23 sites, this duck is now slightly more widely reported than Goldeneye. It is also more abundant, but the species' habit of spreading out over a wide area to feed, visiting quite small areas of water where they may only stay briefly, makes it virtually impossible to estimate the true numbers. The largest winter counts were at Bretton, with 30 in January, and at Elland where there were up to 31 in February - there had been up to 60 there during the previous December. The tendency to linger in spring on the rivers continues, although none were recorded in June, July or August.

Maximum numbers from regular sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	8	12	4	3	0	0	0	0	3	8	3	11
Bretton Lakes	30	15	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	7
Dewsbury SF	3	8	0	7	9	0	0	0	8	5	1	1
Elland GP	28	31	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	18
Ringstone Edge Res.	4	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	4

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** totals were down on previous years, but the species was recorded on 132 days; the number of bird/days being 456. Birds were present until 25th April in the first winter period, and from 18th September in the second.

Elsewhere, birds were seen at:-

**Colnebridge SP** - two flew over on 15th February, and were then seen regularly on the river until 21st April; seen again regularly from 10th November to the year end, with five (four males) on 12th December; **Deighton (ICI)** - two (one male) on the River Colne on 15th and 31st, with a male there on 25th January; **Galpharm Stadium** - four redheads on the River Colne on 17th October, and a male and female there on 22nd November; **Horbury** - one on 18th February, one on 1st, four on 7th and two redheads on 21st March, with nine on 6th December; **Ringstone Edge**

**Res.** - four on 2nd and one on 18th February, with one on 28th September; **Sparth Res** - present on 4 dates between 25th January and 1st March. Maximum 11 (6 males) on 25th January, although 15 birds (7 males) were involved, with five (2 males) on 13th December.

Sites less frequently visited by the species were:-

**Aspley** - two (one male) flying over on 19th March; **Baitings Res.** - 'small numbers'; **Bradley Hall Farm** - a male on 21st January; **Butterley Res** - two (1 male) on 5th October; **Cooper Bridge** - four (two males) on 14th January and again on 11th February, and one on 6th May; **Clough Lea** (Marsden) - four (3 males) on 4th March; **Deanhead Res.** - two on 20th and 16 on 27th March; **Leeds Road PF** - a male on the River Colne on 24th January; **March Haigh Res.** - a male on 30th December; **Riding Wood Res.** - one on 13th February and a male flying over on 15th March; **Scammonden Res.** - a male on 3rd April and a male and female on 14th October; **Scout Dike Res.** - a male and female on 27th January; **Tunnel End Res** - a female on 11th March; **Windy Bank Res.** - two (one male) on 19th and 23rd, then three (two males) on 25th January.

#### **RUDDY DUCK** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce visitor. Has bred.

A poorer showing than last year, with three records from two localities.

**Horbury Strands** - a male and female on 26th and 30th January and a female on 7th and 8th August

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - an undated record of a male and female on the SW bank.

#### **RED GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Reported from eight sites only, no doubt breeding took place at most of these, but no evidence was forthcoming. Reports during the breeding season came from **Ringstone Edge**, **Deer Hill**, **Digley/Bilberry** and **Langsett** where there was a maximum count of 10 on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Also reported from **Cupwith**, **Winscar** and **Holme Styes**, where it was said to be numerous on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

There were reports from eight sites and no doubt some of these referred to birds released for shooting, which was certainly the case at **Haigh Wood** where 100+ birds were counted on 30<sup>th</sup> November (DT). Elsewhere birds were reported as follows:

**High Hoyland** - 30+ seen in both winter periods (SRG).

**Broadstones** - two on 14<sup>th</sup> February (HQ).

**Gunthwaite Dam** - a single on 28<sup>th</sup> March (JED).

**Cheesegate Nab** - a single on 14<sup>th</sup> May and three on 25<sup>th</sup> Aug (HQ).

**Dovestones** - present in stubble on 28<sup>th</sup> May (SRG).

**Cat Hill Gunthwaite** - a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> November (DT).



### **GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*

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

Reports came from 33 sites, but again shooting interests obscure the picture. At **Ingbirchworth** a covey consisting of two adults with 18 young were on the road SE of the reservoir on 9<sup>th</sup> September and an adult with five young was seen at **Horbury** on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The only other proof of breeding concerned two juveniles at **Shelley** on 11<sup>th</sup> August, although it undoubtedly occurred at many other sites.

The only other double figure count of the year was also in the **Ingbirchworth** area, where 12 were seen on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and at **Emley Moor** 10 birds were near the mast during the first winter period, the first seen there by the observer for 20 years.

Birds seen elsewhere included the following:

**Ringstone Edge** – nine on 24<sup>th</sup> January, a single on 10<sup>th</sup> June and two on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**Bretton Park** – up to six during the first winter period, but not later.

**Holmroyd** – on two dates in April and a single in May.

**Blackmoorfoot** – two on Edge Moor on 1<sup>st</sup> May and a single on Meltham Cop on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> June.

**Dewsbury SF** – six on both 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Horbury** – up to nine on 12 dates, mainly in the late summer/autumn period.

**Royd Moor** – eight on 27<sup>th</sup> September and six on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Stockmoor** – seven on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Isle of Skye Quarry** – six flushed from the northern rim on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pule Hill** – six on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

### **QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

Two reports this year:

**Shepley** - one calling from the 'Little Bunting' field on 7<sup>th</sup> July (TM).

**Ingbirchworth** - one called briefly at 15.30hrs on 8<sup>th</sup> August (JED).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Reported from only 20 sites this year, including birds visiting gardens.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were present throughout the year with up to four daily in May, June and July. At least two pairs bred; a nest containing 13 eggs was found in the SW corner overflow field in April but the outcome was unknown, a female with half-grown chicks was seen on Edge Moor in early June and a female with an half-grown chick was present on Meltham Cop in early September.

**Haigh Wood** had 100+ on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November. Obviously these birds had been released for the shooting fraternity, likewise the many birds at Yatcholme. At **Annat Royd Lane** 40 were in a single field on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Most other records were of less than 15 birds and included 14 at **Royd Moor** in November, 10 at **Bretton Park** in December and seven at **Ingbirchworth** in December.

Birds visited gardens at **Almondbury**, **Bretton** and **Meal Hill**.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor



An adult was present at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup> September and remained until the next morning, when it was seen to leave (JB, SG, JED). The 17<sup>th</sup> record for the club area.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Reported from 20 sites, the same as 2006, with breeding confirmed from at least three of these and records spanning all months.

**Bradley Hall** - up to three in January and two in December.

**Cooper Bridge** - one on the river on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - the only record during the first half of the year concerned singles on 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February. In sharp contrast the second half of the year was totally different, with one to five being seen on a daily basis between 24<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Boshaw Whams** - two on both 7<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - up to four in March and April, three adults and two juveniles in June, August saw a good count of 16 on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 14 were present on 18<sup>th</sup> October, up to seven throughout November, but down to just singles in December.

**Scout Dike** - one on two dates in both March and April, 10 on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Carlecotes Ponds** - one on 9<sup>th</sup> May then one or two daily to 27<sup>th</sup> August.

**Gunthwaite Dam** - an adult and two juveniles in late July, and two in late November.

**Broadstones Res.** - two juveniles food begging from adult on 16<sup>th</sup> September, two on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Elland GP** - usually one to five throughout the year, but nine on 21<sup>st</sup> November and a maximum of 12 on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Two nests were built in June, one of which was later built on by Moorhens but no further details were forthcoming. An adult and a young were on the canal on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Records from other sites were: **Meal Hill** present throughout most of year; **Marsden** one on **Sparth Res.** in February; **Tunnel End** one on the canal on three dates, trilling in July/August; **Horbury** three on the Strands and Wyke after late July floods; **Meltham Mills Res.** two at the year end; **Scammonden Res.** a single on 26<sup>th</sup> November and **Bretton Park** a maximum of three on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

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



Reported from only 11 waters, but young seen at five of these.

In January **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had three on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, two on 6<sup>th</sup> and one on 25<sup>th</sup>. From 5<sup>th</sup> February until 24<sup>th</sup> October birds were present on a daily basis. Two pairs bred: one raising three young the other a single, all four flew towards the end of August. Thereafter between one and three were seen on a total of 29 days.

The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	3	7	7	9	10	10	7	13	11	3	2

**Bretton Lakes** - three in January, nine in February, six in March, up to eight in August, 15+ on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 19 on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and 11 on 11<sup>th</sup> December. A pair with an unspecified number of young were reported from the Upper Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**Elland GP** - six on both 28<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> February, then just one or two until the end of May, then none until November when one to three were regular to the year end.

**Longwood Res.** - one on 14<sup>th</sup> February, three on 20<sup>th</sup> August (2 adults + 1 young) and one on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Ingbirchworth Res.** - three young on 12<sup>th</sup> August, birds were seen up to year end, with last a single in December.

**Scout Dike Res.** - two pairs each raised a single young, and there was a maximum of 10 on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Records from elsewhere came from **Ringstone Edge Res.** with a single on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> April, one throughout September, and two on 10<sup>th</sup> October, **Boshaw Whams** one on 21<sup>st</sup> May, **Royd Moor** a juvenile on 4<sup>th</sup> September, three on 12<sup>th</sup> September and two on 6<sup>th</sup> November, **Boothwood Res.** one on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October and **Scammonden Res.** a single on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **BLACK-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare visitor

Two reports this year:

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single remained from 2<sup>nd</sup> January until 3<sup>rd</sup> March (MLD, TD, CH *et al*) when it was found dead. A full account can be found on page 102.

An adult in summer plumage was present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (AK).

#### GREAT) **CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Reported from 18 sites, slightly up on last year and again during every month.

**Colnebridge SP** - flyovers were recorded on 25 occasions and in all months with a maximum of four on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**River Calder** - many records throughout year.

**Scout Dike/Royd Moor** - one to three birds regularly.

**Elland GP** - the maximum counts were seven in January, up to three in February/March, one in April, two in September and up to four in December.

**Boshaw Whams** - singles in January and February, and five on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Horbury** - singles in January and February, six on 30<sup>th</sup> July, up to four in August, then singles on several dates to the year end.

**Dewsbury SF** - one or two in March, one in May, up to nine in September, 10 on 13<sup>th</sup> October and up to six in the second half of November.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – one to seven birds were recorded on 26 dates from 19<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> November. Two adults on 19<sup>th</sup> March showed characteristics of the Continental race *P. c. sinensis* (MLD). Although birds over flew the reservoir on several occasions there was no seasonality to these movements, with birds flying in every compass direction at all times of the year.

Reports from other sites of usually three birds or less included: **Bradley Hall Farm** - three in both January and October; **Ryburn Res.** - three in January and four in February; **Baitings Res.** - one on two dates in February; **Ingbirchworth Res.** - two in June and November; **Booth Wood Res.** - two in September, one in November and two in December; **Yateholme** - three on 7<sup>th</sup> October; **Ringstone Edge Res.** - one on 10<sup>th</sup> October and two on 26<sup>th</sup> December; **Cooper Bridge** - one on the canal on 20<sup>th</sup> October and **Scammonden Res.** - singles on 10<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Birds were also seen at Bretton **Lakes** and **Tunnel End** but no numbers or dates were forthcoming.

Flyovers reported from **Shelley** on 8<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

#### **LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** flew N along the west bank at 17.50hrs. on 8<sup>th</sup> September (CH). This was the third record for the site.

#### **GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

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

This species can be encountered almost anywhere in the club area and in all months of the year. Reports came from over thirty sites.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - one to four were seen on most days, although fewer than usual were seen from June onwards due to the very high water level.

**Bretton Lakes** - birds were already back at the heronry by 14<sup>th</sup> January when 18 birds were present. A total of 37 nests were counted (15 on the Upper Lake and 22 on the Lower Lake) on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and though the number of young was not recorded, there was a count of c.60 birds on 4<sup>th</sup> April, presumably of both adults and young.

**Meltham** - at Wood Bottom Farm seven nests were occupied.

**Scammonden** - there were two young in each of seven nests on an unspecified date.

**Rishworth** - three occupied nests.

Away from breeding sites most reports were of five birds or less, the exceptions being **Dewsbury SF** with eight on both 4<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August and **Horbury** which had 18 on the 27<sup>th</sup> July (15 at the Wyke and 3 at the Strands).

Up to four birds were hunting frogs at **Winscar Res.** in early April, and a bird was perched on a house roof on Greenfield Road, **Holmfirth** on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare visitor

One was seen flying WNW over **Emley** at 12.30hrs. on 26<sup>th</sup> April being mobbed by corvids (DBut) and what was presumably the same bird was seen flying NW over **Bretton Park** twelve minutes later (SRG).

The true origins of this species will nearly always be in doubt with birds from Harewood accounting for most if not all reports.

**RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor.

Three reports this year of this magnificent raptor is about average.

One drifted S over **Wood Nook** on 13<sup>th</sup> March (DHP), one flew NE over **Colnebridge** on 31<sup>st</sup> March (DS) and one was seen at **Yateholme** on 11<sup>th</sup> April (HQ, WDH).

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

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
2	7	3	5	3

**MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a cream-crown flew E at 08.15hrs. on 1<sup>st</sup> August (MLD, CH). This was the fifth record for the site.

**HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Only one definite record this year constitutes a poor showing.

A female at **Wholestone Moor** was watched between 09:15 and 10.00hrs. on 21<sup>st</sup> November (DT).

In addition a harrier which flew WNW at **Snailden** on 3<sup>rd</sup> September could not be identified to species (MC).

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

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

A displaying bird was seen at one site before plummeting into coniferous woodland on 1<sup>st</sup> May and a probable male was perched on a dead branch in a clearing at the same site on 27<sup>th</sup> November (DT). At **Woodhead** a bird described by the observer as a rangy individual was over the plantation on 25<sup>th</sup> March (MC); a male was seen at **Dean Head Res.** on 8<sup>th</sup> April (JED); a

first-year was at a former breeding site on 11<sup>th</sup> April (HQ) and an adult was perched on a wall on moorland at **Harden** near the observers house on 14<sup>th</sup> April (MC).

**In view of the virtual disappearance of this species as a breeding bird in the Peak District, all records must now be supported by a full description if they are to be included in the annual report (Records Committee).**

(EURASIAN) **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Records of this species originated from 50 sites, were recorded in every month, and from just about every habitat from moorland to built up areas.

Reports usually consisted of one or two birds, but three were seen displaying at **Yateholme** in late March. Although no breeding records were forthcoming, it undoubtedly did so in at least some of the locations where birds were seen during the breeding season. These included: **Almondbury**; **Bretton**; **Crosland Moor**; **Digley**; **Elland GP**; **Hopton**; **Lockwood Park**; **New Mill**; **Windybank Wood**; **Woodhead** - where two birds were displaying in mid February and **Winscar** - where birds were displaying in early April.

With the exception of June, single birds were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot**. The number of sightings per month was much reduced on previous years, the highest monthly total being six in both August and November.

Birds visiting/hunting in gardens included; **Almondbury** - presumably the same male in all months except May; **Fixby** - where one was seen taking a male Bullfinch in October; **Shelley** - both male and female regularly, prey species included Collared Dove, Greenfinch and Goldfinch.

One was seen to take a Feral Pigeon in **Elland** town centre on 30<sup>th</sup> January and at **Barkisland** a female was seen eating a Woodpigeon on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

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

Resident breeder since 2004 (1), 1-2 pairs. Scarce but increasing visitor.

Another good year for this fine raptor. Reported from 38 sites, including the town centre, and observed in every month.

There were no reports of breeding this year.

**Bance Edge** - singles on 16<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> May (MC).

**Blackmoorfoot** - one drifted SSE at 19.15hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> April (TD), one drifted SW over Meltham Cop at 16.35hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup> May (MLD, MS), one drifted NW over Meltham Cop at 13.05hrs. on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (TD), one circled the east bank and departed E at 08.55hrs. on 26<sup>th</sup> August (DMP, SP) and one drifted E at 15.40hrs. on 29<sup>th</sup> September (MLD).

**Bretton** - reported five times from this area, the first was a bird calling loudly over the Upper Lake on 10<sup>th</sup> January (DHP), two were seen nearby on 26<sup>th</sup> February (SRG), there were singles seen in March and April (MW, SW, TP) and five in the air together, soaring over **Bridge Royd Wood** on 16<sup>th</sup> March (DBut).

**Crosland Hill/South Crosland** - one on 20<sup>th</sup> August (DBy).

**Crosland Moor** - one E on 24<sup>th</sup> March (MLD).

**Colnebridge SP** - one soaring nearby on 26<sup>th</sup> January (DT), one just outside the area on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (DHP) and one S on 16<sup>th</sup> September (DS).

**Scout Dike Res.** - one S on 3<sup>rd</sup> February (RJB).

**Deer Hill** - one on 21<sup>st</sup> April (SG).

**Elland GP** - one over the ski lake on 7<sup>th</sup> April and one drifted NE on 30<sup>th</sup> April (JKP, DT).

**Farnley Tyas** - one flew SW on 5<sup>th</sup> July (DHP).

**Harden** - a second calendar year bird in moult was over Snailsden Moor on 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April (MC).

**Haigh Woods** - two on 30<sup>th</sup> November (DT).

**Hartcliffe Hill** - singles on 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> September (RJB).

**Heydon Bridge** - one on 11<sup>th</sup> February (MC) and a soaring bird on 2<sup>nd</sup> March (DHP).

**High Hoyland** - three over a wooded ridge on 28<sup>th</sup> March (JED) and one soaring very high on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Holme Moss** - singles on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November (M & SW, DM).

**Holme Styes** - one on 1<sup>st</sup> May (DT).

**Holme Styes** - one on 1<sup>st</sup> May (DT).

**Honley** - one on 29<sup>th</sup> April (WDH) and one on 17<sup>th</sup> October (DM).

**Horbury** - one flew S on 14<sup>th</sup> February (DHP).

**Huddersfield Town Centre** - one flying E at 16.15hrs on 27<sup>th</sup> April (MLD).

**Isle of Skye Quarry** - one over then landed on a fence post on 5<sup>th</sup> May (DHP).

**Lane village** - two adults low over sheep pasture on 5<sup>th</sup> October and another on the same date in Digley Valley mobbed by a Kestrel (DMP).

**Linthwaite** - one flew NE on 25<sup>th</sup> August (SP).

**Marsden** - one flew the NE on 21<sup>st</sup> May (JMP).

**Netherthong** - one on 19<sup>th</sup> December (M & SW).

**Shepley** - singles on 6<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> October (TM).

**Snailsden** - one on 19<sup>th</sup> May (a different individual from the Bance Edge bird seen on the same date) (MC).

**Stocks Moor Common** - one soaring and calling on 17<sup>th</sup> March (SRG).

**Thick Hollins Lane** - one near the Ford Inn on 26<sup>th</sup> October (KW).

**Thunderbridge** - one on 15<sup>th</sup> September (TM).

**Thurstonland** - one over on 15<sup>th</sup> February (TM).

**Windybank Wood** - a single on 24<sup>th</sup> August (M & SW).

**Winscar** - one on 17<sup>th</sup> April (MC).

**Woodhead** - a single on 7<sup>th</sup> April and two on 7<sup>th</sup> May (MC).

**Wood Nook** - one over on 13<sup>th</sup> March (DHP).

**Yateholme** - a bird with missing primaries in its right wing on 5<sup>th</sup> February (MLD, DMO), one being mobbed by corvids and a Kestrel on 17<sup>th</sup> February (HQ), one soaring on 20<sup>th</sup> February (MW & SW) and a juvenile was over Riding Wood on 5<sup>th</sup> October (DMP).

### **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.

Another poor year for this fish eating raptor with just two reports again, one in spring and one in the autumn.

**Deer Hill** - a bird seen carrying a large Goldfish on 6<sup>th</sup> April must have been a splendid and unusual sight (KW).

**Waystones Edge** - one flew W on 8<sup>th</sup> September (HBC).



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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Although reports came from over fifty sites this falcon continues to be under recorded with records of breeding very scant, the only details coming from Blackmoorfoot. Breeding also occurred at Barkisland and Winscar but no further details were forthcoming. Elsewhere birds present in the breeding season included: **Birkby**, **Bretton Park**, **Deanhead Res.**, **Deer Hill**, **Digley**, **Elland GP**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Meltham**, and **Yateholme**. At **Colnebridge SP**, the breeding site was reported to have been blocked up.

Records consisted of mainly one or two birds but there was a family party of four at **Stocks Moor Common** on 10<sup>th</sup> July and six birds were counted at **Bretton Park** on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

A bird was chasing a Snipe at **Pole Moor** on 27<sup>th</sup> March and one was mobbing a Common Buzzard at **Digley** on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

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



There were only 20 reports this year of this neat little falcon and the only report of attempted breeding concerned a nest in the north-west of our area, unfortunately the nest was predated at the egg stage. No reports were received for the months of June or July and there were very few reports in the winter months.

In the **Upper Dearne** a female was chasing passerines on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Reports in March concerned singles over **Denby Dale** on 5<sup>th</sup> and at **Snape Res.** one was hunting small birds on 18<sup>th</sup>. In April one was present at Vine Street tip in **Huddersfield** between 09.00 and 11.00hrs. on 9<sup>th</sup>.

singles were seen at **Harden** on 13<sup>th</sup> and **Bance Edge** on 16<sup>th</sup>, and a female was at **Ingbirchworth** on 20<sup>th</sup>.

The only record for May was of a single at **Deer Hill** on 13<sup>th</sup>. No others were reported until August when one was seen over Laund Road, **Salendine Nook** on 7<sup>th</sup>. In September singles were seen at **Digley** and **Blackmoorfoot** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, singles in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** and **Blackmoorfoot** on 9<sup>th</sup> and one over **Shepley** on 15<sup>th</sup>.

In October a probable juvenile was at **Blakeley Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup>, singles were seen at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8<sup>th</sup>, and **Hartcliffe Hill** on 15<sup>th</sup> and a female was seen chasing Meadow Pipits at **Wholestone Moor** on 17<sup>th</sup>. The only record for November was a bird at **Dewsbury SE.** on 1<sup>st</sup> and the last report of the year concerned a single flying SE over **Royd Moor** on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

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

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

There were eight reports, one more than last year, of this sleek raptor but no reports of breeding activity were forthcoming.

The first was one seen hawking insects in the **Shelley/Upper Cumberworth** area on the very early date of 18<sup>th</sup> April (SRG). The bird was first seen at 12.48hrs. and was watched for several minutes, it was seen again about an hour later. What may have been the same bird flew over the observer's house at **Shelley** on 4<sup>th</sup> June, and this may indicate over-summering in the area if not actually breeding.

**Elland GP** - one chasing Swallows on 27<sup>th</sup> April (DT).

**Lower Cumberworth** - one on 30<sup>th</sup> May (TM).

**Carlecotes** - one on 17<sup>th</sup> June (JMD).

**Royd Moor Res.** - a juvenile on 9<sup>th</sup> September (DT).

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - in September an immature was over Orange Wood on 13<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH), an immature was chasing Swallows on 23<sup>rd</sup> (MLD, CH) and a single (not possible to age) was over the fields to the west on 25<sup>th</sup> (MLD).

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

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
4	6	6	8	3	12	9	13	7	8

**PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus*

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

This dynamic falcon was reported from 22 sites. During the breeding season birds were seen at five probable nesting areas, but only one of these was thought to have been successful (3 young). At another site eggs were almost certainly laid on a small moorland cliff, but it had been abandoned by mid May (nest probably robbed). It was at this site that the resident pair was seen to attack a large immature female Peregrine that ventured too close to their nesting site. At another site up to two birds were present on several dates from March to late April, with alarm calls heard on at least one occasion and what was probably one of the same birds was seen frequenting another nearby cliff face on dates in May and June.

Elsewhere, records include:

**Colnebridge SP.** - one NW on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Yateholme** - one on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and two dates in late November.

**Victoria** - a male at Bedding Edge Road on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

**Cheesegate Nab** - a male and female on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Deer Hill** - two on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

**Woodhead** - one on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Lindley Moor** - a male over the observer's garden on 3rd April and one at Lindley Moor Edge on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Harden** - a single on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Hartcliffe** - one on 9<sup>th</sup> April and a juvenile on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Bilberry** - one on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Butterley Res.** - a male on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** - one over Meltham Cop on 7<sup>th</sup> June took a Starling, an immature female departed W at 08.05hrs. on 8<sup>th</sup> July and what may have been the same bird circled the reservoir for five minutes and departed SW at 08.15hrs. on 17<sup>th</sup> July and a single flew N at 08.45hrs. on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

**Scammonden Res.** - males seen on 17<sup>th</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**Scout Dike** - a juvenile E on 16<sup>th</sup> October and another of the same S on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Dewsbury SF.** - singles over on 10<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

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



Breeding was proven for the first time since 2001, a pair raising two young at **Horbury SF**. A second pair was present at **Healey Mills**, but breeding could not be confirmed (JRS).

Wintering birds continue to remain scarce. Singles were seen at the traditional site by the old boathouse at the western end of the upper lake at **Bretton** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April and in the second winter period on 11<sup>th</sup> December (DBut). At **Elland GP** a single was recorded on 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November (HBC).

(COMMON) **MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*  
Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

The situation was very similar to previous years.

Breeding was confirmed at **Almondbury** (three young reared at a garden pond in Lumb Lane), **Birkby**, **Blackmoorfoot Res** (two pairs attempted but only one young fledged), **Bretton Lakes**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Elland GP**, **Horbury Strands & Wyke**, **Middlestown** and **Scout Dike**. Although no proof was obtained, breeding was also considered likely to have taken place at **Ingbirchworth** and at several other sites.

The highest counts reported were 40+ including many juveniles at **Horbury Strands** on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 40+ at **Dewsbury SF** on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 16 at **Ingbirchworth** on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 17 at **Longwood Res** on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and ten at **Bretton Lakes** on 11<sup>th</sup> December, with only single figures at thirteen other sites.

Records were not forthcoming from many small ponds and streams which would perhaps change the overall picture, particularly with reference to breeding activity.

(EURASIAN) **COOT** *Fulica atra*  
Resident breeder (2), 30-50 pairs. Uncommon to common winter visitor.

Maximum monthly counts at favoured localities were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	0
Elland GP	10	6	4	5	8	1	0	1	0	2	22	23
Ingbirchworth	nc	nc	14	7	5	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	0	2
Bretton Lakes	11	nc	25	4	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	10	15

Reports came from fourteen sites, with breeding confirmed at six of them. **Colnebridge SP** - three pairs raised ten young, **Elland GP** - at least one pair bred, **Ingbirchworth Res** - at least two broods were seen, **Scout Dike** - four young reared, **Stockmoor Common** - a pair raised two young. No details were received from **Bretton Lakes**.

Aside from the tabulated counts, highest numbers elsewhere were 12 at **Scout Dike** on 29<sup>th</sup> August and up to ten present all year at both **Boshaw Whams** and **Meal Hill**. Single figures occurred at **Dewsbury SF**, **Horbury**, **Tunnel End** and **Windybank Res**.

Considering the high counts at Elland GP in the late months, could this be where birds which have vacated Colnebridge SP at that time of year be wintering? Birds from Ingbirchworth possibly go to waters outside our area at lower altitudes at this time.

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

Migrant breeder since 1999 (1), 1-2 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor, increasing.

Birds were reported from seventeen sites, with extreme dates of 13<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Most records came in the period March to May, with an almost complete absence of birds in the second half of the year. As in previous years, the situation is complex with many of the sites having birds being in close proximity to one another, so the question of how many individuals and how many breeding pairs are involved is open to conjecture.

**Hade Edge** – one on 13<sup>th</sup> January was very early.

**Windleden Res** – two on 6<sup>th</sup> February, six on 5<sup>th</sup> March and four on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**Ringstone Edge** – one on 19<sup>th</sup> February, in April two from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, four on 11<sup>th</sup>, two on 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, singles on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June and two on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – the only records concerned a single on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, two NW at 08.35hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> April, singles on 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April and, in May, two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, four on 4<sup>th</sup>, singles on 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, four on 14<sup>th</sup>, one on 20<sup>th</sup>, three on 23<sup>rd</sup> and five on 24<sup>th</sup>. There were no autumn records.

**Boothwood Res** – two on 24<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March.

**Digley/Isle of Skye** – two on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April and a single on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**Winscar Res** – two on 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> May, but eight from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March may have been passage birds or colonizers. Two adults alarming on 10<sup>th</sup> July suggested the presence of young.

**Boshaw Whams** – five from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March coincided with the eight at Winscar on the same dates.

**Dewsbury SF** – two present from 24<sup>th</sup> March to 26<sup>th</sup> April (a pair?), one on 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June and two on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**Snailsden Res** – two on the dam wall on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Scout Dike** – four on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Broadstones/Whitley Common** – two from 6<sup>th</sup> April to the end of the month, indicating an expansion of breeding range or relocation from Winscar?

**Deer Hill** – one or two regularly between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Baitings Res** – a single on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Deanhouse** – one over on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Cheesegate Nab** – two over on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**Horbury Wyke** – in July three on 28<sup>th</sup> and two on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Scammonden** – a very late bird on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*

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

Birds were present between 14<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> August.

It was a disappointing year as far as breeding was concerned, confirmation being received from two sites, with a strong possibility that it could have occurred at a third. At this last locality a pair was on territory in late April and a third adult was present in May, with much alarm calling in June and early July and a single well grown juvenile was seen on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Pairs were present and displaying at three other sites in April/May but rising water levels probably put paid to any successful outcome.

Birds were at **Elland GP** on 9<sup>th</sup> April (one), in display flight on 20<sup>th</sup> and on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (two) but there were no subsequent sightings. At **Ringstone Edge**, after the first (two) on 5<sup>th</sup> April, up to

four were in attendance on a further fifteen dates during the month, on seven dates in May (maximum of four on 13<sup>th</sup>), on 24<sup>th</sup> June, and 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July including two fledged young and in August were one on 1<sup>st</sup>, two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 3<sup>rd</sup> and the last one on 12<sup>th</sup>. A pair bred close to this site and successfully raised three young, perhaps accounting for the July sightings.

Passage birds occurred at **Broadstones** on 19<sup>th</sup> April at a puddle about two metres in diameter, over **Whitley Edge** flying high towards Broadstones on 4<sup>th</sup> May, west over **Healey Mills** on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and at **Blackmoorfoot Res** an adult flew west on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Apart from the four at Ringstone Edge on 13<sup>th</sup> May, **Dewsbury SF** (the most reliable site in our area for this species and where breeding has occurred in many years) had the only multiple numbers with four on 25<sup>th</sup> April, six on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> July, with two remaining there until 9<sup>th</sup> July.

(COMMON) **RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*  
Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.

A fairly typical year with records from five sites, including a second breeding attempt at **Dewsbury SF**, following the area's first there in 2005.

**Dewsbury SF** – after a single bird on 8<sup>th</sup> February and two on 22<sup>nd</sup> March birds were present on many dates from 23<sup>rd</sup> April to late May, usually one or two but four on 6<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May and three on 12<sup>th</sup> May. In July passage birds occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> (two), 6<sup>th</sup> (six including five adults), 9<sup>th</sup> (two), 25<sup>th</sup> (one) and 26<sup>th</sup> (two). A bird was accidentally flushed from a nest with four eggs on 4<sup>th</sup> May, but they were predated by Carrion Crows two days later. The last bird at this site was a single on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ringstone Edge** – singles on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**Birds' Edge** – one nearby from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Horbury Strands** – the very wet weather produced favourable conditions and a good series of records with one on 13<sup>th</sup> August, seven on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>, one on 19<sup>th</sup> and two on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Royd Moor** – a juvenile was present on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

(EURASIAN) **DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus*  
Rare passage visitor.

**Whitley Common** regained some of its former glory in attracting this species with three on 6<sup>th</sup> May (TM, JMcL, MC) remaining to 8<sup>th</sup> (DHP, JED, DT et al).

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*  
Migrant breeder (2-3), 50-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor, decreasing.

Only two sites had birds in January, **Ringstone Edge** with a maximum of 132, and **Blackmoorfoot** with birds on three dates, maximum of 20. Numbers increased in February, when **Ringstone Edge** had a maximum of 300, **Blackmoorfoot** hosted birds on eight dates with up to 68 and the species was reported from a further five sites but on very few dates. Also in February 24 flew over **Boshaw Whams** on 6<sup>th</sup>, c.30 were at **Deer Hill** on 7<sup>th</sup>, c.120 at **Broadstones** on 14<sup>th</sup>, three over **Denby Dale** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and **Snape Res** could muster no more than four.

In March numbers at **Ringstone Edge** fell to 200, **Broadstones** had 300 on 3<sup>rd</sup> increasing to the month end, **Blackmoorfoot** had birds on nine dates with a maximum of 150+ on 19<sup>th</sup> and 123 on

21<sup>st</sup>, 120 were at **Fulshaw** on 11<sup>th</sup>, 50 flew W at **Deer Hill** on 14<sup>th</sup>, 30+ were near the Victoria, **Hepworth** from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> and numbers peaked at 88 at **Snape Res.**

Birds were more frequent in April and present at **Blackmoorfoot** on 29 dates, with a maximum of 104 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 89 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, the peak at **Ringstone Edge** was 70, 35 were at **Deer Hill** on 8<sup>th</sup>, c.50 moved N at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 14<sup>th</sup>, c.20 were at **Broadstones** on 19<sup>th</sup> and numbers at **Snape Res** remained at c.90, with 39 lingering into May. The only other May records came from **Blackmoorfoot** where there were birds daily and a peak of 47 from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 54 were in the **Whitley Common** area early in the month and 10+ were reported in the **Digley** area.

Breeding evidence was sparse. A male was singing at **Harden** on 25<sup>th</sup> March, at **Snailsden** a pair was present on 31<sup>st</sup> March and a male singing there on 25<sup>th</sup> April. A party of twelve at **Whitley Common** on 5<sup>th</sup> July included six juveniles which could have been bred locally.

The only June records came from **Blackmoorfoot**, which had a maximum of 16, and one (possibly a local breeder) opposite the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 29<sup>th</sup>. Apart from the **Whitley Common** birds already noted, the only other July report was of five at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Birds were very hard to find throughout August to October. **Blackmoorfoot** was the only site from which records came in August, holding a maximum of 27 on ten dates and the situation did not change in September, with just a singleton at **Blackmoorfoot** from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> and at **Broadstones** six flew N on 27<sup>th</sup> and four passed over there on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Traditionally numbers tend to increase in October, but there was no such happening this year, with birds at only four sites – up to seven on four dates at **Blackmoorfoot**, seven at **Ingbirchworth** on 14<sup>th</sup> and a max of four at **Wholestone Moor** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the month's highest count of 30 at **Ringstone Edge**.

Thankfully there was a welcome change in November. Numbers at **Ringstone Edge** reached 325, **Wholestone Moor** had c.212 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 180 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 220 on 29<sup>th</sup> with smaller numbers on four other dates, at **Broadstones** c.100 flew N on 6<sup>th</sup>, 450 again on 9<sup>th</sup> and 180 were grounded there on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Blackmoorfoot** had birds on just two dates with a maximum of 28 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

Good numbers remained in December, although the flock at **Ringstone Edge** was reduced to a maximum of only 55. **Blackmoorfoot** had 93 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 177 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 160+ on 21<sup>st</sup> with smaller counts on five other dates, **Wholestone Moor's** maximum was 180 on 4<sup>th</sup> with up to 75 on three other dates, fourteen were at **Horbury** on 8<sup>th</sup>, when c.150 were at **Broadstones** and this last site had a similar number on 12<sup>th</sup>, followed by 50 on 14<sup>th</sup>, c.20 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 29 on 20<sup>th</sup>. At **Annat Royd Lane** c.30 were present on 13<sup>th</sup>, six were at **Kirkheaton** on 18<sup>th</sup> and five flew over **Boshaw Whams** on 21<sup>st</sup> to end the year.



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

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

Maxima at the most regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	230	54	10	8	8	58	150	480	200	125	180	210
Dewsbury SF	nc	nc	80	nc	nc	nc	110	70	120	24	38	nc
Scout Dike/Royd Moor	140	70	10	3	nc	nc	nc	55+	60	52	120	70
Ringstone Edge	5	120	8	18	3	9	4	30	30	320	180	180
Horbury	nc	nc	nc	2	nc	nc	220	460	131	53	nc	40

The figures in the table above for **Blackmoorfoot** give a rather inflated impression of the number of birds present. Although seven of the months indicate birds in treble figures, these flocks were generally short lived and numbers of this magnitude were not seen regularly.

Other counts exceeding fifty birds were noted at the following locations:

**Broadstones** - c.200 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, in November c.200 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 120 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 160 on 15<sup>th</sup> and c.80 on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Clayton West** – 150 on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Shelley** – 50 flying E on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**Barkisland** – 78 on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**Boshaw Whams** – c.80 on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**Fulshaw** – 50 on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Snape Res** – 200+ on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Crosland Hill Airfield** – up to 200 regularly from 20<sup>th</sup> August onwards.

**Hartcliffe Hill** – 70 on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Millhouse Green** – c.250 on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Ingbirchworth** – 90 flew NW on 4<sup>th</sup> November and c.70 were present on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Wholestone Moor** – 102 flew N on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**Gunthwaite, Cat Hill** – 103 on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Kirkheaton** – 268 on 18<sup>th</sup> December were most unexpected at this locality.

**Norland** – 150 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Annat Royd Lane** – c.150 on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

Smaller numbers were reported from a further dozen sites.

Breeding evidence was submitted from several sites, but probably went unrecorded at many others.

At **Deer Hill** it was a better year than recently with at least four pairs producing young in June, although some early nests were destroyed by farming practices. Three pairs relocated to rough pasture off Wessenden Head Road and at least one pair produced young there, the first breeding record at this site in twenty plus years experience by the observer (DMP). Near to Deer Hill, at least one pair fledged young at **Brow Grains** in mid July and a pair was incubating in June near the **Will's O' Nat's**.

Elsewhere five pairs nested at **Grey Stones Farm**, three pairs raised five young at **Dewsbury SF**, there were six plus breeding pairs along **Issues Road** as well as several other pairs in the **Digley**



area, at least six pairs bred in the **Ingbirchworth** area, a pair was alarming in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** from late May to July, two pairs were displaying at **Thurgory, Lepton**, an adult with a chick was seen at **Elysium**, displaying birds were reported from **Shepley, Shelley Woodhouse, High Hoyland** and **Skelmanthorpe** and about twelve pairs were recorded in the **Langsett** area.

(RED) **KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

Rare passage visitor.

The only record was of a single at **Ringstone Edge** on 11<sup>th</sup> November (HBC).

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

A splendid adult in full summer plumage was at **Deer Hill Res** on 12<sup>th</sup> May (DHP), the seventh consecutive year of occurrence.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos*

Vagrant.

A juvenile at **Dewsbury SF** from 12<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September, a first for Huddersfield and a long awaited addition to the Club's list (JH).

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

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

Reports of this species seem to decline year on year and there were no records from known/former breeding sites.

All records are listed.

**Horbury Strands** – one on 26<sup>th</sup> January and two on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – singles in the field to the west on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> May were the only grounded birds. Three flew W on 11<sup>th</sup> May and two flew W on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ringstone Edge** – two on 21<sup>st</sup> and one on 25<sup>th</sup> April, in May two on 4<sup>th</sup>, four on 11<sup>th</sup>, two on 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 19<sup>th</sup>. In autumn the only birds were three on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

**Dewsbury SF** – single birds from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September (juvenile), with two on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Deer Hill** – singles in May on 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, two on 4<sup>th</sup> October and one on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Lindley Moor** – five flying W on 1<sup>st</sup> December were unexpected (JED).

**RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

The only record was of one at **Dewsbury SF** from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September, associating with the Pectoral Sandpiper (JH, DT).

**JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A fairly good year with records from seven sites.

The only records in the first winter period came from **Ringstone Edge**, where there were four on 24<sup>th</sup> January and two on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

In the autumn/winter **Dewsbury SF** held singles on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> November, with two on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November, one was at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 17<sup>th</sup> October, two were flushed from the favoured field at **Scout Dike** on 20<sup>th</sup> October, one was in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, at **Wholestone Moor** of two present on 13<sup>th</sup> November one remained on 27<sup>th</sup>, finally one was at **Scammonden** on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

(COMMON) **SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

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

In the early months birds were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 16 dates, with singles on just three dates in January/February. In March the species was recorded almost daily between 9<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> – usually less than eight were present but 14 were seen on 14<sup>th</sup> and 11 on 16<sup>th</sup>. The only other records in the first two months were a single at **Elland GP** on 28<sup>th</sup> January and a good count of 21 at **Ringstone Edge** on 24<sup>th</sup> January, where there were six on 27<sup>th</sup> March. At **Dewsbury SF** after singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 22<sup>nd</sup> March numbers increased to 15 on 24<sup>th</sup> March and ten still on 26<sup>th</sup> March. None were recorded at other sites in January, but February produced singles at **Shepley**, on a pond at **Bradley Park GC** and at **Deer Hill**. In March eight were at **Horbury** on 21<sup>st</sup> and later in the month birds had appeared at potential breeding areas in the form of five at **Deer Hill** on 31<sup>st</sup> and two in the **Digley** area on the same date.

The first birds on territory were not reported until 2<sup>nd</sup> April, when one was chippering near **Ingbirchworth** and 7<sup>th</sup> April at **Harden** with drumming heard by 16<sup>th</sup>, several were calling in the **Digley/Bilberry** area on 11<sup>th</sup>, two pairs were on territory at **Wilshaw Edge** on 18<sup>th</sup> and one on 20<sup>th</sup> at **Snittlegate**. On 1<sup>st</sup> May four birds were chippering between **Digley Res** and **Blackpool Bridge** and one at the **Isle of Skye**, but one at **Snap Res** on 15<sup>th</sup> May was the only record from that site which had recently held four or five displaying birds. Singles were also at a different site at **Harden** on 24<sup>th</sup> May and at **Flight Hill** on 28<sup>th</sup>. June produced no reports from any further sites.

Not unexpectedly the highest post-breeding counts came from **Dewsbury SF**, starting with three on 1<sup>st</sup> August followed by monthly maximum of 15 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September, 45 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 35 on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 42 on 21<sup>st</sup> November and eight other counts in double figures. The very wet summer months produced excellent conditions at **Horbury**, which had a maximum of 14 in August, 23 in September and 20 in October. Birds were present on many dates at **Ringstone Edge**, the highest count being 22 on 12<sup>th</sup> October, followed by 12 on 21<sup>st</sup> and ten on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 11 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11 again on 4<sup>th</sup> November. **Wholestone Moor** recorded a high count of 13 on 8<sup>th</sup> December with up to six on several other dates, **Blackmoorfoot** had birds from 6<sup>th</sup> September on seven dates, all singles apart from three on 8<sup>th</sup> September, whilst a further nine sites had a maximum of two birds.

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

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

A very disappointing year with records coming from only eleven sites and roding reported at just one.

In the early months singles were in **Bretton Park** on 8<sup>th</sup> January, at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January and at **Elland GP** on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Roding was noted only from **Stocks Moor Common** with four birds in late May, but two flying from **Crossley's Plantation** towards **Elysium** probably indicate breeding activity in that area too.

The second winter period proved more productive, but birds were not recorded until November, when there was an obvious influx. Birds were regularly flushed from long heather in the **West Nab/Deer Hill** area from 7<sup>th</sup> November to the year end and six were in the small wood at **Deer Hill** on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Also in November a single was at **Wholestone Moor** on 13<sup>th</sup> with two on 21<sup>st</sup>, at **Blackmoorfoot** singles were near the inflow on 19<sup>th</sup> and in Orange Wood on 22<sup>nd</sup> and one was above **Deanhead Res** on 27<sup>th</sup>. In December one was flushed from brambles in a small Silver Birch woodland at **Meltham** on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*

Rare to scarce passage visitor, increasing. Red listed.

2007 was a somewhat of a letdown after some recent years. This was another species which failed to excite more than a couple of fortunate observers. There were just two records - two were at **Thornhill Millbank** on 18<sup>th</sup> July (JRS) and a single was in a field to the east of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Numbers of Black-tailed Godwits in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1	16	7	2	2	2	47	25	68	3

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record was of a single at **Ringstone Edge** on 6<sup>th</sup> March (SG via HBC).

Numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
3	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	1	1

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A relatively poor year with only ten records from four sites.

**Ringstone Edge** – two on 26<sup>th</sup> April, singles on 29<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> August and two on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Whitley Edge/Broadstones** a single on 6<sup>th/7<sup>th</sup></sup> May.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – in July four flew W (with 3 Curlew) at 08.10hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> and a single flew W at 08.40hrs. on 18<sup>th</sup>. In September singles flew W at 09.20hrs. on 9<sup>th</sup> and 07.25hrs. on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Bretton Park** one flew over calling on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, a very unusual record from this site.

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

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

There were an exceptional number of early returning birds this year, beginning with one flying W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd January, with records from eleven sites by 11<sup>th</sup> March. Singles were at **Ringstone Edge** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February, and at **Blackmoorfoot** two again flew W on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, one on 25<sup>th</sup> February, two on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, two W and four S on 4<sup>th</sup> and one W on 9<sup>th</sup>.

Displaying birds had returned to **Emley Moor** by 6<sup>th</sup> February. In early March one was at **Swinny Knoll** on 1<sup>st</sup>, nine at the **Isle of Skye** and one at **Upper Cumberworth** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, parties of 22 and ten flew WSW at **Harden** (when 25 were at Low Moor, Langsett fractionally outside our southern boundary) and four were at **Broadstones** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, two at **Ingbirchworth** on 8<sup>th</sup> and three at **Fulshaw** and one at **Pule Hill** on 11<sup>th</sup>.

After the high count at **Harden** on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, birds arrived in numbers from 12<sup>th</sup> when a flock of 17 were at **Deer Hill**, followed by 18 at **Broadstones** on 14<sup>th</sup>, 26+ at **Victoria**, **Hepworth** from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, at least 40 in one field near the **Flouch** on 20<sup>th</sup>, 25 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 35 on 25<sup>th</sup> again at **Broadstones**, 30+ near **Digley** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 40 (in two flocks of 15 and 25) at **Deer Hill** on 25<sup>th</sup>. Birds also appeared in March at **Deanhead**, **Holme**, **Langsett**, **Scout Dike** and **Wessenden**.

The only reported breeding attempt came from **Meltham Cop**, where in May a pair made a nest scrape but no eggs were laid, the birds were not seen after 20<sup>th</sup>. Circumstantial evidence (birds on territory) suggests that breeding may have been attempted at **Buckstones**, **Deer Hill**, **Emley Moor**, **Harden/Winscar**, **Ingbirchworth/Broadstones/Whitley Common areas**, **Langsett** (ten pairs), **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** and **Wessenden** at least.

As usual post-breeding numbers were few. **Blackmoorfoot**, after one on 20<sup>th</sup> June, had birds on ten dates, a further one in June, four in July, two in August, two in September and the last on 9<sup>th</sup> October, practically all flying west. Elsewhere, one was at **Horbury** on 30<sup>th</sup> July and two juveniles were at **Royd Moor** on 31<sup>st</sup> July, two at the **Isle of Skye** on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and two at **Digley** on the following day.

### **COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

Birds were reported from twenty sites, with extreme dates being 12<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The first were at **Harden** and **Ringstone Edge** on the former date, followed by one at **Blackmoorfoot** from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April, and three and one respectively on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at **Winscar**.

Breeding was not confirmed anywhere in the area, but in the Marsden area in June two pairs were calling agitatedly at **Wessenden Res** and one pair at **Blakeley Res**, with further pairs on territory at **Butterley Res** and **Redbrook Res**. All potential breeders had left these sites by 19<sup>th</sup> July. Other potential breeding sites which hosted birds were **Bilberry/Digley**, **Brownhill Res**, **Deer Hill**, **Isle of Skye Quarry**, **Little Don Valley** (where there were five birds on 9<sup>th</sup> May), **Oxygrains**, **Wessenden Head Res** and **Winscar Res**.

There was evidence of dispersal/autumn passage from a small number of sites. At **Blackmoorfoot Res**, one to three were noted on 38 dates from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> September, **Dewsbury SF** had birds on eleven dates between 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> September, including three on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, at **Ingbirchworth** in July there were three on 15<sup>th</sup> and one on 26<sup>th</sup>, **Horbury** had a maximum of two daily from 28<sup>th</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> August and one was at **Winscar** on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

### **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Once again there was a remarkable series of records from **Dewsbury SF**, where birds occurred in seven months, but otherwise it was a below average year at other sites.

**Cooper Bridge** – singles on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 11<sup>th</sup> February and from 14<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October (DT et al).  
**Dewsbury SF** – one on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March, three on 28<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April, on nine dates in August with a maximum of six on 24<sup>th</sup>, eleven dates in September with a maximum of four on 14<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, daily in October (up to five), three on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and later in the month one on 13<sup>th</sup>, two on 17<sup>th</sup> and again on 21<sup>st</sup>, the last of the year there (JH, DHP, DT).

**Thornhill Millbank** – two on 24<sup>th</sup> July (JRS).

**Horbury Strands** – one daily from 7<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August (DHP, DT).

**Ringstone Edge** – one on 30<sup>th</sup> September (SG via HBC).

### **SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus*

Rare passage visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res**, a single circled the reservoir and landed on the north bank at 15.00hrs. on 16<sup>th</sup> September (MS). This is the first record since a single on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1995.

(COMMON) **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*  
Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Another poor year with records from only three sites.

**Dewsbury SF** – two on 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May, singles on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> October (JH).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a single from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, CH) and one departed S at 08.40hrs. on 24<sup>th</sup> August (MLD, CH).

**Horbury** – one flushed from the banks of the River Calder on 14<sup>th</sup> September (DT).

**WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*  
Rare passage visitor.

The second consecutive year in which **Dewsbury SF** has hosted this elegant and very welcome scarce visitor, but seen by only the finder on 11<sup>th</sup> May (JH).

(COMMON) **REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*  
Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-5 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor.

A disastrous year although it appears that traditional/recent breeding sites were not visited. There was just one record from a potential breeding site, otherwise all reports were of passage birds.

In the early months two were at **Dewsbury SF** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> April, one at **Maythorne Slack** on 25<sup>th</sup> March, a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5<sup>th</sup> April, singles at **Scout Dike** on 6<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April and a pair was displaying to the west of **Digley Res** on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Apart from a single bird at **Horbury Wyke** on 27<sup>th</sup> June, all other records came at the back end of the year, with singles at **Ingbirchworth** on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, two at **Scout Dike** on 17<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December and finally a remarkable sighting of c.15 flying W at **Lindley Moor** at 1515hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup> December (JED).

(RUDDY) **TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*  
Rare passage visitor.

Recorded for the fourth consecutive year. An adult in breeding plumage at **Dewsbury SF** on 16<sup>th</sup> May was a first for the site (JH).

(BLACK-LEGGED) **KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*  
Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record involved an adult at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 21<sup>st</sup> March (HBC).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

As can be seen from the table below, very few counts were forthcoming from the usual roost sites.

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	7300*	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	230	nc	nc	3650	6400*	7400*
Scout Dike/ Royd Moor	550	350	320	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	200	nc	nc	130
Ingbirchworth	60	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	218	320

\* Combined counts of Black-headed and Common Gulls.

During the first winter period c.2,000 roosted at **Baitings Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> January, c.300 were present at **Bretton Lakes** on 14<sup>th</sup> January with 60+ here on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 150 frequented **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 25<sup>th</sup> January. The only other record during this period concerned 50 over **Shelley** on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

Small numbers (up to 40) were recorded feeding in a number of widely scattered fields, recreational areas and golf courses during the summer months and at **Ringstone Edge Res.** 120 were present on 30<sup>th</sup> July and between 200 and 300 from early August through to early September. No birds were present at the former breeding site at **Little Black Moss Res.** (the last breeding occurred here in 2004).

Counts in the second winter period were more numerous:

**Horbury** – numbers fluctuated between 62 on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 200 on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – had a maximum of 115 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 280 on 18<sup>th</sup> November and 220 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Dewsbury SF** – held 41 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 60 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 1200 on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**Elland GP** – after 2,500 on 24<sup>th</sup> November numbers fell markedly and the only counts of any size thereafter involved 240 on 26<sup>th</sup> November and 800 on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Bretton Lakes** – held a maximum of c.200 on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

There were three records: an adult on the River Calder at **Elland GP** on 11<sup>th</sup> January (AH), an adult at **Horbury Strands** which flew W at 09.05hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup> May (DT) and three at **Dewsbury SF** which flew W at 07.05hrs. on 4<sup>th</sup> September (JH).

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

A second-winter was seen in the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 30<sup>th</sup> January (MLD) and a summer plumaged adult which arrived from the S with 107 Black-headed Gulls and three Common Gulls at 14.50hrs. on 10<sup>th</sup> July departed W at 15.00hrs (MLD).

**COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Few counts were forthcoming from the usual roost sites. Indeed, there were very few records during the first winter period, only the usual occurrences (from one locality) during the summer months but, more records towards the year end.

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	7300*	nc	nc	nc	2	1	6	13	11	350	6400*	7400*
Ringstone Edge	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	200	360

\* Combined counts of Black-headed and Common Gulls.

The only first winter period records involved four at **Elland GP** on 18<sup>th</sup> January, two at **Scout Dike Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup> January with 30 on 30<sup>th</sup> March, c.2000 which flew through **Dewsbury SF** during the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> January and a single at **Bretton Lakes** on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

The only records during the summer months stemmed from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and are enumerated in the table above.

During the second winter period records were more widespread with less than 40 birds being recorded from 15 localities. Records in excess of this involved 84 at **Overthorpe Recreational Park** on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 200 at **Scammonden Res.** on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 500 moved through **Elland GP** on 24<sup>th</sup> November with 120 being present two days later and 200 on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 260 at Wilderness Farm, **Outlane Moor** on 27<sup>th</sup> November and 80 at **Wholestone Moor** on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

As in previous years, small numbers were present in the early part of the year with a noticeable influx occurring in the east of the area later on.

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	7	4	nc	nc	13	14	8	7	27	13	16	2
Scout Dike/ Royd Moor	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	220+	300+	nc	nc

As is usual for this species, there were few wintering birds and birds on spring passage were also in short supply. The only exceptions to those enumerated in the table above involved, in January, one at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and two at **Elland GP** the same day. In March singles were present at **Snape Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup>, **Bretton Lakes** on 7<sup>th</sup> and **Elland GP** on 21<sup>st</sup>. Two W over **Shelley** on 13<sup>th</sup> March were the forerunners of a steady trickle which lasted until late autumn – small numbers (less than ten) were also seen flying along the **Colne Valley** during the summer/autumn period. (Birds at this time of year are generally immatures and are usually to be seen flying into



the prevailing wind. These birds are simply moving between feeding areas, there being no concerted migrational urge).



In autumn, numbers were generally on the low side and, with the exception of those in the table above, the maxima involved 350 in the fields at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 26<sup>th</sup> August and, in September, c.400 at **Whitley Common** on 8<sup>th</sup>, 18 at **Horbury** on 20<sup>th</sup> and c.1020 at **Langsett Res.** on 27<sup>th</sup>.

In October, despite a build-up at **Scout Dike Res./Royd Moor Res.**, the only other records concerned 16 at **Dewsbury SF** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, c.25 at **Broadstones Res.** on 9<sup>th</sup> with 12 here the following day and 12 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 14<sup>th</sup>.

In November/December numbers dwindled, there being singles at **Broadstones Res.** on 6<sup>th</sup> November and **Elland GP** on three dates in December.

#### **HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

As in previous years, it would appear that the species is under-recorded, with records from only seven localities.

The only sites from which it was regularly recorded were **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and **Ingbirchworth Res.**, where the following monthly counts were made:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	121	134	nc	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	6
Ingbirchworth	nc	nc	nc	3	nc	1	nc	nc	nc	nc	2	32

The only other records involved:

**Baitings Res.** – seven on New Year's Day.

**Bretton Lakes** – an adult west on 14<sup>th</sup> January with single adults over on 19<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> March.

**Elland GP** – two on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 21 on 11<sup>th</sup> February and, in December, four on 1<sup>st</sup> and a single on 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – six on 24<sup>th</sup> January, four on 18<sup>th</sup> March, a single on 18<sup>th</sup> November and five on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Shelley** – two S on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Royd Moor Res.** – six on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Scammonden** – an impressive movement involved 184 which flew south-west on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**Outlane Moor** – a single in a field at Wilderness Farm on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

### **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

Records came from three localities, all during a very narrow window: late September to mid October.

**Langsett Res** – three adults on 27<sup>th</sup> September (RJB).

**Royd Moor Res** – a single adult on 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Oct (RJB, SRG, DT).

**Broadstones Res** – a single adult on 10<sup>th</sup> October (DT).

### **GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare to scarce winter visitor.

The only record concerned an adult which flew south-west over **Scammonden** on 25<sup>th</sup> November (JB).

### **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor.

With the exception of **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, there were only ten records from eight localities.

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	58	63	nc	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	10

**Shelley** – an adult over on 24<sup>th</sup> January, two over on 5<sup>th</sup> March and a single over on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

**High Flatts** – an adult over on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ringstone Edge Res.** – two over on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

**Whitley Common** – adult on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**Horbury** – third-winter on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Deer Hill** – three adults west on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**Scammonden Res.** – four on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**Elland GP** – a single on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Does the decrease in records really reflect a genuine decrease or is the species under-recorded? In order to gain a better understanding of gull distribution and numbers in the club area, all records of all species, would be appreciated.

**SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Rare passage visitor.

With the exception of 2006 this species has been recorded annually since 2000.

A single adult flew east along the River Calder at **Dewsbury** at 10.24hrs. on 29<sup>th</sup> September (DT).

**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Only recorded from four localities, but Horbury and Blackmoorfoot Res. both had a good run of sightings. Birds were noted between 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**Elland GP** – the only records concerned two on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> and a single on 27<sup>th</sup> April and a single on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Dewsbury SF** – after two on 26<sup>th</sup> April and three on 28<sup>th</sup> April there were singles 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> August and 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**Horbury** – three on 28<sup>th</sup> April were followed by three on 4<sup>th</sup> May, two on 13<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> June and a single on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Up to six were then seen regularly between 26<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> August. Thereafter, three were present on 30<sup>th</sup> July with six the following day and, in August, three on 8<sup>th</sup> and four on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – in June an adult was present on 3<sup>rd</sup>, nine adults momentarily feeding at 08.25hrs. on 9<sup>th</sup> departed NE, adults were present on 12<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and four adults flew W at 07.45hrs. on 27<sup>th</sup>. In July an adult flew high to the NW at 07.55hrs. on 29<sup>th</sup> and in August an adult departed S at 08.35hrs. on 5<sup>th</sup>. The last record of the year concerned two immatures on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were three records from three localities, one in spring and two in autumn.

**Blackmoorfoot Res** – a first-summer 'Portlandica' on 6<sup>th</sup> May (MLD, DMO). Birds in this distinctive plumage normally remain in their winter area until full plumage is attained.

**Royd Moor Res** – a single juvenile on 27<sup>th</sup> September (DT).

**Scout Dike Res** – a single juvenile, which may have been the Royd Moor bird, was present from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October at least (RJB).

**LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle*

Accidental visitor.

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12<sup>th</sup> November was the tenth record for the Club area and the 210<sup>th</sup> species to be recorded from the reservoir. First seen on the water at 08.00hrs., thereafter it

gave views down to 50 feet, but was not seen after 09.50hrs. (MLD, CH, DMO, DHP, DT). The bird coincided with large numbers along the Yorkshire coast and a few other inland records.

**FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia*  
Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

With only one record received this is a very under-recorded species. The only record was a peak of seven in December in an **Almondbury** garden (AK).

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*  
Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

Reported from 26 sites throughout the year

At **Blackmoorfoot** up to eight were occasionally seen between January and March. During the following three months low single figures were recorded almost daily, with a maximum of 10 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 11 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June. With the exception of two to four which were seen daily in August, birds became scarcer during the second half of the year with no more than seven being recorded.

Two pairs were seen in a barn at **Bilberry** and one or two birds were seen in the **Langsett** area on three occasions in May. Nine birds were recorded at **Elland GP** on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Two or three pairs bred at **Shelley Roydhouse** and a juvenile was recorded in a **New Mill** garden on 19<sup>th</sup> September, this year being the first time this species had been recorded there.

Two birds were frequent visitors to a **Meal Hill** garden and 12 were nearby on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Other large flocks included nine on seed put out for Twite at **Deer Hill** on 19<sup>th</sup> March and 22 on 24<sup>th</sup> March. Sixteen were seen flying from a rock face at Blue Lagoon, **Royd Edge Clough** on 6<sup>th</sup> September and 30 were at **Ingbirchworth** on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

(COMMON) **WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*  
Resident breeder (4), 2,000-2,500 pairs. Numerous but irregular winter visitor.

Large numbers were seen in both winter periods with hundreds flying over **Shelley** to roost at **Stortheres Hall** and c500 observed at **Shelley** flying south on 17<sup>th</sup> October. At **Elland GP** 219 were recorded on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 400 flew over on 10<sup>th</sup> February and 100 were observed flying E on 4<sup>th</sup> March. On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 200 were seen at **Ringstone Edge** and 250 at **Scammonden**. This species was seen regularly in gardens across the area with attempted breeding at **Dalton**, and confirmed breeding at **New Mill**, **Almondbury**, **Blackmoorfoot** and **Shelley**.

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

A pair was observed mating at **Deanhouse** on 3<sup>rd</sup> January and a pair nested under the canopy above Platform 8 of **Huddersfield Railway Station**. Breeding was reported from **Salendine Nook**, **Colnebridge**, **Dalton** and two juveniles were seen in a garden at **Shelley** in early December (SRG). The largest flock (16) was seen at **Oldfield** on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

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

The only record was of a single at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 20<sup>th</sup> May (DJP).

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

Recorded at six sites, including **Elland GP**, **Snailsden Edge**, **Near Bank** and **Delves Wood**. The first sighting was on 26<sup>th</sup> April at **Shelley**, where breeding was suspected near the Whins, and which also had the last record on 20<sup>th</sup> June. **Dewsbury SF** had five records including two birds on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*  
Rare visitor. Former resident breeder.

There were 11 sightings from six sites with two birds being seen at **Netherton** (Wakefield) on five occasions between 15<sup>th</sup> August and 18<sup>th</sup> September by three different observers (DT, DHP, AK). One was seen feeding at **Healey Lake** and at **Dewsbury SF** on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (JRS).

A pair bred at an undisclosed locality in the north of the area rearing two young. This is the first confirmed breeding in our area since 1990.

Other records were from **Saddleworth** on 4<sup>th</sup> January (WDH), **Scapegoat Hill** on 23<sup>rd</sup> October (JKP) and the **Ingbirchworth** area in November (SP via DMP, DBut, JMcL, TM).

**LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*  
Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

Reported from 32 sites, over three-quarters of which were from the southern half of the club area.

Two young were seen at **Brow Grains/Red Lane**, where three pairs were recorded and breeding was suspected at **Shepley**, **Shelley**, **Honley** and **Harden**.

Regular sightings were recorded from **Blackmoorfoot**, **Digley**, **Oldfield**, **Bretton Park**, **Hepworth**, **Holme Styes**, and **Shelley Roydhouse**.

No sightings were made in the **Lindley Moor/Scammonden** areas despite both being former breeding sites and the only record from **Netherthong** was on 16<sup>th</sup> June where 15 years ago this species was seen on a daily basis.

**TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*  
Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Recorded at 30 sites spread across the whole recording area except for the highest moors, with records spanning all months.

Breeding was reported at **WindyBank Wood** where a pair nested and raised two young. Breeding was also suspected at **Stockmoor Common**.

Reports came from a number of gardens; **Golcar** on 14<sup>th</sup> April, calling from rooflofts at **Crosland Moor** on 1<sup>st</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> October, seen at **Fixby** on 5<sup>th</sup> July, **Meal Hill, Harden**, and roosted at **Lumb Lane, Almondbury**.

Breeding season records also came from **Carlecotes, Langsett, Bretton Park, Storthes Hall Wood**, (2 pairs resident), **Emley Moor**, (1 pair resident), **Winscar** and **Mellors Wood**.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single roosted in a Rhododendron bush in Jubilee Quarry on 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The alarm calls of Blackbirds etc. suggested that the bird may have been present but not detected between these dates.

### **LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

Young were present at two sites at **Winscar** on 18<sup>th</sup> July (MC) and one bird was seen near the same observer's house at **Harden** on 27<sup>th</sup> July. MC also reported a probable sighting, based on size and plumage, at **Whitley Common** on 23<sup>rd</sup> February but could not definitely separate it from Short-eared Owl, which had been seen nearby recently.

### **SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

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

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June a bird was seen above **Bilberry Res.** carrying voles and again a few days later taking food to well dispersed young (DMP).

There were regular sightings in the **Broadstones/Whitley Common** area up to the end of March (HQ) and two were seen tumbling and fighting on 28<sup>th</sup> January (MC). In the same area DT saw at least one on 4<sup>th</sup> November and two flew east at 17.00hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Up to four birds were seen regularly in the **Scammonden Valley** during November.

Other records came from **Windmill Lane** on 23<sup>rd</sup> February (MC), **Ingbirchworth** on 11<sup>th</sup> March (PMcG), **Winscar** on 5<sup>th</sup> May (PMcG) and **Deanhead Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> November (DT) (see Long-eared Owl above).

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

Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

The first sighting was on 24<sup>th</sup> April at **Elland GP** with additional records from this site on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> May (30 birds).

Two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 29<sup>th</sup> April were the first at that locality. Thereafter birds were seen daily until the last (3) on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Numbers present rarely exceeded 50, the only exceptions concerned 55+ on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 100+ on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 60+ on 7<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June and also 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**Horbury** was the only other well reported site, birds being present from 4<sup>th</sup> May with a maximum of 30 on 12<sup>th</sup> August with the final sighting for the club area of a few on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

The species was present at **Hagg Wood** from May to July. A pair was seen copulating in mid air over the **Trans Pennine Trail** (HQ). At **Hullen Edge (Elland)** two pairs bred, each raising three young.

With the exception of Blackmoorfoot (see above) the largest number reported was of c.60 at **Cooper Bridge** on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

A number of observers reported declining numbers of birds. **Lindley Moor**, "rarely seen now" (JED), **Marsden** "numbers declining year by year" (JMP), **Almondbury** "post breeding numbers down" (KH). There was only one record from **New Mill** on 23<sup>rd</sup> May (CDA) but at nearby **Meal Hill** birds were recorded between 17<sup>th</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> July (HQ).

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



The majority of records were from 13 sites, occurring between January and 8<sup>th</sup> March and again from July to the end of the year. The only exceptions were singles at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 1<sup>st</sup> April, **Bretton Lakes** on 4<sup>th</sup> April, **Scout Dike** on 5<sup>th</sup> June and **Windybank Reservoir** on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Breeding was confirmed at **Elland GP** where four, including a juvenile, were seen on 11<sup>th</sup> June. A second brood probably followed as an adult was carrying food on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Following sightings

at **Scout Dike** on 5<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> August, nesting on the stream was suspected, this being the only other suggestion of breeding.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single bird was seen daily during January and February with two on 14 dates. Thereafter the species was absent until singles on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July. During the remainder of the year singles were seen on a further 90 days; one being seen daily from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> December with two from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October.

At least one bird (occasionally 2) was present on a regular basis from "mid-summer to November" at **Panna Mill Dam, Meltham**. Ten further were received from **Bretton Park** with six birds on 5<sup>th</sup> February and at least five on 10<sup>th</sup> November. Occasional birds were seen at **Ringstone Edge** and **Ryburn Res.**

Single birds were seen at **Riding Wood Reservoir** on 17<sup>th</sup> November (DMP) and later on the same date at **Deer Hill** on Muddy Brook above Brow Grains Pumping Station by the same observer.

(EUROPEAN) **GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*  
Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.





Reported from 38 sites spread widely across the area.

At **Blackmoorfoot** singles were present in Orange Wood on 6<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> March and a juvenile was seen on Meltham Cop on 14<sup>th</sup> September. In the **Dewsbury** area between Thornhill Millbank and Earlsheaton birds were seen almost daily. During April there were several records from **Crosland Moor Quarry**, birds were heard regularly in April and May at **Grimescar** and the species was seen or heard on nearly every visit to **Carlecotes Ponds**. Two juveniles were seen at **Shepley** on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

Occasional yaffles were heard all year round in the **Meal Hill** area with sightings on **Cheesegate Nab** and **Hullock Bank** in October but a short distance down the hill there were no records at **New Mill**, suggesting a decline after a gradual expansion over the previous years.

#### **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

This species was reported from over 50 sites from all over the club area.

Drumming was recorded in the **Marsden** area at four different locations, at **Meal Hill** from 5<sup>th</sup> February, **Mollicar Woods** on 15<sup>th</sup> February, **Bretton Park** where four were heard on 5<sup>th</sup> April and at **Langsett** on 25<sup>th</sup> April where a nest was found on 26<sup>th</sup> May during a club patch outing.

Juveniles were seen in June to mid July at garden feeders at **Meal Hill**, **Netherthong**, **New Mill**, **Shelley**, two separate ones in **Almondbury** and near **Windybank Wood**. Young were being fed at **Stockmoor Common** in May and June. At **Windybank Wood** a juvenile was seen drinking from a hole in a tree on 7<sup>th</sup> June, one was fed by a female on 9<sup>th</sup> June and two juveniles were seen on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

There were regular sightings throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot**, a garden at **Fixby**, three further locations in the **Marsden** area, **Hagg Wood**, a garden in **Almondbury**, **Dewsbury**, **Deffer Wood**, **Mollicar Wood**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Roydhouse Wood** (**Farnley Tyas**), **Healey Greave Wood** and **Shelley**.

#### **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos minor*

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

There were 16 records from 10 sites, 10 of which were between 17<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> April. Drumming was heard at **Bretton Lakes** on 5<sup>th</sup> February (SRG) and 16<sup>th</sup> March (DBut), at **Cromwell Bottom** (**Elland GP**) and tapping at **Stockmoor** on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Other early part of the year sightings were at **Hagg Wood**, **Denby Dale** on three occasions, and **Carr Wood**.

A single was seen at **Kilner Bank** flying towards Lepton Wood on 13<sup>th</sup> July (JKP) and one was on the river bank at **Dewsbury SF** on 6<sup>th</sup> September (JH). Singles were seen at **Freemason's Wood** on 11<sup>th</sup> October, **Elland GP** on 14<sup>th</sup> November and 24<sup>th</sup> December and at **Elland Bridge** on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

(COMMON) **SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (4), 500-2,500 pairs. Red listed.

Present throughout the year, especially at lower elevations. Singing was first heard at **Shelley Roydhouse** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (2) on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Other sites where singing was recorded were **Thurgory Lane** on 12<sup>th</sup> February, "much song" at **Snape Reservoir** during March, **Isle of Skye Quarry** from February to 5<sup>th</sup> June, **Crosland Hill** from 5<sup>th</sup> March then regularly, **Mount Scar** on 28<sup>th</sup> March, **Shelley** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April and three on 18<sup>th</sup> June, **Denby Dale Refuse Tip** on 5<sup>th</sup> April **Scout Dike** on 21<sup>st</sup> April, **Honley** on 27<sup>th</sup> April, three at **Ingbirchworth** on 30<sup>th</sup> April and two at **Ponker** on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Breeding evidence came from **Whitley Edge** on 4<sup>th</sup> May where an adult was carrying food and at **Maythorne** on 24<sup>th</sup> May where an adult was carrying a faecal sac (MC). Four birds were present at **Dewsbury SF** throughout the summer but there was no evidence of breeding (JH).

The largest flock in the first winter period was 100 at **Thurgory Lane** on 7<sup>th</sup> March, building up from 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> March and declining to 50 on 10<sup>th</sup> of that month. The first evidence of autumn migration were seven flying W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15<sup>th</sup> September and migration was also recorded at **Broadstones**, **Royd Moor**, **Wessenden** and **Blakely Reservoir**. The largest flock in this second winter period was 160 at **Thurgory Lane** on 29<sup>th</sup> October, reducing to 100+ two days later then quickly reducing in November.

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder, increased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor.

The first birds (2) were seen at **Elland GP** on 1<sup>st</sup> April, then eight were recorded at **Dewsbury SF** on 2<sup>nd</sup> April where 22 pairs bred in a temporary sandbank which was later demolished after building work had finished (JH). The breeding colony was still present at **Ravensthorpe GP**, but smaller than previous years, although about 30 holes were visible with birds still entering on 29<sup>th</sup> July (DHP).

At **Horbury** the breeding colony was wiped out in floods before the breeding season but 20+ were recorded on 13<sup>th</sup> May, then single figures occurred on many dates up to August which had 160 on 15<sup>th</sup> and up to 45 on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Other sites where birds were recorded were **Harden**, **Royd Moor**, **Bretton Lakes** (9 on 5<sup>th</sup> April and 2 on 27<sup>th</sup> August), **Elland GP** (30 on 19<sup>th</sup> April with 10 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 20 on 29<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 6<sup>th</sup> May), **Ringstone Edge** (36 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August), **Flockton** and **High Hoyland**.

At **Blackmoorfoot** birds were first seen (4) on 8<sup>th</sup> April and between one and six were then recorded on a further four April dates. From 12<sup>th</sup> May until 27<sup>th</sup> July up to seven were seen on a near daily basis, with eight on 6<sup>th</sup> June and 10 on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. One or two were present on five days in August with 30+ on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two were present on 4<sup>th</sup> September and the four on 16<sup>th</sup> September were the last recorded in the club area this year.

(BARN) **SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4), 500-600 pairs. Numerous passage visitor.

The first record for the year concerned a single at **Ringstone Edge** on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The first at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (1) was on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Up to 25 were then seen daily throughout the summer months with maxima of 50+ on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 100+ on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 80+ on 28<sup>th</sup> August and 50+ on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Southerly migration was noted on several days commencing with 35 on 1<sup>st</sup> August, in September there were 90+ on 9<sup>th</sup>, 35+ on 13<sup>th</sup>, 60+ on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 22 on 30<sup>th</sup>. The only October occurrences involved 13 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12 S on 3<sup>rd</sup> and three on 4<sup>th</sup>.

At **Elland GP** 50 were present on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 30 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 30 on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Successful breeding was recorded at the Riding Stables on Balk Lane, **Netherton** (Wakefield) (2 pairs), Short Horns, **New Mill**, **Grimescar** where four or five young were being fed by adults in the Upper Valley on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, **Salendine Nook** on both Crosland Road and Lindley Moor Road, **Shelley** where five young were being fed out of the nest on 18<sup>th</sup> June, and at two other sites on Far Bank, **Shelley**, about 12 pairs in the **Shelley/Emley Moor** area, **Litherop Lane**, and possibly two pairs at **Stockmoor Common**. Juveniles were seen being fed at **Lumb Lane** on 18<sup>th</sup> July and five young fledged at **Colnebridge SP**.

About 250 birds were present at **Oldfield** on 13<sup>th</sup> August and other large concentrations included 80 at **Horbury** on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 100+ at **Royd Moor** on 12<sup>th</sup> September, with 59 flew SW on the same day at **Wessenden**, 100+ hirundines (mostly this species) flew S at **Scout Dike** on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and about 50 were at **New Mill** on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Three birds at **Holmbridge** on 7<sup>th</sup> October (KW) were the latest records.

(COMMON) **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*

Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs. Common passage visitor.

The first record was at **Elland GP** on 9<sup>th</sup> April followed by **Shelley** on 11<sup>th</sup> April and two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> April where up to 17 were then seen on an almost daily basis throughout the summer months with a maxima of 26 on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 40+ on 12<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August, 30+ on 13<sup>th</sup> September and 35+ on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The last, a single, was seen on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

On 24<sup>th</sup> May, a bird was seen clinging to a wall of a house in **Harden**, sheltering from a very strong wind (MC).

Breeding was recorded at **Almondbury**, **Crosland Moor**, **Shelley Park Estate**, **Shelley Woodhouse**, **Shelley Roydhouse**, two houses on Holly Bank Road, **Lindley**, five locations in **Marsden**, **Barkisland** and **Outlane**. There were 22 occupied nests on Black Horse Public House at Dalton.

The only concentrations during the breeding season involved 40 which were seen regularly at **Hullen Edge (Elland)**, **Elland GP** which had 20+ on 6<sup>th</sup> May and **Cooper Bridge** which had 50 on same day.

The autumn maximum at **Scout Dike** was 30 on 19<sup>th</sup> August and 60 were seen at **Ingbirchworth** on 28<sup>th</sup> August. At **Royd Moor** 110+ were recorded on 4<sup>th</sup> September and there were 50 there on

12<sup>th</sup>. 100 were present at **Ringstone Edge** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September. At **Horbury** 80 were present on 18<sup>th</sup> September with 100 two days later and 200 flew W at **Dewsbury SF** between 08.45hrs and 10.00hrs on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The final record of the year concerned 30+ at **Bretton Park** on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Recorded from eight sites, with singing/displaying birds in just six.

**Harden** - one calling, flew N, on 21<sup>st</sup> April (MC).

**Little Don Valley** - one displaying in Swinden Plantation on 25<sup>th</sup> April (CDA).

**Holme Woods** - two singing males on 3<sup>rd</sup> May (WDH), and one singing on 22<sup>nd</sup> June (DHP).

**Holme Styes** - three singing males on 5<sup>th</sup> May (DT) and one at Elysium in display flight on 24<sup>th</sup> June (DSI).

**Carlecotes Ponds** - two singing males on 9<sup>th</sup> May and probably three on 21<sup>st</sup> May (DHP).

**Yatcholme Res** - one singing male on 8<sup>th</sup> June (SH).

**Blackmoorfoot Res** - a migrant in Orange Wood on 1<sup>st</sup> August (ID).

**Scout Dike** - one flew N on 18<sup>th</sup> August (RJB).

#### **MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (5), 2,500-4,000 pairs. The commonest bird of open country.

The earliest sightings featured 20 at **Emley Moor** on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and eight in fields on **Cheesegate Nab** on 5<sup>th</sup> January. The next report was 25 at **Dewsbury SF** on 19<sup>th</sup>, followed by five at **Boshaw Whams** and one at **Ringstone Edge** on 25<sup>th</sup>, increasing to six by 20<sup>th</sup> February. Returning birds were first recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 2<sup>nd</sup> February when 15 were present, for the following three days 20 were in attendance. The only visible migration recorded was during March when 70+ flew north on 6<sup>th</sup>. Other February reports mentioned two at **Elland GP.** and at **Horbury**, with three at **Snape Res.** A few were reported as wintering at **Shepley**.

Arrivals at breeding areas in March saw big increases in numbers, with 100 counted at **Elland GP** on 21<sup>st</sup> and at **Deer Hill** two days later. Forty were observed at **Dewsbury SF** on 14<sup>th</sup>, thirty at **Scout Dike** on 11<sup>th</sup>, and twenty in the **Digley** area on 23<sup>rd</sup>, while the **Cheesegate Nab** count had already doubled by 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Singles were noted at **Winscar** on 26<sup>th</sup>, and **Pole Moor** the next day, with display reported from **Mount Scar** on 28<sup>th</sup>.

During the breeding season eight were counted at **Flash House Farm** on 5<sup>th</sup> May, and three singing males were heard along **Brown's Edge Road** on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Birds were carrying food at **Deer Hill** on 20<sup>th</sup> May and at **Scammondon** on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, but no further evidence of breeding was forthcoming from any other sites, although **Emley Moor** was described as a breeding area.

In autumn **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had 80+ on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> August and several dates in September/October, with 250+ on 17<sup>th</sup> September. In November/December usually fewer than six were present on a limited number of days, but ten were seen on 21<sup>st</sup> December. Elsewhere post-breeding counts produced 250 birds on 11<sup>th</sup> September, then 300 on 21<sup>st</sup> at **Ringstone Edge**, where a count on 17<sup>th</sup> July had reached 40. A further count on 12<sup>th</sup> October found 97. Seventy were counted at **Dewsbury SF** on 20<sup>th</sup> October, decreasing to thirty on 21<sup>st</sup> November. **Thurgory**

**Lane** yielded 50 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, down from 80 on 21<sup>st</sup> September, while an assembly of 200+ at **Royd Moor** had decreased to 20 three days later. Bad weather grounded 70 at **Scout Dike** on 29<sup>th</sup> September and 50 at **Pule Hill** on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Other notable counts were 60 at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 26<sup>th</sup> August, and 50 two days later at **Ingbirchworth**, with a similar number here on 15<sup>th</sup> October. The **Isle of Skye quarry** had 30 on 9<sup>th</sup> September, (with one still present in early November). A similar number were at **Langsett** on 18<sup>th</sup> September, while twenty were seen at **Wholestone Moor** on 20<sup>th</sup> October, and twelve at **Helme Catchment** on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Migration counts at **Marsden Golf Club** and in the **Wessenden Valley** in September yielded 148 heading SW on 11<sup>th</sup> and 73 moving SW on 12<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Small numbers remained at some of the above sites until the year's end, and further records mentioned nine still present at **Wholestone Moor** on 11<sup>th</sup> December and seven feeding at **Shelley Whins** three days later.

### **ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor.

**Deer Hill** – one flew S on 4<sup>th</sup> October, and the same or another bird was seen and photographed on the shoreline near the inflow on 10<sup>th</sup> October (DHP).

**Dewsbury SF** – one was seen on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October (DT, JH), with two on 25<sup>th</sup> October (DT).

### **WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

A single bird noted at **Dewsbury SF** on 22<sup>nd</sup> March was the only sighting until 19<sup>th</sup> October, and then up to five were observed almost daily until 21<sup>st</sup> November, with one final record on 21<sup>st</sup> December (DT, DHP, SRG).

### **YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Red listed.

All but one of this year's records were from **Dewsbury SF**, where a male was seen on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and on subsequent days until 16<sup>th</sup> May, with just one autumn sighting here on 16<sup>th</sup> August. (DT, JH). One was seen with c40 Pied Wagtails at **Horbury Strands** on 18<sup>th</sup> August (DHP).

### **GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

Recorded at thirty-two sites, with three pairs observed in the breeding season along the **Fenay Beck** between **Kirkburton** and **Thunderbridge**, with a further pair at **Dogley NR**. Two pairs were noted at **Horbury**, **Thornhill**, and **Dewsbury SF**, and pairs also at **Elland GP**, **Dovestones**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Hagg Wood**, **Bretton Park**, **Langsett**, in the **Marsden** area, and on the canal between **Golcar** and **Slaithwaite**. Successful breeding was reported from **Dewsbury SF**, **Colnebridge**, **Langsett**, and **Bretton**. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single was present on three dates in January and daily throughout February. For the rest of the year one or two, occasionally three,

were seen at this site on most days with five on 28<sup>th</sup> August and four on 5<sup>th</sup> September. A pair nested along the catchment.

One or two birds were recorded during the breeding season at **Riding Wood Res, Redbrook Clough, Grimescar, Middlemost Pond (Birkby), Honley Steps, Oldfield, Oxygrains, Broadstones, Digley, Bradley Hall Farm, and Scout Dike.**

Further records of one or two birds at other times of the year came from **Crosland Moor, Shelley, Deer Hill, Ingbirchworth, TP Wood, Yateholme, Longwood Brook, Blacker Wood, Almondbury, Hepworth, and Windy Bank Wood.**

#### **PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Under-recorded, with fewer reports from fewer sites than for Grey Wagtail!

Detailed records for the whole year were submitted for **Dewsbury SF**, with post-breeding counts reaching a peak of 182 on 3rd September, and with birds constantly present from late March onwards. 150 birds were counted at **Horbury** on 14<sup>th</sup> August, with c50 on freshly ploughed land at **Crosland Moor** on 6<sup>th</sup> October, c20 were reported from **Royd Moor** on 12<sup>th</sup> September, and a similar number were in fields by **Pottersgate** on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Also in October around 50 birds were counted on several occasions leaving the **Folly Hall** roost.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a small number were present throughout the year, generally in single figures, but 14 were seen on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Up to 10 birds were present at **Ingbirchworth** in November, and birds were regularly observed at **Nethermost Farm**, on **Crosland Hill** airfield, in **Bretton Park**, and in the **Lockwood** area. Four appeared on a pub roof at **Lower Cumberworth** on 11<sup>th</sup> November, and several observers reported occasional garden sightings.

Confirmation of breeding came from various farms in the **Lindley** area, from **Dearne Dike Lane**, fields near **New Mill** and **Emley Tx**, and 19 birds were counted on passage at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Reports of single birds or of small numbers also came from **Longwood Brook, Skelmanthorpe, Broadstones, Ringstone Edge, Wholestone Moor, Thurgory Lane, Coal Pit Lane, Langsett, Digley, and Spicer House Lane.**

#### **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

A disappointing year compared with 2005 and 2006, with just two records submitted of a single bird at **Digley** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March (WDH), and one at **Ringstone Edge** on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

#### (BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

After four very productive years for this species there were no reports at all for either winter period.



**Goldeneye - Elland Gravel Pits, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007**



**Grey Partridge – Netherton, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007**



**Black-necked Grebe - Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007**



**Sparrowhawk – Barkisland, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2007**





**Dotterel - Whitley Common, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007**



**Pectoral Sandpiper - Dewsbury Sewage Farm, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007**



**Dunlin - Deer Hill, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007**



**Common Gull - Snape Reservoir, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007**



**Ring Ouzel – Holme, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2007**



**Twite - Deer Hill, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007**



**Juvenile Bullfinch – Fixby, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007**



**Reed Bunting – Dewsbury Sewage Farm, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

Reports were received from 29 sites, but breeding was confirmed from only one, behind a small waterfall at **Brow Grains**, near **Deer Hill**. (DMP), although it was considered "probable" at **Thunderbridge** and **Dogley NR**, and a nest was seen under a bridge at **Oxygrains**. Two birds were seen at **Sparth**, on the River Colne, in **Windy Bank Wood** and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where two were present by the inflow on 17<sup>th</sup> February. In November a single was on the south bank on 11<sup>th</sup> and one (perhaps the same bird) was by the inflow from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. A single was by the inflow on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Deer Hill** provided regular sightings of birds along the catchment and by the reservoir, while singles were frequently observed at **Grimescar**. Birds were also seen every month except July and December in **Hagg Wood**. Other productive sites include **Hall Dike**, along the River Colne and canal in the **Milnsbridge/Linthwaite/Golcar** area, as well as further up the valley in **Marsden** and beyond at **Tunnel End**, and the **Wessenden Valley**, where one was heard singing in September and October. Another singing bird was heard on **Shelley Brook** on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Singles were seen at **Elland GP** on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> August, and 30<sup>th</sup> December, and in **Holmfirth**, near the town centre on 1st May, near the Dunford Road on 4<sup>th</sup> November, and near the cricket field on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Singles were noted twice in January at **Ryburn Res.**, on the **Square Wood Res.** outflow on 22nd February, on **Longwood Brook** on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December, and a tiny stream at **Meal Hill** on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, the observer's first and only record for this site. A single was watched swimming in a shallow pool in **Moreton Wood** on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Records also came in for **Honley Steps**, **Riding Wood Res.**, **Dovestones**, **Langsett**, **Brockholes**, **Denby Dale** and **Bradley Hall Farm**.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Records were received from about twenty sites, some confirming nesting/breeding, which will doubtless have occurred throughout the area. One observer comments that this is often the only species present in the **Isle of Skye** quarry, apart from Red Grouse! Further evidence of this bird's widespread presence comes from the counts of singing birds in the **Langsett** area, with 17 recorded on 17<sup>th</sup> March, rising to 34 on 9<sup>th</sup> May, and 12 at **Elland GP** on 13<sup>th</sup> May. Several observers report garden nesting, with young fledging from May through till August.

**DUNNOCK** *Prinella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

One of the commonest species and consequently under-recorded.

Records were received from twenty sites, mostly confirming breeding, often with regard to garden residents, with as many as eight counted in winter in one garden next to **Shelley Whins**, and other reports from **Fixby**, **Almondbury**, **Lockwood**, **Linthwaite**, **Lindley Moor**, **Dalton**, **New Mill**, and **Marsh**.

(EUROPEAN) **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs.

One of the commonest species, and much under-reported, as with Wrens and Dunnocks.

Nineteen sites were covered by this year's records, some as confirmation of breeding, mostly in gardens, including some of those listed for Dunnock. One observer reports the abrupt disappearance of a two-day old brood of four from a **Fixby** nest box. Counts in the **Langsett** area and on 21st November in **Bretton Park** produced at least twelve and ten respectively, while eight singing males were counted along the canal near **Golcar** on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor.



Four records represent a very good year for this species.

**Brow Grains** again produced a record (v.2005), a female seen only on 4<sup>th</sup> April (DMP). Another sighting of a female came from Ward's End Farm, **Marsden** on 19<sup>th</sup> June (DMP, DWS). On 3<sup>rd</sup> September a female/ immature was perched on a garden wall at **Harden** (MC) and the year's fourth record was another female/ immature at **Marsden** golf club on 13<sup>th</sup> October (JMP).

(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

Two fewer records than for 2006, but better than the dire situation in 2005.

The year's first record was a male at **Royd Moor** on 14<sup>th</sup> April (RJB). No other arrivals were noted until 5<sup>th</sup> May, when a singing male was observed at the regular site in **Holme Styes** woods (DT), where a male bird was also observed on 8<sup>th</sup> August (WDH). The next spring record was a male just outside the HBC area, at Mickleden Beck in the **Little Don Valley**, on 9<sup>th</sup> May (CDA), and presumably the same bird was seen or heard by others later in the month, on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May (CDA, BA, MJW). Proof was then obtained of successful breeding in a tree nest hole at **Riding Wood Res.** on 26<sup>th</sup> May (SP, DMP).

Late July produced a male at **Winscar** on 28<sup>th</sup> (PMcG), and two probable juveniles at the top of **Red Lane, Meltham** on 30<sup>th</sup>, and for a few days afterwards (DMP). Two further records came in early September, with either a female or an immature bird on 2<sup>nd</sup> in a **Marsh** garden (DM), and lastly a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 10<sup>th</sup> September (MLD).

#### **WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs.

Reports were received from fifteen sites.

First arrivals were recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April, with a single male at **Dewsbury SF** (JH), followed by a male and female to the west of **Ringstone Edge** (JED), and a single at **Wholestone Moor** (DT). Two days later single males were seen at **Broadstones Farm** and in the fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (where singles were in the same location on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 5<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September) (MLD). A single was seen at **Mill Moor** on 29<sup>th</sup> April, and then a male and a female at **Winscar**, with the male singing, on 7<sup>th</sup> May (MC). A pair were observed on territory on the same date at **Harden** by the same observer, and on 7<sup>th</sup> July accompanied by a juvenile bird: the female was also seen on 19<sup>th</sup> July. Several observers reported sightings of the **Winscar** birds, with a juvenile recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> July (M&SW), and two were still present on 3<sup>rd</sup> September (DHP). The **Wessenden Valley** is another stronghold for this species, and as many as four singing males were heard here in May (DMP): two pairs were seen in the vicinity of **Wessenden Reservoir**, with a family party reported on 26<sup>th</sup> June (JMP). A male and female were found at **Buckstones** on 19<sup>th</sup> June (MLD), the male having previously been seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> (JED). A pair were reported to have bred at **Blakeley Res.**, having departed by 19<sup>th</sup> July (JMP), and two pairs probably bred at **Deer Hill** (DMP), with one bird still present on 9<sup>th</sup> September (MLD). Three were seen on 25<sup>th</sup> April at **Scammonden**, where a single female was reported on 13<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May (JED, DSI), with a record of an immature on the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Post-breeding birds were also recorded in early September at **Digley** (DM), at **Ringstone Edge**, and finally at **Royd Moor** as late as the 15<sup>th</sup> (RJB).

#### (COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus*

Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Records were submitted for 35 sites, of which six had birds present in the first winter period, when the **Blackmoorfoot** area hosted a male and female on four dates in January and also from 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February. A female was seen on **Meltham Cop** on 25<sup>th</sup> February and up to three were present on three dates in March. A pair settled at the western end of **Meltham Cop** (Dunnoch Lane) and raised two broods, one of four young, the other of six (all of which were ringed). Although **Potato Lane** hosted up to four birds throughout July, most of which were juveniles, they had not originated from **Meltham Cop** as none were carrying rings. Other early records were

singles at **Ringstone Edge**, **Crosland Moor Quarry**, **Isle of Skye Quarry**, where a male and female were seen in flight on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and **Scout Dike**, a male and female at **Deer Hill**, and males and females at **Scammonden** and **Carlecotes Ponds**. Two males and two females were at the latter site on 18<sup>th</sup> February, with an immature noted on 5<sup>th</sup> August, and up to eight birds being observed by several observers in late autumn, one or two remaining until the end of the year. From August onwards the **Blackmoorfoot/Meltham Cop** area hosted up to four birds (generally only two) on 37 dates from 5<sup>th</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Breeding occurred at **Winscar**, where a male was seen taking food to the nest on 7<sup>th</sup> May, and a spotty juvenile appeared on 19<sup>th</sup> July, at **Blakeley Res.**, and at **Scammonden** where a juvenile was seen on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Pairs were observed during the breeding season at **Blue Lagoon**, **Buckstones**, and at **Broadstones**, where four birds were counted on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Singles included a singing male at **Wessenden Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> April, where a male and a female were seen on 21<sup>st</sup> October, a male at **Digley** on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and a female at **Redbrook Clough** on 19<sup>th</sup> June, while two males were located at **Wessenden** on 27<sup>th</sup> April.



Numerous post-breeding records of up to five birds were submitted, some being from sites where none had been seen earlier in the year. These included singles at **Dewsbury SF**, **Butterley**, **Wessenden Lodge**, **Carr Clough**, **Warlock**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Dick Edge Lane**, **Thurgory Lane**, **Holme Moss**, and **Colnebridge S.P.**, as well as a male and female at **Cupwith**, at **Pottersgate**, near **Bilberry Res.**, at **Oxygrains Beck** and at **Pole Moor**, and frequent sightings of one or two birds at **Wholestone Moor**. Four were seen at **Helme Catchment** on 30<sup>th</sup> September.



(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.

The area's first record was a male at the reliable **Brown's Edge Road** site on 25<sup>th</sup> March (HQ) and the only other March sightings came from **Blackmoorfoot**; a male in the fields to the west on 27<sup>th</sup> March with a male and female on **Meltham Cop** on 31<sup>st</sup>. In April up to 12 were present on 19 dates with high counts of six (5 males) on 11<sup>th</sup>, six (2 males) on 19<sup>th</sup>, eight (1 male) on 21<sup>st</sup>, seven (5 males) on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 (4 males) on 25<sup>th</sup> and eight (2 males) on 26<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued throughout May, up to six being seen on 18 dates, the last being a single female on 31<sup>st</sup>.



Early April records were also thin on the ground, with one at **Ingbirchworth** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, three in the **Digley/Bilberry** area on 5<sup>th</sup>, two males at **Brow Grains/Deer Hill** on 6<sup>th</sup>, a female at **Dovestones** on 8<sup>th</sup>, four at **Winscar** on 11<sup>th</sup>, two males and two females at **Digley**, two at **Millmoor**, a single at **Windmill Lane** on the same date, and a male at **Oxygrains Beck** on 15<sup>th</sup>. A small fall on 20<sup>th</sup> brought a total of twelve birds counted at several neighbouring sites: **Snailsden**, **Whitley Airfield**, **Whitley Edge**, **Snittlegate**, and **Winscar** (MC). Three or four birds were recorded at the **Isle of Skye** quarry on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by three at **Snap Res.** and two at **Wholestones Moor** as well as at **Crosland Moor**. An influx brought 14 birds to **Scammonden** on 24<sup>th</sup> and 20 into the **Ingbirchworth** area on 26<sup>th</sup> April (DS). At the end of the month four were recorded at

**Ringstone Edge** on 26<sup>th</sup>, four singing males were heard in the vicinity of **Digley/Bilberry**, two pairs were established at **Winscar**, a male and a female were spotted at **Wessenden** and two birds were at **Broadstones**, with a single male at nearby **Broadstones Lodge** three days later. A “slightly unusual” bird intrigued a **Shelley Roydhouse** observer on 29<sup>th</sup> and a single male at **Haddingley Lane** brought the month to a close.

May saw up to four birds at **Ringstone Edge**, at least 16 birds in the **Whitley Common** area between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, with three at **Snailsden Lodge** including a singing male on 7<sup>th</sup>. **Dewsbury SF's** first bird appeared on 15<sup>th</sup>, and there was a regular presence of up to three birds at **Brow Grains/Deer Hill**. Three birds were at **Snape Res** on 15<sup>th</sup>, and at the **Isle of Skye** quarry on 24<sup>th</sup>, while a single female lingered at **Broadstones**. **Pule Hill** and **Issues Road** each hosted at least two pairs. Singles were reported from **Flash House Farm** on 6<sup>th</sup> May and at **Langsett** on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three birds at **Scammonden** were almost the only June record, while a juvenile bird with down on its head on 10<sup>th</sup> July at **Winscar** was rare proof of breeding.

Far fewer birds were seen at **Blackmoorfoot** in autumn: one or two on six dates in August (first on 9<sup>th</sup>) and singles were noted on 5<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October. A single bird appeared at **Royd Moor** on 27<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September, and two were at **Ringstone Edge** on 21<sup>st</sup> September. One or two regulars remained in the **Brow Grains/Deer Hill** area until 20<sup>th</sup> October. Six observers witnessed a single bird at **Annat Royd Lane** on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> November, and the year's final sighting was a solitary bird at **Ingbirchworth** on 22<sup>nd</sup> November (SRG). It is worth noting the exceptionally late dates for these last two sightings, as there are only two later records, on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December 1997 at **Deer Hill**, and just one previous November record, on 10<sup>th</sup>, at **Royd Moor** in 1979.

**Greenland Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*  
Scarce spring passage visitor.

Several probable or definite sightings were reported in spring and autumn. One of three birds at **Ringstone Edge** on 24<sup>th</sup> April was adjudged to be a “Greenlander” (JED), and at the same site on 22<sup>nd</sup> September a “probable” was described with reference to six or seven visible primary tips (DHP). The same observer recorded another “probable” at **Brow Grains/Deer Hill** on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Three appeared at **Emley Moor** on the same date (SRG). Two other sightings had occurred at **Whitley Common**: three “Greenlanders” on 8<sup>th</sup> May (JED) and two females the next day (SRG).

**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Records from eighteen sites made this a better year for sightings compared with several recent years and one of the best springs on record for this species. However, the only sign of successful breeding was of a male carrying food on 6<sup>th</sup> June at **Brown's Edge Road** (DBut).

No birds were seen in March, but on 2<sup>nd</sup> April three were spotted at **Ingbirchworth** (AR), followed five days later by a male and three females west of **Digley** reservoir (KH). The same birds were present on 11<sup>th</sup> (DMP, SP), and it is likely that the two males and two females reported from this area on the same day (HQ, WDH) were the same ones: further sightings of some of these birds were enjoyed on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> (DHP). On the same dates, at **Harden**, a single male, then two, were seen in the observer's garden. Still in April, on **Meltham Cop**, **Blackmoorfoot**, a

male was present on 16<sup>th</sup> (CH), a male and female remained from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, a male and two females were present on 27<sup>th</sup> and a male and female remained from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Three were at **Ringstone Edge** on 24<sup>th</sup>, and four on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Further April records included a female at "Pots and Pans", **Uppermill** on 18<sup>th</sup>, when another female was observed "over the tops" to the east of **Dovestones Reservoir** (PDNPA). A male was noted at **Whitegate Lane** on 20<sup>th</sup> (MC), then two males and two females on **Hartcliffe Hill** on 21<sup>st</sup> (MC) while at the same place on the same date another observer (RJB) recorded one first summer male with three females. A single female showed on **Cop Hill** the next day (DS), and had been joined by another two days later. A single male appeared on **Wholestone Moor** on 24<sup>th</sup> (DT), when a male and female were west of the reservoir at **Ringstone Edge** (JED). A dead female by the roadside at **Holme** on 22<sup>nd</sup> was a distressing find (DHP).



May began with a male and a female in the **Little Don Valley** at Hordron (CDA), a single male still at **Meltham Cop**, and a single female at **Blackpool Bridge** (SRG), and the only other record also featured a female flying out of a disused quarry by **Annat Royd Lane** on 23<sup>rd</sup> (DBut).

Autumn records were confined to a female flying south at **Royd Edge** on 13<sup>th</sup> October (DMP), and on 19<sup>th</sup> two were amidst a large flock of Fieldfares and Redwings at **Denby Dale** (TM).

(COMMON) **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

One of the commonest species, it tends to be under-recorded.

Most reports featured successful breeding, often in observers' gardens. These included one or two broods at **Fixby**, **New Mill**, **Almondbury**, **Lockwood**, **Lindley**, **Netherthong**, **Marsh**, **Meal Hill** and **Shelley**. It was described as a common breeder at **Elland GP**, while three or four pairs bred at **Lindley Moor**, and there was a constant presence in **Hagg Wood**.

Other reports refer to the usual autumn influx, with 45 at **Bretton** on 11<sup>th</sup> December being the highest count. Numbers, particularly of females, increased significantly at **Colnebridge SP** at the start of October, when c.30 were counted, with a further surge in mid November. Nine were found in one observer's garden at **Fixby** in icy conditions on 13<sup>th</sup> December, seventeen were recorded in **Almondbury** on 16<sup>th</sup> December, and up to twenty were at **Shelley Whins** by the end of the year.

### **FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

Several large flocks were counted in the first winter period, including c250 at **Storthes Hall** and 300 at **Denby Dale** on 17<sup>th</sup> January, with more than 200 still present at the former site on 20<sup>th</sup> February, and much smaller numbers recorded here in February (30+), and March (50+). Another observer found c200 at **Yateholme** as well as c400 on **Flight Hill** on 20<sup>th</sup> January, and on 23<sup>rd</sup> 370 were counted at **Baitings Res.** At the end of the month 100+ were at **Ingbirchworth**, with over 200 here on 15<sup>th</sup> March, rising to 300+ on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April. The observer at **Harden** counted 120 flying west on 12<sup>th</sup> March, and between 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> a flock of around 300 were in the area between **Harden** and **Victoria**. **Maythorn** had at least 100 birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, and another big flock of 200+ was at **Deer Hill** on the last day of March. "Large flocks" were also reported from **Lumb Lane**, **Almondbury** on 7<sup>th</sup> January, and **Digley** on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Smaller gatherings of 40 at **Scammonden**, 30 at **Shepley** and **Scout Dike**, between 15 and 20 at **Shelley Woodhouse**, 40 at **Dewsbury SF**, c50 at **Thurgory**, and 25 at **Ringstone Edge** were observed on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January respectively. **Shelley** records featured 50 flying west on 11<sup>th</sup> January, and 10 in the same direction on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Several counts were submitted from **Bretton Park**, ranging from three on 3<sup>rd</sup> January to 60 on 7<sup>th</sup> February, with just two still around on 5<sup>th</sup> April. Further first winter counts from **Deer Hill** ranged from 5 to 60 birds, and **Deanhead Res.** had 30 on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Reports of ones and twos came from several other sites, including **Snap Res.**, **Nethermoor Farm**, **Deffer Wood**, and **Wither Wood**.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** very few birds were seen during the first winter period: in January up to 23 were seen on six dates, February had up to 20+ on six dates and March hosted the species on five dates, the maxima being 35+ on 19<sup>th</sup> and 39 on 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a late single on 14<sup>th</sup> April (MLD). A few birds lingered elsewhere into April, including nine at **Upper Cumberworth** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and two at **Fixby** on 6<sup>th</sup>. Three other notably late records featured a single at **Isle of Skye** on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (DHP), 25 heading west over **Skelmanthorpe** on 25<sup>th</sup> April (DBut), and, interestingly, two in a field at **Hordron/Swinden** in the **Little Don Valley** on the first day of May (CDA).

A solitary bird flying north on 22<sup>nd</sup> September over **Shelley** was the first autumn record (SRG) followed by 12 two days later in **Windybank Wood**, **Meltham** (M+SW). Other observers' first arrivals were singles at **Hard End**, **Marsden** on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, and at **Scout Dike** on 6<sup>th</sup>. The first returning birds at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned seven on 7<sup>th</sup> October and 20+ on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Three also appeared at **Royd Moor** on the 10<sup>th</sup>, by which time numbers at **Scout Dike** had risen to c40. It is interesting to note that all these records were earlier in the autumn than the first arrivals in 2006.

Sixteen overflying **Colnebridge** on 13<sup>th</sup> were followed by two at **Scammonden** on 14<sup>th</sup> and 20+ at **Deer Hill** on 15<sup>th</sup>. Indeed 15<sup>th</sup> October saw a dramatic increase in autumn arrivals, with 300+ counted at **Scout Dike**, 350+ at **Broadstones**, and 300+ at **Royd Moor**, where another count on the same day produced no fewer than 500, still present four days later. Also on 19<sup>th</sup> October 400 birds were recorded at **Denby Dale**. It does appear likely that these figures refer to the same flock, given the relatively close proximity of the sites involved.

Other October sightings elsewhere include ten high over **Isle of Skye** on 17<sup>th</sup>, 35 flying over **Thurgory** on 18<sup>th</sup>, 40 at **Upper Oldfield** on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20+ at **Helme** three days later, when 20 also appeared at **Horbury**, 23 at **Wholestone Moor** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 150 at **Bretton Park** on 24<sup>th</sup>, 50+ at **Ingbirchworth** on 29<sup>th</sup>, and seven at **Digley** on 30<sup>th</sup>. Twenty counted at **Broadstones** on 17<sup>th</sup> October had increased ten-fold two days later, while the **Scout Dike** count for 20<sup>th</sup> produced 250 birds. Singles were found at **Lindley Moor** and at **Meal Hill, Hepworth**. Meanwhile, at **Blackmoorfoot**, the species was recorded on a further seven dates during October; generally fewer than 40 were present. Birds were also reported from **Hagg Wood** in October and November.

A few large flocks remained through November and December, although seventeen further counts at **Blackmoorfoot** remained relatively modest, producing a maximum of 70+ on 28<sup>th</sup> November, a similar number being recorded at **Deer Hill** on 12<sup>th</sup> December. 115 were at **Scammonden** on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. At **Broadstones** numbers fluctuated, decreasing from a maximum of 140 on 6<sup>th</sup> November to 40 on 17<sup>th</sup>, and then rising again to between 80 and 100 on 12<sup>th</sup> December, with a final tally of 76 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

Other November records ranged in size from two in **Wither Wood** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and three at **Horbury** on 9<sup>th</sup> to 42 at **Skelmanthorpe** on 21<sup>st</sup>. During the month birds appeared at more sites, with 25 at **Netherthong** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 15 in **Upper Dearne Woods** on 6<sup>th</sup>, 11 at **Haigh Woods** on 16<sup>th</sup>, five at **Bretton Park** on 21<sup>st</sup>, 23 at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 25 at **Shepley** on 28<sup>th</sup>. Birds remained at **Ingbirchworth**, with numbers ranging from seven on 14<sup>th</sup> to 40 at the month's end. At **Shelley** 35 were counted on 7<sup>th</sup>, 25 were seen flying north on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and small numbers remained until the end of the year, while **Royd Moor** had between 25 and 31 birds on various dates. Small numbers were also reported from **New Mill** for this season.

December also added more sites to the season's list, starting with 15 in **Lower Cumberworth** on 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by five at **Scissett** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 100 at **Emley Moor** on 10<sup>th</sup>, 23 on **Crosland Hill** airfield on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 50 at **Annat Royd Lane** on Boxing Day. At venues already mentioned, 100+ were counted at **Digley** and 58 at **Thurgory**, both on 18<sup>th</sup>, five in **Upper Oldfield** on 20<sup>th</sup>, and an impressive tally of 135 at **Scout Dike** saw out the old year.

### **SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.

Similar numbers of singing males/breeding pairs were recorded to those for recent years, from over 40 sites.

January records included two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where males were singing in the NE corner on 8<sup>th</sup> January and the south bank wood on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Three pairs took up territory and bred. Five were found along the river at **Dewsbury SF** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and two pairs remained at this site all year.

Garden, park and woodland records featuring singles, singing males and successful breeding pairs were received from a wide range of sites, with birds present all year in some instances. Other sites included a car park at **Aspley**, **Greenhead College**, the fishing pond in **Lindley**, the canal between **Milnsbridge** and **Slaithwaite**, and **Honley Steps**. In **Marsden** an impressive tally of 22 singing males were counted, including nine holding territory (JMP). In early May five were present at **Grimescar**, including three singing males; and six singing males were heard at **Elland GP**. Two pairs were in residence at **Colnebridge SP**, with as many as 12 birds on 1<sup>st</sup> October together with Blackbirds. Three males were in song at **Digley Bottom** as well as three more at **Yatholme** on 8<sup>th</sup> June, and a maximum of three at **Langsett** in late May, where young were being fed.

One observer in **New Mill** heard song from 7<sup>th</sup> April until the end of June, and noticed many broken snail shells in the garden: a juvenile on 28<sup>th</sup> July was the last of the year. Another observer watched two feeding on ivy berries in a **Fixby** garden on 4<sup>th</sup> March, while a third noticed increased frequency of visits during the December cold spell. Birds assumed to be migrants passed over **Shelley** in late November and **Horbury** in early December.

### **REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

The largest flock in the first winter period was 200+ at **Storthes Hall** on 20<sup>th</sup> February, and the only other big gatherings were 100 flying over **Lepton** on 6<sup>th</sup> January, and similar numbers at **Shepley** on both 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January and in **Bretton Park** on 19<sup>th</sup>. At **Bradley Hall Farm**, 50 on the 13<sup>th</sup> rose to 100 four days later, falling to 80 on 11<sup>th</sup> February and 50+ on 15<sup>th</sup>. At **Blackmoorfoot** there were also 100 on 7<sup>th</sup> January, but only 60+ the next day, with small numbers, generally fewer than 40, present at the reservoir throughout the January to March period, with 80+ in February on 14<sup>th</sup>, 60+ on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, in March 60+ on 7<sup>th</sup> and 80+ from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. The only April records here concerned six on 1<sup>st</sup> and 30 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

Other two-figure January observations included 20 at **Meal Hill**, **Hepworth** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 50 at **Upper Oldfield** on 4<sup>th</sup>, 25 flying south at **Dewsbury SF** on 19<sup>th</sup>, with 28 present four days later, 30 at **Shelley Woodhouse** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 50 in **Blacker Wood** on 25<sup>th</sup> and 20 in **Netherthong** on the last day of the month. Thirty birds at **Bretton** on 3<sup>rd</sup> had become 50 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 60 on 14<sup>th</sup>, and 100 at the month's end. Smaller numbers were recorded at **Golcar**, **Elland**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Scout Dike**, **Shelley Whins**, and **Upper Dearne Woods**, with a single frequenting an **Almondbury** garden, and two in a garden at **Meltham**.

A flock at **Storthes Hall** was the only sizeable one for the rest of the winter, although 30 were in **Wither Wood**, **Denby Dale** on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 30 at **Grimescar** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 25 flew over **Colnebridge SP** on 19<sup>th</sup>, 26 were still at **Bradley Hall** on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 20+ were in **Hagg Wood** on 19<sup>th</sup>, and 50+ were counted in **Windybank Wood** on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Other sites reporting small numbers included **Holywell Brook** and **Deffer Wood**, and reports of uncounted birds also came from **Helme**, **Deer Hill**, and **Butternab Wood**. Apart from **Blackmoorfoot** (see above), the only site to retain birds after March was **Bretton**, where between 35 and 40 were counted on 4<sup>th</sup> April (DBut), and three were still present on 5<sup>th</sup>.

Two early morning birds at **Fixby** J+I school on 20<sup>th</sup> September was the first autumn record (DT), and then September 27<sup>th</sup> saw the first autumn arrivals at **Crosland Hill** (8), **Hartcliffe Hill** (1), **Scout Dike** (21), and **Broadstones** (3), followed by nine at **Shelley** the next day, eight at **Wholestone Moor** and on **Castle Hill** on 29<sup>th</sup>, and ten at **Thornhill** on 30<sup>th</sup>.



The first returning birds at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** were also in September: 19 on 27<sup>th</sup>, two on 28<sup>th</sup>, four on 29<sup>th</sup> and 21 on 30<sup>th</sup> (MLD, CH). From October to the year-end small flocks were present on a near daily basis: usually less than 30 were seen, the maxima being 57 on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 40 on 20<sup>th</sup> October, and up to 40 daily from 7<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December which fed on Holly berries in Orange Wood or near the inflow.

Early October had few new sightings except for 30 flying over **Shelley** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 18 at **Royd Moor** on 4<sup>th</sup>, ten over **Colnebridge SP** on 6<sup>th</sup>, and 15 over **Lepton** on 8<sup>th</sup>, followed by **Clough Lee's** first bird on 10<sup>th</sup>, and nine at **Crosland Hill** on 11<sup>th</sup>. The first three-figure counts of autumn were 100+ at **Royd Moor** and at **Broadstones** on 15<sup>th</sup>, but on 19<sup>th</sup> these flocks were dwarfed by 300 at **Denby Dale**, which proved to be the highest total of autumn, a modest figure compared with counts exceeding 1000 in previous years at this time. Meanwhile, at **Horbury** a flock of 30 on 16<sup>th</sup> grew to 50 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. On 18<sup>th</sup> "low double figures" were seen at **Bretton**, and 20 were at **Wholestone Moor** on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Up to fifty birds were seen on Holly bushes in **New Mill** during the autumn.

November continued the trend of small groups, some at new sites such as **Meltham Park**, where "low double figures" were observed on 9<sup>th</sup>, **Wilshaw**, with just three on 11<sup>th</sup>, **Haigh Wood**, with ten on 16<sup>th</sup> increasing to 30 by the month's end, **Longwood Brook** and **Gunthwaite Dam**, both with counts of 30 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> respectively. A single was **Skelmanthorpe's** first for the autumn on 21<sup>st</sup>. No more than three birds appeared at **Ingbirchworth**, and only single figures were now to be found at **Royd Moor**. Flocks of 40 at **Horbury** on 9<sup>th</sup> and **Bretton** on 22<sup>nd</sup> were the month's largest.

Even fewer birds were present in December, although **Ingbirchworth's** population had grown to 30 by the last day of the year. **Scissett** and **Birkby** joined the list of sites on 3<sup>rd</sup> and on 9<sup>th</sup>, the former with three, the latter with another "low double figure" count. Seventeen were at **Bretton** on 11<sup>th</sup>, while several counts at **Broadstones** yielded no more than 20 birds on 12<sup>th</sup>. Nine appeared in a **Fixby** garden during the icy spell on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and a single was a daily presence in a **Lindley Moor** garden between 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Further reports, for uncounted birds, were received from **Windybank Wood**, **Meltham** on 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and from **Hagg Wood** for the whole autumn period.

#### **MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

Records were received from well over thirty sites, which is on a par with previous years.

No more than four birds were counted at any site in the first three months. A pair were nesting at the Syngenta plant in **Deighton** on 28<sup>th</sup> March (JKP), and reports of breeding pairs also came from **Blackmoorfoot**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Elland GP**, **Lindley Moor**, **Emley Moor**, **Dean House**, **Netherthong**, and **Shelley**, with birds observed carrying food at **Lumb Lane**, **Almondbury**, **Issues Road**, and **Langsett** on various dates in April, May and June. Singing males were noted at **Ingbirchworth**, **Almondbury**, **Yateholme** (2), **New Mill**, **Langsett** (up to 3), **Bretton Park** (several, with two on 6<sup>th</sup> December), and **Shelley** (on 2<sup>nd</sup> October). Birds were noted at fifteen sites in the **Marsden** area, with two singing males.

Post-breeding counts included five at **Cooper Bridge**, six at **Royd Moor** and **Colnebridge SP**, nine at **Thurgory**, 10+ at/near **Bilberry**, fifteen on **Cheesegate Nab**, with 40 at **Bulcliffe Colliery** on 7<sup>th</sup> August (SRG) being the only large flock at any site except **Blackmoorfoot** (v.

below) recorded for the entire year. **Hagg Wood** had birds present from January to June and from September to the end of the year, and birds were said to be regular visitors to a **Lockwood** garden as well as to the cemetery.

The largest counts at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved, in July, 11 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 29 on 29<sup>th</sup>, while in August there were 14 on 5<sup>th</sup> and in September 19 were seen on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>.

Singles or small numbers of birds were reported from several other sites in the last few months of the year, including **Longwood Brook**, **Haigh Wood**, **Broadstones**, and **Annat Royd Lane**.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.

A reasonable year for this species, with records from four sites involving at least nine birds.

In the **Deanhead/Scammonden** area there were six singing males in spring with two remaining on territory, probably breeding. The first concerned one reeling on 26<sup>th</sup> April with four on 3<sup>rd</sup>, three on 4<sup>th</sup> and four on 5<sup>th</sup> May. **Winscar** had a single on 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June, whilst at **Marsden** a bird was present from 5<sup>th</sup> May to at least 4<sup>th</sup> June having been heard reeling in this period and one was heard at **Wetshaw Edge/Snailsden** on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Recorded from seven sites together with positive breeding evidence from two sites involving at least four pairs made for an encouraging year for this species.

**Horbury** hosted four or five birds with three singing males heard on 4<sup>th</sup> May and at least two pairs seen actively feeding young at the end of July and early August (DT). As is usual at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, there was a single record – a singing male along the west bank on 9<sup>th</sup> May. At **Healey** a singing male was heard along the canal side on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and at **Colnebridge SP** birds were heard singing on 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May but not in between, possibly indicating the presence of more than one bird passing through, and the latest that any was heard here was from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May. At **Elland GP** two birds were seen on 29<sup>th</sup> April and two were singing alongside the canal around **Cromwell Bottom** on 13<sup>th</sup> May; two pairs were reported from **Thornhill Millbank**. The latest sightings were of two birds on 6<sup>th</sup> and a single on 13<sup>th</sup> September at **Dewsbury SF**.

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

This species seems to have maintained its status as a rare breeder with sightings from only four sites and positive breeding evidence from only one.

At **Colnebridge SP** the earliest sightings involved a single on 1<sup>st</sup> with three on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May. A single bird was then present from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June and two birds were there on 8<sup>th</sup> June, of which one was caught and ringed, and on 9<sup>th</sup> July two immature birds were seen; further activity was observed at this site up until 9<sup>th</sup> August with a ringed adult seen carrying food and two to three young being fledged. At **Bretton Park** one in the *Phragmites* on the lower lake sang



to 20<sup>th</sup> June at least and at **Dewsbury SF** two males were recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. **Elland GP** had two singing males on 20<sup>th</sup>, one on 21<sup>st</sup>, two on 23<sup>rd</sup> and one on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

### **BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

The numbers of birds recorded from a host of places indicates that this species continues to thrive in the area, although the limited number of reports of breeding success provides less concrete evidence for this optimistic outlook.

Sightings for this species have been recorded through the whole year although reports from the BTO indicate that the summer and winter populations are quite distinctly separate with those seen during the winter months being migrants from the continent; the bulk of the sightings are from the summer months. A **Fixby** garden hosted a male and a female on and off between 4<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> April and a **Shelley** garden held one from the beginning of the year through until 18<sup>th</sup> February. **Elland GP** had two singing males on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April followed by four on 17<sup>th</sup>, five on 20<sup>th</sup> and six on 30<sup>th</sup>. The first for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was a male which took up territory and sang between 24<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> May. The following day three males were in residence, remaining on territory until mid July. The only confirmed nesting concerned a pair in **Orange Wood**. The only record after these dates involved a female on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Singing males were in evidence at a number of sites with a remarkable 20 reported at **Bretton Park** on 26<sup>th</sup> April and a similar number between **Hey Green** and **Sparth** in May. Breeding was confirmed from only a small number of places: **Colnebridge SP**, **Windybank Res.** and **Shelley**, which must reflect some degree of under-recording given the number and frequency of sightings of adult birds in the breeding season. These included **Almondbury**, **Milnsbridge**, **Denby Dale**, **Sparth**, **Slaithwaite**, **Digley Bottom**, **Yateholme Valley**, **Deanhouse**, **Netherthong**, **Horbury**, **Jenkinson Wood**, **Royd Moor**, **Thornhill/Dewsbury SF**, **Langsett**, **Flash House Farm**, **Scammonden**, **New Mill**, **Hagg Wood**, **Scout Dike**, **Shelley Woodhouse**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Shelley Whins**, **Kirkburton** and **Dunford Cycle Track**.

### **GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Reported from 20 sites, which is a small increase on last year, combined with fewer singing males indicates a potential continual decline of the species in the club area although no such trend has been observed nationally. There were no reports of successful breeding this year.

The first records were in April with singles in **Denby Dale** and a singing male at **Scout Dike** both on 24<sup>th</sup> followed by five singing at **Bretton Park** on 26<sup>th</sup>, two on 27<sup>th</sup> then four on 29<sup>th</sup> at **Elland GP** and a singing male at **Thornhill** on 30<sup>th</sup> the same day that two were seen at **Jenkinson Wood**.

In May there were frequent sightings: at **Colnebridge SP** a male was singing from 1<sup>st</sup> through to 10<sup>th</sup> June; at **Royd Moor** there was at least one singing on 2<sup>nd</sup>, three at **Denby Dale** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Langsett** one singing on 5<sup>th</sup>, two singing on 9<sup>th</sup> and two seen on both 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, with three singing birds on 31<sup>st</sup> and one at **Bullhouse**; a single at **Horbury** on 4<sup>th</sup>, one at **Digley** on 6<sup>th</sup>, three singing at **Elland GP** on 6<sup>th</sup> and two on 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> with five on 21<sup>st</sup>, whilst two were singing on 31<sup>st</sup>, one singing at **New Dam** on 9<sup>th</sup>, **Ingbirchworth** on 14<sup>th</sup>, **Dunford Cycle Track** on 19<sup>th</sup>, **Shelley** on 24<sup>th</sup>. **Bradley Hall Farm** held four on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

In June, in addition to the one at **Colnebridge SP**, birds were quite secretive as is the norm with this species and only seen at: **Shelley** on 1<sup>st</sup>; **Scammonden** on 3<sup>rd</sup>; **Elland GP** on 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>; **Golcar** at **Cotton's Dam** on 30<sup>th</sup>, and one was singing at **Broadstones** on 5<sup>th</sup>.

Later in the year sightings were few: one passed through a **Shelley** garden on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, one in **Horbury** on 8<sup>th</sup> August with the latest sighting being of one at **Royd Moor** on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Reports received from more than 10 sites is encouraging although no confirmation of breeding was obtained this year.

The earliest observation was of a singing bird on **Lumb Lane** on 18<sup>th</sup> April followed by sightings at **Dewsbury SF** between 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, then sightings at different places in **Denby Dale** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May, at **Horbury** a bird was singing at the bottom of **Balk Lane** on 4<sup>th</sup> May and one was singing on the railway line at the **Wyke** on 13<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile a bird continued to sing in **Shelley** up to 15<sup>th</sup> May, whilst one was heard in **Flockton** on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Later sightings were very few with two at the north end of **Horbury Strands** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, following one at **Scout Dike** on 9<sup>th</sup> August and the final one of a passage bird at **Ringstone Edge** on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

#### (COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

With records from 22 sites, numerous singing males and evidence of breeding the situation with this species remains quite good. Birds were present between 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> September.

The first sighting of the year was at **Hartcliffe Mill** on 22<sup>nd</sup> April where a single male was in song. Other sightings in April were from **Elland GP** with two on 24<sup>th</sup>, four on 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>; **Dewsbury SF** held two on 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>; at **Scout Dike** three birds were present on 24<sup>th</sup>; at **Horbury** there was a singing male on 28<sup>th</sup>; at **Thornhill** there were nine singing males on 30<sup>th</sup>; at **Ingbirchworth** one was seen on 30<sup>th</sup> with one also at **Denby Dale** on the same day; at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** two singing males held territories in the Orange Wood/Edge Moor area from 29<sup>th</sup> April until mid July. There was no evidence that they ever attracted mates. Thereafter the only records involved singles in Orange Wood on 24<sup>th</sup> August and **Potato Lane** on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

In May numbers appeared to build up quite well and included: at **Colnebridge SP** a singing male daily from 1<sup>st</sup> May through to 10<sup>th</sup> August although no signs of breeding were observed; on 3<sup>rd</sup> two were seen at **Denby Dale**, two were in song at **Flockton** and two were at **Bulcliffe Colliery**; a singing bird was seen at **Castle Hill** on 4<sup>th</sup>, **Bradley Hall Farm** held three on 6<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 14<sup>th</sup> and six on 21<sup>st</sup>; at **Elland GP** a single on 6<sup>th</sup>, two males on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, five males on 21<sup>st</sup> and two on 31<sup>st</sup>; a singing male present at **Crosland Hill** from 7<sup>th</sup> through to 10<sup>th</sup> June; at **New Dam** a pair (a singing male with the female carrying nesting material) on 9<sup>th</sup>; at **Horbury** five or six singing birds were present on **Dudfleet Lane** on 13<sup>th</sup>, close to **Delves Wood** a single on 15<sup>th</sup> was the first record for this site with the bird also being heard on 20<sup>th</sup>; two birds were at **Brow Grains** on 20<sup>th</sup> and at **Ingbirchworth** two birds were singing on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

As the birds become more secretive sightings naturally diminish into June but a number were recorded in addition to those already noted above: a single at **Ingbirchworth** on 9<sup>th</sup>; one singing at **Broadstones** on 13<sup>th</sup>; two were at **Elland GP** on 21<sup>st</sup> and two singing at **Bulcliffe Colliery** on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Later sightings were: **Dewsbury SF** which had 15 on 9<sup>th</sup> July and five on 15<sup>th</sup> August; two adults and two juveniles at **Horbury** on 30<sup>th</sup> July at which site two were seen 12<sup>th</sup> August; **Scout Dike** held two on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August; two were present at the **Strands** on 8<sup>th</sup> August and four at **Royd Moor** on 12<sup>th</sup> September were the last sightings of the year.

#### **WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Red listed.

Once again this species has been very scarce in the club area with no indications of breeding having taken place. Records were only obtained from two sites:

**Delves Wood** had a singing bird on 29<sup>th</sup> April, the first record here for seven years, which was still present on 15<sup>th</sup> May (TP). Two birds were present on 30<sup>th</sup> April and singing on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. **Langsett** held a singing male on 9<sup>th</sup> May with two on 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> (CDA).

#### **CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

With records from more than 40 sites, many of them concerning summer residents, this remains one of the commonest warblers of the area with continuing breeding success. As a relatively short distance migrant sightings tend to build from an earlier date than other species and this year was no exception. The only record of an over-wintering birds in the first quarter came from **Elland GP** with one on 14<sup>th</sup> February whereas one there on 12<sup>th</sup> March was assumed to be a newly arrived migrant. The latest sighting, on 17<sup>th</sup> December and also from this site, shows that it obviously appeals to potential wintering birds. Fewer than 80 singing birds were reported during the breeding season, a notable decline on previous years, but it is suspected that this is due to significant under-reporting rather than a decline in numbers.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were singing males in Orange Wood from 6<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April and the south bank wood from 23<sup>rd</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June. The only other records during this period involved singing males in the south bank wood on 18<sup>th</sup> June and along the west bank on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Singing birds were reported from virtually every suitable site in the club area and are too numerous to detail. In the **Marsden** area at least 12 were in song with at least six being recorded as on territory. **Bretton Park** held between 10 and 15 singing birds in April/May and even this is likely to be an underestimate.

Other areas from which reports have been received were: **Elland GP** with up to eight singing birds on several dates, **Holmroyd WD**, **Helme Catchment**, **Netherthong**, **Shelley Woodhouse**, **Deanhouse**, **Longwood Res**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Scout Dike**, **Denby Dale**, **Wessenden Valley**, **Clough Lee**, **Tunnel End**, **New Mill**, **Thornhill**, **Hagg Wood**, **Digley Lane**, **Colnebridge SP** with an early sighting on 16<sup>th</sup> March, **Millmoor**, **Linthwaite**, **Horbury**, **Windybank Res**, **Bradley Hall**, **Crosland Moor**, **Upper Dearne WDS**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Royd Moor**, **Almondbury**

**Area, Broadstones, Ringstone Edge, Shelley** with two breeding pairs, **Langsett, Golcar Canal, Slaithwaite Canal and Brockholes**.

In autumn singing males at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** were only recorded on 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September. Between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September a singing male and a calling bird took up residence along the west bank.

October records came from **Almondbury** (the only reported garden sighting) on 1<sup>st</sup>, **Ringstone Edge** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, **Royd Moor** on 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, **Fixby** on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Deanhouse** on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Windybank Res.** on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Tunnel End** on 6<sup>th</sup> and **Broadstones** on 15<sup>th</sup>.

The only November record was from **Scout Dike** on 4<sup>th</sup> the latest record from this site. December sightings were two from **Elland GP**, probably relating to the same bird, on 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (DT).

These late sightings can cause confusion in terms of arrival/departure dates for the species, but we must arbitrarily assume that these are overwintering birds.

### **WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

The year's first birds didn't arrive until well into April with the first sighting at **Scout Dike** on 7<sup>th</sup> April (RJB), followed by **Tunnel End** (JMP) and **Elland GP** (HBC) on 8<sup>th</sup>. A fairly steady flow of sightings followed building in volume towards the month end with most regular sites featuring singing birds, notably 18 at **Langsett/Lower Don Valley** on 25<sup>th</sup>, 15 at **Scout Dike** on 21<sup>st</sup> and 12 at **Elland GP** on 27<sup>th</sup>. The first arrivals at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** were two singing males on 11<sup>th</sup> April, four were present the following day and five or six were then singing daily until 22<sup>nd</sup> with 11 on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> and eight from 25<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May. Thereafter six males held territory and remained throughout the summer months. In August three to seven were present on a daily basis. The first nine days of September had two or three daily and the last, a single, remained from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

Numbers in the area peaked during May with 44 in the **Hey Green/Sparth** area being outstanding. Many observers noted that every appropriate bush seemed to host a singing bird in this month as reports were received from more than 50 sites. Breeding success must have been assured at most of these yet broods were only seen at a few sites in **Shelley, Fixby, Colnebridge SP** and **Windybank Wood**. Birds were seen regularly during the summer with the majority leaving in by September when the latest sighting was at **Ingbirchworth** on 20<sup>th</sup> (AK).

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

The situation in the area was similar to last year with sightings from 31 locations but only small numbers were involved. The exceptions being nine at **Bailings Res.** on 13<sup>th</sup> January (HBC), 10 at **Horbury** on 8<sup>th</sup> August (DT) and up to 20 at the year end at **Bretton Park** (SRG). Although recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** between January and June, and again in September/October, numbers never exceeded two, and were restricted to a handful of dates during each month.

No records of confirmed breeding were received although numerous sightings were made of birds during the nesting season at **Langsett, Jenkinson Woods, Windybank Wood, Hagg Wood** and **Lower Stones Wood**.

Winter garden records were received from **Golcar, Meal Hill, Meltham, New Mill and Shelley**.

**FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare visitor.

Only one sighting was reported: a single at **Ryburn Res.** on 1<sup>st</sup> October (M. Cowton, HBC).

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Another poor year for this species with records from only nine sites.

**Langsett** – singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May (singing), 1<sup>st</sup> August, 3 on 26<sup>th</sup> May and a juvenile on 28<sup>th</sup> August (MC).

**Deer Hill** – singles on 7<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ingbirchworth** – one on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

**Shelley Woodhouse** – one on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Shepley** – one garden sighting on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – three near the inflow on 28<sup>th</sup> August, a single along the west bank on 6<sup>th</sup> September and three near the inflow on 10<sup>th</sup> September were the only records.

**Mount** – one on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Hartcliffe Mill** – one on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Windybank Wood** – two on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

No change in fortune with records from only two sites. However, breeding success at one was tempered by subsequent weather conditions.

**Hagg Wood** – on 10<sup>th</sup> April in a private garden a male was seen to approach and examine nest boxes that were all occupied. A new box was hastily erected and a male and female appeared and subsequently occupied the box. Breeding was successful and five young fledged on 13<sup>th</sup> May. Unfortunately two hours later a torrential downpour began which continued for 48 hours and no further signs of any birds were seen (M & SC).

**Langsett** – a male and female in Cliffe wood on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (JED).

**LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Records from 52 sites including a number of gardens are an increase from last year and it was reported from many of these sites during the breeding season indicating a continuing healthy population.

As always autumn and winter flocks were the largest reflecting the habitual flocking behaviour of this species and of these the most notable were:

**Elland GP** 20 on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Fixby** 27 on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Longwood Edge** 22 on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Dewsbury SF** 26 on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Ringstone Edge** 20 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Butterley** 20 on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ingbirchworth** 25 on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Haigh Woods** 25 on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**Colnebridge SP** 24 on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Spring flocks were much smaller with few groups into double figures reported, possibly indicating the vulnerability of this species to cold weather.

### **BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

One of our commonest birds and also one of the least recorded with most sightings reflecting unremarkable numbers. Records were received from only 25 sites reflecting the general oversight that this bird receives.

Evidence of breeding was apparent at most sites, in particular those featuring garden nest boxes, but accurate estimates of numbers were not generally received. The only record of the species into double figures was of 15 at **Bretton Park** on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

### **GREAT TIT** *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

Once again, one of our commoner species that is relatively under-recorded with sightings submitted from only 17 sites. Very few records of successful breeding were received and those that were reported were generally on juveniles being fed in gardens.

Young birds were reported from:

**New Mill** – garden with three young.

**Netherthong** – garden with two young.

**Almondbury** – garden with two young and another garden reported successful breeding in a nest box.

A **Shelley** garden reported dead young in two nests with no confirmation of successful fledging.

The only flock into double figures was one of 10 at **Bretton Park** on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

### **COAL TIT** *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

With records received from 24 sites this is a slight decrease on last year, but for this relatively common species this undoubtedly reflects yet further under-reporting. Of these sightings birds were observed the whole year round and evidence of breeding was obvious at a number of sites thanks to the presence of juvenile birds.

Nine birds were heard singing in **Langsett** on 1<sup>st</sup> May and 12 were reported from **Haigh Woods** on 16<sup>th</sup> November, otherwise no significant counts were received.

### **WILLOW TIT** *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs but decreasing. Red listed.

This red-listed species breeds in the area, but still appears to be subject to some decline. Given its scarcity, records from 15 different sites were encouraging.

**Bradley Hall Farm** – one on 13<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**Meal Hill** – one in a mixed flock on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Ingbirchworth** – one on 1<sup>st</sup> February; two on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> (pair excavating a nest) and 30<sup>th</sup> April, in the last case with nest material at a site later destroyed, presumably by a woodpecker, four, including two immatures, on 18<sup>th</sup> October and a single on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Bretton Park** – one on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 8<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Horbury Strands** – one on 18<sup>th</sup> February and numerous dates in August.

**Scout Dike** – one on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> September, two on 24<sup>th</sup> April; a notable 6 on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**Elland – Brighouse** – two along the canal on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

**Royd Moor** – in September, three on 4<sup>th</sup>, one on 6<sup>th</sup>, three on 9<sup>th</sup>, in October, two on 4<sup>th</sup>, one on 9<sup>th</sup>, two on 10<sup>th</sup>, a single on 6<sup>th</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Denby Dale** – two on 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September, one on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Haigh Woods** – one on 16<sup>th</sup> November and 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Blacker Wood** – three on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Gunthwaite Dam** – one on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Shepley** – one on 28<sup>th</sup> November

**Stocks Moor Common** – a number of sightings of probable breeders.

### (EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

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

Reports from 46 sites represent a small decrease on last year but not an indicator of any decline in the numbers of this well favoured species. Evidence of breeding was found at many sites and in general the species appears to be thriving, consolidating its continuing northerly expansion through the UK.

Breeding records were more comprehensive than in previous years:

One or two were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** throughout the year - a pair which raised young in Orange Wood constituted the first breeding record for the site.

Two nests were observed in different patches of woodland in **Helme**.

A pair nested in the same trunk as a Great Tit pair at **Butternab Wood**.

A pair bred nearby **Lockwood** cemetery.

One was observed at a nest hole in **Magdale**.

Three pairs breed in **Windybank Wood**.

At least two pairs breed in **Upper Dearne Woods**.

A juvenile was amongst garden visitors at **Meal Hill**.

A juvenile was amongst frequent visitors to an **Almondbury** garden.

A juvenile was seen in a **New Mill** garden that attracted regular visitors.

Large numbers were most frequently seen in **Bretton Park** with up to 12 in the winter months and 11 in April. Otherwise numbers at most sites were in low single figures.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

Reports were received from 27 sites which is comparable with last year, most sightings being from the first quarter, also consistent with previous years. The only breeding evidence came from **Blackmoorfoot**, in Orange Wood, although sightings here outside the breeding season were also very sparse. Evidence of nesting was found in **Langsett** although the success of this is unknown.

Generally sightings were from deciduous woodlands with occasional garden visits in **Lockwood**, **Meltham**, **Netherthong** and **Meal Hill**. The only significant numbers were of three together in **Yeoman Hey** on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**RED-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius collurio*

Rare passage visitor. Former scarce breeder. Red listed.





An exceptional record of this species was of an adult male photographed in a garden in **Holme** village on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Other than the photograph there were no other observers of this sighting (G. Hallas via TM).

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

Records were received from 39 sites with sightings distributed throughout the year with a bias towards autumn as is often the case with this species. Evidence of breeding was largely based upon the presence of family groups containing juveniles but some nest-building was observed.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a bird was carrying nesting material on 12<sup>th</sup> April, a **New Mill** garden contained four young in June. Garden sightings were frequent with this opportunistic bird seeking out the nests of smaller species. No significantly large groups were recorded with the biggest being 20 in **Bretton Park** on 24<sup>th</sup> October and 15 in the **Meltham** area on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

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

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

This species of undeserved notoriety, whilst clearly commonplace is still largely unreported. With records from only 12 sites it is obviously simply overlooked by most observers with a danger that the records we do receive being largely meaningless.

Breeding was reported from **Blackmoorfoot**, **Almondbury** and **Shelley Whins** with nest building being recorded in **Deighton**, **Kilner Bank** and **Golcar**. The largest number noted were up to 10 in a **Lockwood** garden on an unrecorded date. The winter roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** would appear to be a thing of the past.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

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

This common and widespread species was once again relatively unreported by most observers with records from only 17 sites.

Nest building was reported from **Bradley**, **Slaithwaite**, **Aspley** and **New Mill**. Whilst not a common garden visitor birds were reported to have developed a technique for exploiting garden seed feeders by hovering alongside to spill as much seed as possible to be subsequently consumed on the ground.

Where observations have taken place some large numbers were recorded. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a flock of 330 flew S to roost on 31<sup>st</sup> January, at **Bretton Park** 200 were seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, at **Mount** a flock of 150 flew east on 14<sup>th</sup> November and flocks of more than 40 were reported from a number of sites.

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs. The commonest species of large passerine.

Following the 2005 extensive survey it may come as no surprise that this species was once again barely recorded within the club area, despite its relatively common status: records were received from only eleven sites.

Active rookeries were reported in **New Mill** (2 rookeries), **Crosland Moor**, **Meal Hill** (2), **Marsden**, **Stretch Gate**, **Bretton Park** and **Honley**. Other than a mixed flock of 500 birds with Jackdaws over **Shelley** no notable counts were received.

**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*

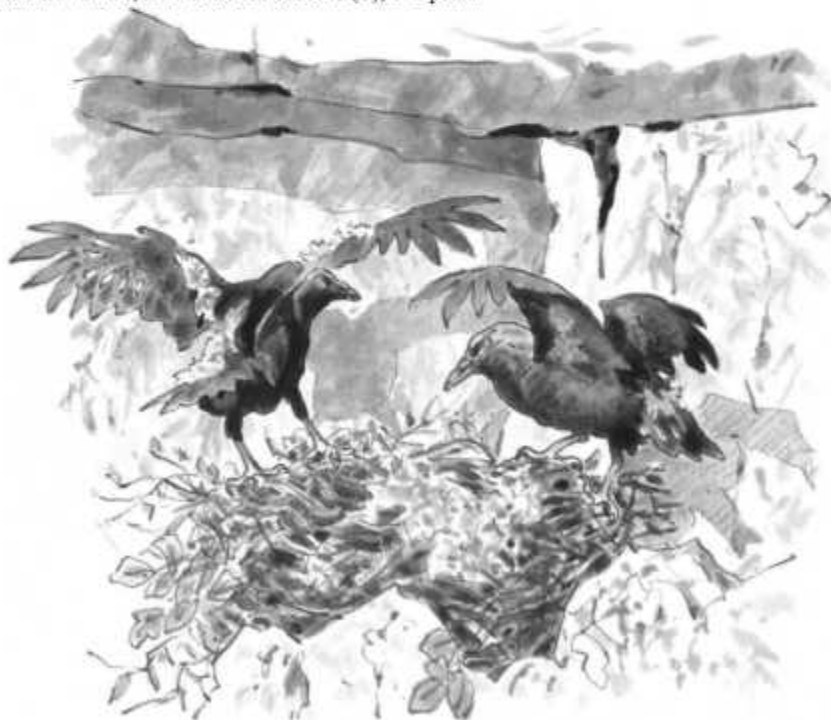
Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

Another highly successful and common corvid, but with very few notable records for the club area and returns from only 11 sites being received.

Breeding was reported from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Lepton** and **Almondbury**, where garden visits were common all year. Significant numbers were 60 at **Cooper Bridge** on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 30 at **Scammonden** on 11<sup>th</sup> July and 100 at **Scout Dike** on 29<sup>th</sup> August

**RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

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



A scarce corvid so, naturally, much more frequently recorded and reported than the others, with records received from a total of 24 sites, all from upland areas. Sightings were from various times of the year and evidence of breeding display and attempted nest building was seen at a few sites.

At **Deer Hill** sightings were quite frequent with eight birds being seen together on 16<sup>th</sup> September and two together seen at **Wessenden Valley**, **Digley Valley**, **Little Don Valley**, **Dean Head**, **Isle of Skye Road**, **Winscar** and **Snailsden** whilst a family party of five were seen at **Woodhead** on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a single was over Meltham Cop on 3<sup>rd</sup> August (TD) and a single flew W over Orange Wood on 13<sup>th</sup> December (MLD, DMO).

Evidence of the continuing persecution of this species was found in the form of a dead bird at **Royd Edge Clough** that was shown by subsequent investigation to have been shot.

#### (COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. One of the commonest species. Red listed.

This common species, whilst declining in numbers is also one of those that are relatively under-reported. Records were received from 24 sites with evidence of breeding from almost everywhere. The species is most evident in urban areas but the largest flocks are invariably seen in rural habitats. Its winter flocking behaviour is well documented and some evidence of that was seen in the club area.

**Deanhouse** – c.400 were present on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Oldfield** – 300 on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 100 on 5<sup>th</sup> June and 400 on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Digley** – 200+ on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Butternab Wood** – around 200, including juveniles, were present for a week in late May and fed, very noisily, in adjacent fields.

**Blackmoorfoot Res.** – a maximum of 370 was seen in the NE corner of the reservoir on 9<sup>th</sup> September whilst a flock of about 500 flew S to roost on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Whitley Common** – a flock of 500+ on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Upper Maythorn** – c.2000 present on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Hepworth Pipe Works** – a flock of 400 were being harassed by a Sparrowhawk on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Deer Hill** – 500 on 14<sup>th</sup> March and 100 on 22<sup>nd</sup> November

**Ringstone Edge** – 150 on 24<sup>th</sup> March and 400 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Annat Royd Lane** – c.200 on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species. Red listed.

Reports from only 18 sites of which many are gardens is typical for this species in the club area, despite its relatively common status.

Numbers seen varied according to location but sightings of 20-30 in winter were fairly common at sites such as **Almondbury**, **Meltham**, **Golcar**, **Kirkheaton**, **Lindley**, **Dalton**, **New Mill**, **Marsh** and **Shelley** confirming its widespread occurrence if somewhat fewer in number than previous years. A flock of 60+ birds on Botany Lane, **Lepton** on 19<sup>th</sup> August was notable for its size as was a flock of 45 in **Rastrick** on 23<sup>rd</sup> January..

Breeding was confirmed from a few sites with colonies noted at **Crosland Moor**, **Meal Hill** and **Shelley**; young were recorded being brought to feeders at a number of gardens in **Almondbury**, **Marsh** and **Shelley**.

An unusual record from **Blackmoorfoot** concerned two adult males in a field to the west of the reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montana*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Records from 18 locations, including one new to club records, was an encouraging sign for this declining species. Most sightings were in autumn when the largest flocks were most likely to form. Indications of breeding were recorded including the use of seemingly dedicated nest boxes at **Flash House Farm**.

It is worth noting all of the records received:

**Shelley Whins** – regular throughout the year, with a maximum of eight on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Royd Moor** – five birds regularly present at the gamekeeper's house.

**Denby Hall Farm** – sightings at various times in the year.

**Litherop Lane** – present all year with six to ten seen regularly.

**Skelmanthorpe** – two on Westfield Avenue on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Denby Dale** – two in Withens Wood on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Thurgory Lane** – two seen on 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March and flocks of c.15 at the eastern end on 31<sup>st</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Lepton** – two on Highfield Lane on 22<sup>nd</sup> March whilst in Gawthorpe Lane there were three on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Flash House Farm** – six birds using nest boxes in a small orchard in May.

**Ingbirchworth** – a solitary bird on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**Shelley Woodhouse** – one on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

**Stockmoor Common** – two colonies of six to ten birds but with only one confirmed breeding record of two young seen in June.

**Emley** – breeding birds seen around the ex colliery area.

**Emley Moor** – two birds seen in stubble on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Dewsbury SF** – flocks of eight on 15<sup>th</sup> August and 11 on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Stockmoor** – one seen on a feeder on Cross Lane in late October.

**Gunthwaite** – two on Carr lane on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Considering that this is both one of the commonest and widespread species in the club area very few records were received from just 21 sites. Breeding evidence in the form of juveniles in the flocks was seen at most sites.

In general numbers were not exceptional:

At **High Hoyland**, a notable winter site for the species, c.100 were present in the game crop on 12<sup>th</sup> January with good numbers permanently there throughout the winter months.

At **Langsett** 28 singing birds were heard on 9<sup>th</sup> May.  
At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** 43 flew W on 11<sup>th</sup> October.  
At **Colnebridge SP** there were 30+ birds on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Birds were reported from a number of gardens with up to 20, including young, present in one in **Meal Hill** during the summer.

#### **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

Sightings for this species generally separate into early winter and late winter periods. This year both seemed to be equally well represented with reports from 32 sites in the early period and from 33 sites in the later quarter.

During the first winter period **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had two from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January and singles on 17<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January. There were then no records until March: a single on 4<sup>th</sup>, six on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>, 12+ on 16<sup>th</sup>, two on 24<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 30<sup>th</sup>. In April one or two were seen on four dates with six on 15<sup>th</sup>, this being the latest sighting in the club area.

In the **Windybank** area flocks of 100+ were present on 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February with flocks of 50+ seen on a number of other dates culminating in 60+ on 5<sup>th</sup> March and 30+ on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the last record from this area. 40+ were present at **Hey Green** on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 50+ at **Ingbirchworth** on 8<sup>th</sup> January and 30 were in **Storches Hall Woods** on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Other sightings came from **Dovestones Res.**, **Slaithwaite**, **Ringstone Edge**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Shepley**, **Denby Dale**, **Magdale**, **Krumlin** and **High Hoyland** where the only records were of six birds, a low count for an area favoured by finches in winter. A lone garden record involved a single at **Meltham** on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

In the second winter period the first returning birds were 20 at **Langsett** on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Thereafter sightings were regular but of limited numbers with no more than six, at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and **Meltham** into 2008, and seven briefly at **Ingbirchworth** on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Other sightings came from **Wholestone Moor**, **Royd Moor**, **Horbury**, **Denby Dale**, **Annat Royd Lane**, **Windybank Wood**, **Haigh Woods**, **Bretton Park**, **Binn Green**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Meal Hill**, **Yateholme**, **Shelley** and **High Hoyland**. Garden sightings came from **Meal Hill** with four and **Meltham** with a single at the end of November.

#### (EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

Another relatively common species that is under-reported with records received from only 20 sites. A number of subjective accounts indicate that the species may be declining locally and outbreaks of Trichomonosis have been reported to have affected populations on a national scale. Breeding evidence was largely drawn from the presence of young birds in feeding flocks.

Birds were present throughout the year and at widespread sites. No significantly sized feeding flocks were reported other than at **High Hoyland** where c.200 were reported on 12<sup>th</sup> January and c.100 on 17<sup>th</sup> December. In a **Fixby** garden 30 were associating with Goldfinch in a mixed flock on 8<sup>th</sup> February and 15 plus juveniles were present on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Other garden visitors were

reported from **New Mill, Hagg Wood, Lockwood, Golcar** (the first in this garden for two years), **Almondbury** where juveniles were present, **Linthwaite, Netherthong** and **Shelley**.

Breeding of three pairs was reported from **Colnebridge SP**.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

This is now becoming one of our most common finch species, yet it is still thankfully well reported, no doubt due to its colourful and attractive behaviour. Reports were received from 32 sites across the club area, with sightings being recorded throughout the year. Evidence of breeding was mostly in the form of immature birds although records were received of 31+ pairs breeding at **Colnebridge SP**.

Birds were typically relatively few in number with flocks often in single figures with some exceptions:

At **Blackmoorfoot** the species was seen on a near daily basis. Generally fewer than 10 were encountered with the notable exception of 50+ on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

In one **Shelley** garden up to 25 were present in the first quarter of the year, then 30 including immature birds were present in autumn, thereafter numbers normalised towards the year end.

In a **Fixby** garden a remarkable 70 were accompanying Greenfinches on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Bulcliffe Colliery** held 50 on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

At **Hagg** c.50 were present on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

At **Deer Hill** 45 were present on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

At **Ringstone Edge** 35 were seen on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

At **Maythorne** c.60 were feeding on thistles on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

At **Scammonden** a mobile flock of 50+ was seen on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

At **Elland GP** 35 birds were observed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

As always the pattern of occurrence of this species is largely influenced by factors on the continent, so variations can always be expected from year to year. Continuing the theme of the previous year numbers and sightings were relatively few in the early winter months. In contrast the later quarter produced many more sightings and flocks in large numbers in certain cases. No reports of breeding were received this year although there were sightings of individual birds in **Shelley** in June and July. Records were received from 29 sites overall.

In the early part of the year records were sporadic, involving only small numbers. An **Almondbury** garden held only single birds on various dates in January and February. At **Grimescar** up to nine birds were present during January and at **Golcar** three were present on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. A **Shelley** garden held single birds at various dates from January to April with a single on 24<sup>th</sup> June. A garden on **Lindley Moor Road** had a single on 27<sup>th</sup> January whilst a **Fixby** garden held singles on various dates throughout January. **Bradley Hall Farm** held two on 14<sup>th</sup> January and **Elland GP** produced four on 15<sup>th</sup> February. At **Yateholme** 20+ were present on 5<sup>th</sup> February with four on 13<sup>th</sup>, two on 21<sup>st</sup> March and 12 on 11<sup>th</sup> April. **Windybank Wood** had

singles in gardens on 18<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March and **Langsett** held a single on 23<sup>rd</sup> May with four present three days later.

The second half of the year commenced with a single in a **Shelley** garden on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, two at **Butterley Res.** on 19<sup>th</sup> July with singles being seen in **Windybank Wood** in August. Small numbers were seen in September: at **Hartcliffe Hill** 20 were seen on 1<sup>st</sup> consorting with Goldfinches, at **Blackmoorfoot** six on 11<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 20<sup>th</sup>, one at **Ringstone Edge** on 21<sup>st</sup>, four at **Dewsbury SF** on 30<sup>th</sup>. A major influx then became obvious through October as sightings were recorded at numerous sites with significant numbers being seen in some cases such as **Scout Dike** where c.60 were seen on 14<sup>th</sup> October and **Scammonden** had 30 which flew west on the same day. Birds then became very common through to the year end typically in flocks containing smallish numbers of birds but some larger groups were seen. **Elland GP** had 20 on 14<sup>th</sup> November rising to 50 on 22<sup>nd</sup> with up to 40 continually through to the year end. At **Riding Wood Res.** 200 were seen in Larch trees on 17<sup>th</sup> November, flocks of 12+ birds were seen at **Blackmoorfoot**, at **Grimescar** in late November 20-35 birds were present and 60 were there on the last day of the year. **Binn Green** hosted 30 on 14<sup>th</sup> November, whilst at **Yateholme** a flock of 150+ was seen on 16<sup>th</sup> November and there were 35 at **Harden Clough** on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs. Red listed.

Regularly recorded in the farmlands that it favours, this species was reported from 31 sites and records cover the whole year despite its tendency towards short migrations. Breeding was noted on **Shelley Whins** with up to three pairs and at **Langsett** with three pairs one of which was seen with nest material.

**High Hoyland** hosted 100+ birds on 12<sup>th</sup> January yet only small numbers in the autumn.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the only March record involved four on 25<sup>th</sup>. The next returning birds were not seen until 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> April when two were present. Thereafter less than 10 (the usual number) were present throughout the summer, but 40+ were seen on **Meltham Cop** on 17<sup>th</sup> April. The area played host to the species on most dates between 15<sup>th</sup> July and late September with birds being present in the fields to the west with maxima of 50+ on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 40 on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 85+ on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 100+ on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

At **Bow Grains** a small flock on 27<sup>th</sup> August was seen to include a pale pink leucistic bird showing both wings pale grey and unmarked.

At **Dewsbury SF** fair numbers were present from spring until autumn with 180 on 27<sup>th</sup> August and 40 on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**Annat Royd Lane** had 30+ on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**Crosland Hill** airfield held a flock of 120+ on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

At **Thurgory Lane** a flock of 50-60 birds was recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

All other sites held relatively modest numbers and the only garden sighting was of a single in **Linthwaite**.



### **TWITE** *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Red listed.

As the club area currently holds a significant proportion of the English breeding population, this species is now the subject of fairly intensive surveying in the area, so the reports that we have should be fairly comprehensive.

The number of records of passage birds at **Blackmoorfoot** continues to fall. The fields to the west of the reservoir only produced the following records: in April six from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> and four from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, two on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, three on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, in July three on 18<sup>th</sup>, two on 27<sup>th</sup> with nine the following day and 20+ on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

Singles were seen at **Wessenden Res.** on 7<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> May and **Blakeley Res.** had six on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

At **Scammonden** two females were seen on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

The **Isle of Skye** quarry held two on 30<sup>th</sup> April and a single on 19<sup>th</sup> October, and at **Digley** 15+ were present on 9<sup>th</sup> April with one heard calling at **Blackpool Bridge** on 1<sup>st</sup> May and birds were seen at **Elysium** on a number of dates in April and May, mostly two birds with six on one occasion.

**Deer Hill** is the site of a ringing and feeding station where 203 birds, which included 44 juveniles on 8<sup>th</sup> August, were ringed between April and October.

At **Buckstones** two males were present on 10<sup>th</sup> June and six birds were seen on 19<sup>th</sup>.

On **Cupwith Moor** ten were seen on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

At Derby Delph quarry in **Rishworth** 80 were at seed on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

At **Marsden** 35 were present at **Ward's End Farm** on 28<sup>th</sup> September, most of which were without rings.

### **LESSER REDPOLL** *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Records were received from 31 sites typically in the winter months and most reports were of single figure flocks with only occasionally larger ones being seen.

January reports commenced with two in a **Meltham** garden on 12<sup>th</sup> increasing to six the next day, these remaining through to 17<sup>th</sup> March. Other January sightings, mainly of single birds, came from **Golcar** with six on 7<sup>th</sup>, **Shelley**, **Shepley**, a **Fixby** garden and **Windybank Wood**, whilst at **Bradley Hall Farm** 10 were noted on 13<sup>th</sup>, **Colnebridge SP** had three on 22<sup>nd</sup> and **Elland GP** held 50 between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Numbers built in February with 20 at **Golcar** on 1<sup>st</sup> and a diminishing number at **Elland GP** as flocks dispersed. Sightings from March onwards were few and small in number. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were singles on three dates in April and one day in May, June and July. **Dovestones** held 8 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April with several heard singing on 11<sup>th</sup>. **Elland GP** also held 12 on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Sightings were then sporadic until the autumn.

In September singles were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, at **Shelley** two were seen flying N on 17<sup>th</sup> and at **Marsden GC** three flew SW on 11<sup>th</sup>.

October showed an increase in records as flocks began to form: **Wessenden** had 11 on 5<sup>th</sup>, **Langsett** five on 7<sup>th</sup>, **Royd Moor** five on 10<sup>th</sup>, **Broadstones** revealed 12 birds flushed from a roost in willows on 10<sup>th</sup>, **Scout Dike** held singles on a number of dates and 13 on 10<sup>th</sup>,



**Blackmoorfoot** had seven on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13 S on 15<sup>th</sup>, **Scammonden** held 10 on 14<sup>th</sup>, **Horbury** hosted 30 on 19<sup>th</sup> with small numbers on other dates, singles were seen at **Shelley** on three dates and small numbers were in the **Marsden** area throughout the month.

Flocks of various sizes were reported from many sites during the final two months of the year. In November several were with Siskins at **Brownhill Res.** on 17<sup>th</sup>, **Blackmoorfoot** had six on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and small numbers were seen at **Horbury**, **Windybank Wood**, a **Hagg Wood** garden, **Wither Wood** and **Carlecotes Ponds**.

In December 26 were at **Elland GP** on 1<sup>st</sup>, 30 were seen at **Scissett** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12 were with Siskins at **Harden Clough** on 12<sup>th</sup>, up to six were seen in **Golcar** on a number of dates, 15 were in a **Meltham** garden on 22<sup>nd</sup> after which up to six were present to the year end.

#### **COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

Reports were received from eight locations in the club area.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** – in July three flew SW at 14.35hrs on 27<sup>th</sup> and three were along the east bank on 29<sup>th</sup>.

At **Yateholme** – one was seen on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 12 were present on 5<sup>th</sup> October and in November up to nine on 17<sup>th</sup> and small numbers on 20<sup>th</sup>.

At **Riding Wood Res.** a single male was seen on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**Langsett** held two on 1<sup>st</sup> August and up to 20 on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

At **Wessenden Lodge** two were seen flying high and calling, heading N on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

At **Butterley Plantation** three flew NE over the reservoir on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

At **Bretton CP** c.20 were seen to fly NE over the roundabout on 26<sup>th</sup> June and were likely to have been the same birds that were seen near **Emley** later on the same day.

#### (EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

Once again this was a well reported species with records from more than 45 sites and sightings occurring through most of the year. Juveniles were seen indicating successful breeding at a number of sites. Generally flocks were small, often in pairs or family groups. Some gardens were patronised throughout the year by this attractive species.

At **Bradley Park GC** 15 were present along the north edge on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were seen throughout the year with no more than four at any one time and the presence of a summer juvenile indicated probable breeding.

At **Colnebridge SP** birds were reported to be common throughout the year with a maximum of six together and positive evidence of breeding.

A **Fixby** garden held birds throughout the year with four juveniles being present on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**Elland GP** had 10 on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Bretton CP** hosted 10 or more birds in both winter periods.

Otherwise records were regular but unexceptional and received from most suitable sites throughout the club area.

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*  
Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs. Red listed.

Records were received from 35+ sites for this attractive species with many singing males being noted, but these numbers are still historically low. The species appears to still thrive in its known strongholds and reasonably sized winter flocks were still to be found, but its success continues to depend upon appropriate agricultural conditions.

**Bradley Hall Farm** held birds throughout the year and breeding was probable.

At **Thurgory Lane** 35 were seen on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 15 on 12<sup>th</sup> February and 30 on 5<sup>th</sup> March. After which numbers fell to the normal few of the summer months; nesting material being carried indicated probable breeding. 20 were seen on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 40 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November with good numbers continuing through to the year end.

At **High Hoyland** small numbers were seen in the early winter months and a flock of 30 was seen on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

At **Shepley** c.30 were feeding on stubble on 15<sup>th</sup> January and 25 on different stubble on 14<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Between **Shepley** and **Emley Moor** up to 10 pairs were believed to have bred (SRG).

At **Ingbirchworth** birds were present throughout most of the year with 10 on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a singing male on Edge Moor on 31<sup>st</sup> May was unusual.

Otherwise reports of singles and pairs were received from a further 25+ sites throughout the club area that provided appropriate habitat.

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Sightings were recorded at 38 sites and numbers at each of these sites were modest, as would be expected but with singing males reported from most. Breeding was reported from five sites and undoubtedly was successful at many more notably where pairs had been observed. The traditional locations for this species were frequented again, particularly in winter when greater numbers were observed at the favoured sites. Those of note were:

**Scout Dike** hosted birds throughout the year and pairs were observed in June.

Sightings were regular at **Ingbirchworth** during most of the year with a peak count of six on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

At **Meltham** two males were seen in a garden on 9<sup>th</sup> February and birds continued to visit up to mid April with six (four males) in mid February. The same garden was host to birds from mid December to the year end when, once again, up to six were present.

At **Deer Hill** 20+ birds were seen at Brow Grains on 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October, an exceptional number for the year; smaller numbers were recorded at other times.

**Ravensthorpe** was host to three singing males on 17<sup>th</sup> May and a further five on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** two pairs took up territories (SW corner overflow field and Edge Moor) and bred, with the only records thereafter involved a single from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> August, two on 15<sup>th</sup> October and a single on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra*

Rare visitor. Former breeder. Red listed.

A singing male in the **Stocks Moor** region on 20<sup>th</sup> May (HQ) was in a former traditional breeding area, so might this be the first signs of a come back ?

This is the first record of a singing bird since 1997 (Broadstones) and the first record of this species since 2003.

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## **ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES**

**EMPEROR GOOSE** *Anser canagicus*

A hybrid at Bretton Lakes on 9th April appeared to be paired with a feral Greylag Goose.

**EGYPTIAN GOOSE** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

One at Dewsbury SF on 2nd April and 13th October.

**GOLDEN PHEASANT** *Chrysolophus pictus*

One still remaining at Bretton Lakes reported on 16th March and 26th April.

## EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS

	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2007		EVER		2007	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	14/3	Dewsbury SF	29/9	1969	12/8	Ringstone Edge
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	12/4	Harden & Ringstone Edge	21/11	1959	8/9	Dewsbury SF & Blackmoorfoot
Common Tern	12/4	1996	22/4	Elland GP	16/10	2001	10/10	Blackmoorfoot
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	26/4	Shelley	27/10	1977	20/6	Shelley
Swift	16/4	2000	24/4	Elland GP	8/11	2001	No autumn records	
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	1/4	Elland GP	23/10	1971	16/9	Blackmoorfoot
Swallow	10/	1959	5/4	Ringstone Edge	5/12	1995	7/10	Holmbridge
House Martin	20/3	2005	9/4	Elland GP	27/11	1959	6/10	Bretton Park
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	21/4	Harden	5/10	2000	18/8	Scout Dike
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	1/5	Dewsbury SF	24/10	1952	18/8	Horbury Strands
Common Redstart	21/3	1942	14/4	Royd Moor	24/10	1976	10/9	Blackmoorfoot Res.
Whinchat	11/4	1949	23/4	Dewsbury SF	9/11	1999	15/9	Royd Moor
Northern Wheatear	1/3	1997	25/3	Brown's Edge	4/12	1997	22/11	Ingbirchworth
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	2/4	Ingbirchworth	25/12	1855	19/10	Denby Dale
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	26/4	Deanhead	29/8	2000	4/6	Marsden
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	4/5	Horbury	26/9	1999	13/9	Dewsbury SF
Reed Warbler	22/4	2002	1/5	Colnebridge SP	29/9	2001	9/8	Colnebridge SP
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	18/4	Lumb Lane	27/9	1973	4/9	Ringstone Edge
Common Whitethroat	3/4	1901	22/4	Hartcliffe Hill	12/10	1999	12/9	Royd Moor
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	24/4	Denby Dale Scout Dike	24/11	1984	4/9	Royd Moor
Blackcap	31/3	1998	9/4	Elland GP	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981	29/4	Delves Wood	4/9	1956	31/5	Langsett
Chiffchaff	10/3	2002	12/3	Elland GP	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	8/4	Elland GP	27/10	1987	20/9	Ingbirchworth Res
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	23/5	Langsett	16/10	1985	11/9	Windybank Wood
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	10/4	Hagg Wood	19/9	1969	13/6	Hagg Wood

 Denotes a new earliest ever record.

**Note:** for Blackcap and Chiffchaff, 'latest' dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds. 'Earliest' dates remain based upon singing birds.

## LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS

	LATEST				EARLIEST			
	EVER		2007		EVER		2007	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Pink-footed Goose	8/4	1991	1/4	Scout Dike Res.	11/9	2007	11/9	Shelley
Goldeneye	mid-May	?	11/4	Blackmoorfoot Res.	mid-Sept	?	29/9	Broadstones
Waxwing	29/4	1991	n/a	no reports	24/10	1965	n/a	no reports
Fieldfare	1/6	1994	1/5	Little Don Valley	1/8	1982	22/9	Shelley
Redwing	7/5	1975	5/4	Bretton Lakes	27/8	1941	20/9	Fixby
Brambling	13/5	1976	16/4	Blackmoorfoot Res	13/9	1983	7/10	Langsett

 Denotes a new earliest ever record.

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## SAGA OF THE BLACK-NECKED GREBE

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A Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* on Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2007, had been found at the road side some 70m from the main water body by a member of the public walking his dog. The gale force winds, coupled with heavy rain, had presumably deceived the bird into believing the road was a stretch of water. How fortunate that the finder, Mr Hague, who described the bird as “a baby grebe with red eyes”, had a dog which didn’t savage it and was sufficiently knowledgeable about birds to realise that it should be on the reservoir. Despite the trauma of being sniffed by one potential predator and man-handled by another in the wake of what was obviously a very bumpy landing, the bird was always very confiding, rarely venturing further than 10m from the reservoir edge and showing no concern about the close proximity of people or their dogs.

The grebe was present until 3<sup>rd</sup> March when it was found dead (see below). During the length of its stay, with the exception of the following incidents, the bird was only seen to eat Three-spined Sticklebacks *Gasterosteus aculeatus*. On 24<sup>th</sup> February the bird was feeding in the catchment channel where it enters the reservoir at no more than 5m distance. After a number of fruitless dives it came to the surface holding an earthworm which was estimated to be about 15cm in length. The grebe manipulated the worm with great dexterity and swallowed it headfirst in a matter of seconds. A similar scenario occurred the following day, although on this occasion the worm was about 18cm long. The worms, although appearing dead, were still brightly coloured, and had presumably only recently been washed out of the catchment bank by the increased water flow caused by recent heavy rain.

Even though Black-necked Grebe is less piscivorous than its larger cousins, eating a large number of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates (beetles, caddis flies, dragonfly larvae, earwigs, mayflies etc.), this would appear to be the first recorded instance of one actually eating earthworms. The eating of earthworms by Black-necked Grebes is perhaps not unusual but, as with other terrestrial invertebrates, they can only come into contact with them if they fall into the water, as in this instance.

The cause of the bird’s death was not apparent on external evidence, although despite the bird feeding regularly and appearing to eat sufficient for its needs, the sternum did lack muscle. The corpse was sent to John Mather for preparation as a study skin and he has kindly commented as follows: The bird, an adult female, had no sub-dermal fat and the breast muscle was wasting away leaving a sharp sternum. This, however, was not the cause of the bird’s demise as there was recent blood-clotting at the base of the neck and shoulders and the lower mandible was slightly damaged. The bird had obviously been in a tussle, the only likely opponent being a Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, a pair of which were proclaiming a breeding territory near to where it had succumbed. Great Crested Grebes tend to be intolerant of other grebe species within their territory and in this instance the smaller, rather emaciated bird, was at a total disadvantage. This initially very fortunate and resourceful bird had survived for more than two months after its original ordeal. How unfortunate it was to have been killed by one of its larger cousins. Having watched this particular Black-necked Grebe on a near daily basis, my future observations of Great Crested Grebes will never be the same again.

Mike Denton

# LANGSETT AND PENISTONE AREA SURVEY 2007

## Introduction and Objectives

In line with its commitment to undertake regular surveys, the committee decided to carry out a breeding bird survey in the extreme southern part of the club area during May and June 2007. The objectives were to survey breeding birds in an under-recorded part of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers Club Area and to do this survey in a way that could be repeated in future years to allow comparisons to be made.

## Location and Habitats

The chosen area of approximately 12 km<sup>2</sup> lay in OS area SE bounded by grid lines 16 (to the west) 23 (to the east) and 00 (at the south, being the southern boundary of the club area) and 04 (to the north). The area was divided into 12 patches, each walkable on public footpaths or access land. Patches 4 and 5 strayed south of the 00 grid line to allow access around Langsett Reservoir. The land sloped from West to East, the highest point being at 450m above ordnance datum, dropping to 210m in the east. Langsett Reservoir is the main water feature, being fed from streams forming the Little Don River, which is tributary of the River Don which flows through the northern part of the survey area. The area is crossed by two trunk roads, A616, M1 to Huddersfield and A628 Barnsley to Manchester, the two meeting at Flouch crossroads in the middle of the survey area. The disused Sheffield to Manchester railway line runs east west through the Don Valley at the northern part of the survey area and is used as a long distance cycling path. *(A copy of the area with patches marked is kept with the records).*

The habitat is set out in the table below. The west is mainly heather moorland with rough pasture. The pasture becomes more improved moving east with silage fields at the eastern edge. Agriculture is grazing predominately sheep but also beef cattle. Woodland around the reservoir is mainly conifer plantation, but there are also mature single conifers in the Little Don Valley and the plantations here are fringed with deciduous trees with some open clearings. The banks of the River Don also hold deciduous trees.

Human activity is limited to the large car parks at Langsett Reservoir, isolated farm buildings, a few houses around the visitor centre at Langsett, and small groups of houses in the Don Valley. The survey reached up to the edges of Millhouse Green and Thurlstone, two villages just outside Penistone. The factory bordering the A628 East of Flouch, a mill at Bullhouse and a farm shop at Hazlehead are the only businesses in the area other than farms.

## Methodology

Each observer was provided with a map showing the route to be taken and details of the adjacent patches. They were asked to carry out a preliminary visit to verify the route and to establish habitats. They were asked to carry out two visits, with an early morning start, spaced at least three weeks apart, during the period 1<sup>st</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> June. The observers were asked to prepare an A4 sketch of their patch and record all activity on this for each visit. They were given a spreadsheet on which to summarise their findings for later collation.

Although a similar survey had been conducted in 2004, the method adopted was not sufficiently clear or robust enough. In many instances an A4 sketch was too small to record all bird activity and at least 2 observers resorted to breaking down their patch into smaller chunks and recording information on notebooks. The spreadsheet asked for too much information and could have been



simplified. It should be recognised that by making only two visits a precise number of breeding birds cannot be obtained, at least 6 visits over a longer period would be required. But the method is robust and repeatable and gives a baseline for future comparison. It should be noted that the weather was appalling, with a prolonged wet spell over a large portion of the time and observers had difficulty in fitting in the visits. For patch 8 the most westerly and exposed patch only one visit was possible and for patches 2 & 12 the second visit took place just outside the allotted period. Both visits to Patch 10 took place in 8 days in June. Surprisingly with what followed, access to the moorland stretches was restricted to footpaths only because of the fire risk following a dry and very warm April.

**Table of habitats by patch**

Patch	Observer	Visit dates	Main habitats	Notes
1	C. Abell	1 <sup>st</sup> May 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Conifer wood, upland stream Isolated mature pines Heather and bracken moorland Rough pasture	
2	S. Frost	13 <sup>th</sup> May 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Conifer wood with some deciduous trees Open recently felled areas Pasture	Tree felling between 2 visits
3	M. & S. Collinson	8 <sup>th</sup> May 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Conifer wood, reservoir Car park, small village	Tree felling and improvement works
4 & 5	M. Wells	10 <sup>th</sup> May 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Deciduous & conifer wood Reservoir Pasture Heather moorland	
6	T. Piggott	19 <sup>th</sup> May 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Birch scrub Improved pasture with sedge Grassland for cutting Hawthorn, mixed wood beside Conifer wood, pond	Lapwings concealed by long grass.
7	D. Holloway	10 <sup>th</sup> May 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Pasture Deciduous woodland with scrub River, 2 ponds	Difficulty in making estimates of Pheasant, Wren, Swallow, Blue Tit, Willow Warbler, Starling
8	M. Wainman	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Moorland, heather, rush, bilberry Rough pasture, conifer wood	
9	H. Quarterman	13 <sup>th</sup> May 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Birch etc scrub Clusters of mature deciduous trees Houses with gardens, farms	
10	R. Boland	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Pasture, deciduous wood Marsh, scrub	
11	11			Not surveyed
12	A. King	21 <sup>st</sup> May 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Rough and improved pasture, grass for silage Small pool, gardens	

## Findings

82 species were recorded during the survey, 46 of these were considered as definite breeders, which for the purposes of this survey was defined as young seen, adults carrying food, adults with nest material or nest found. When likely breeders (i.e. singing or displaying males or other courtship behaviour) were included the total estimate of breeding species became 77. The estimated total number of likely breeding pairs was 1254, of which 312 were considered definite.

The key findings were:-

1) Lapwing is the most common breeder with 124 likely breeding pairs and it was this species that gave the greatest difficulty. At the first visit in May breeding would have been well underway and by the time of the second visit was made the grass was too long to count chicks or birds keeping low in the grass. To obtain the estimate of breeding pairs the number of adults seen was divided by two. Also, the field East of A616 just north of Flouch is known to hold large numbers of Lapwings. They are easily seen from the cars when passing, but the ability to get good views of this field was considered too dangerous (it is a busy and fast road with no footway). It is considered that the numbers of likely breeders is an underestimate.

2) Other breeding waders were two pairs of Oystercatchers and three pairs of Common Sandpipers around the Reservoir with Curlew (24), Snipe 6 and one pair of Golden Plover likely breeders on the upland areas. The importance of pasture for feeding was illustrated by a flock of 9 of the latter feeding near A616.

3) Despite the area being known for raptors, disappointingly few were recorded, but given their shyness in the breeding season this is not totally surprising.

4) After Lapwing, the most prolific breeders were Willow Warbler 118, Chaffinch 116, Wren 101 and Robin 51.

5) The Coal, Great and Blue Tits had 26, 37, and 37 breeding pairs respectively, along with four Long-tail Tits and one Willow Tit.

6) Blackbird was the most common thrush, with 34 pairs ahead of 17 Song Thrush and 6 Mistle Thrush. A pair of Ring Ouzels was considered to be likely breeders, but the single Fieldfare seen on May 1<sup>st</sup> was most likely to be on its migration north.

7) Of the other warblers and summer visitors the highlights were two pairs of Wood Warblers which made a welcome return after being absent for many years. It was pleasing to discover one pair of Pied Flycatchers, 5 Spotted Flycatchers and two Redstarts, all of which are just hanging on the area.

8) A pair of Swifts observed copulating in mid air was counted as breeding, but no definite nest site was found.

9) Other single breeding records were for Stock Dove, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, House Martin, Tree Pipit, Dipper, Stonechat, Wheatear, Nuthatch, Raven and Crossbill.

10) The 80 Rooks were an estimation of number of nests in one Rookery in Patch 7.

A full table of results is appended at the end of this article.

In addition to the weather conditions noted earlier, the other major factor affecting the number of birds was the forestry operations in the woods around Langsett Reservoir. Here there was considerable thinning of the conifers along with the construction of new hard access paths. The chain saws, heavy machinery and the continual presence of operatives must have caused disturbance, although apparently not to the Wood Warblers.

## **Conclusion**

Carrying out the survey has thrown a light on an under-recorded part of the club area and the records will form the basis for comparison for future years. The method is basically sound, although the spreadsheet could be simplified. Thought should be given to carrying out an extra visit earlier where Lapwings and Raptors are likely to be breeding.

## **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Mike Denton, Mike Wainman and Brian Armitage for their advice when putting together the scope of the survey. Thanks to those who braved the elements to carry out the fieldwork and for submitting the information clearly.

Chris Abell  
November 2007

**RESULTS OF LANGSETT & PENISTONE AREA SURVEY 2007**

Species	Definite breeding pairs	Likely breeding pairs	Likely total of all breeding pairs	Numbers of birds recorded, but no evidence of breeding
Grey Heron	0	0	0	3
Canada Goose	5	9	14	0
Mallard	11	16	27	8
Teal	1	0	1	0
Tufted Duck	0	1	1	0
Sparrowhawk	2	0	2	1
Kestrel	0	0	0	2
Red Grouse	0	11	11	0
Red-legged Partridge	0	1	1	0
Grey Partridge	0	1	1	1
Pheasant	0	18	18	3
Coot	0	0	0	1
Oystercatcher	0	2	2	0
Golden Plover	0	1	1	9
Lapwing	12	112	124	0
Curlew	1	23	24	1
Common Sandpiper	2	3	5	0
Snipe	0	6	6	0
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	0	0	2
Woodpigeon	4	56	60	29
Stock Dove	1	0	1	4
Collared Dove	1	5	6	6
Cuckoo	0	3	3	1
Tawny Owl	1	2	3	1
Little Owl	1	2	3	0
Swift	1	0	1	4
Green Woodpecker	0	2	2	0
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	7	8	0
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0	1	1	0
Skylark	0	19	19	0

**RESULTS OF LANGSETT & PENISTONE AREA SURVEY 2007**

Species	Definite breeding pairs	Likely breeding pairs	Likely total of all breeding pairs	Numbers of birds recorded, but no evidence of breeding
Swallow	6	28	34	15
House Martin	0	1	1	9
Tree Pipit	0	1	1	0
Meadow Pipit	1	11	12	12
Pied Wagtail	11	5	16	3
Grey Wagtail	1	2	3	2
Dipper	1	0	1	0
Wren	12	89	101	0
Duncock	4	23	27	5
Robin	13	38	51	0
Redstart	1	1	2	0
Stonechat	1	0	1	0
Northern Wheatear	0	1	1	1
Blackbird	17	17	34	0
Ring Ouzel	0	1	1	0
Fieldfare	0	0	0	1
Song Thrush	5	12	17	0
Mistle Thrush	2	4	6	4
Garden Warbler	0	5	5	0
Whitethroat	1	7	8	0
Blackcap	2	22	24	0
Wood Warbler	0	2	2	0
Willow Warbler	11	107	118	0
Chiffchaff	1	16	17	0
Goldcrest	6	7	13	0
Spotted Flycatcher	2	3	5	1
Pied Flycatcher	0	1	1	0
Willow Tit	0	1	1	0
Coal Tit	10	16	26	0
Great Tit	19	18	37	0
Blue Tit	25	12	37	0

**RESULTS OF LANGSETT & PENISTONE AREA SURVEY 2007**

Species	Definite breeding pairs	Likely breeding pairs	Likely total of all breeding pairs	Numbers of birds recorded, but no evidence of breeding
Long-tailed Tit	0	4	4	3
Nuthatch	0	1	1	0
Treecreeper	3	3	6	2
Starling	10	10	20	207
Jay	1	0	1	3
Magpie	1	2	3	25
Jackdaw	2	2	4	21
Raven	0	1	1	0
Rook	80	0	80	181
Carion Crow	0	2	2	12
Tree Sparrow	0	3	3	0
House Sparrow	4	0	4	4
Chaffinch	13	103	116	0
Siskin	0	5	5	1
Greenfinch	1	17	18	0
Goldfinch	0	15	15	10
Bullfinch	0	5	5	0
Redpoll	0	3	3	0
Linnet	1	7	8	2
Crossbill	0	1	1	0
Yellowhammer	0	6	6	0
<b>Total numbers of birds</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>1254</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Total number of breeding species</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>77</b>	
<b>Total number of species recorded</b>	<b>82</b>			

## 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 HBWC 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 either Mike Denton or the Club Recorder. 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



# CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES

(Use O.S. Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

Location	Grid ref.
Ainley Top	117193
Almondbury	170155
Annat Royd Lane	211053
Appleyards, Golcar	101152
Armitage Bridge	130135
Ashway Gap	023043
Aspley	151163
Baitings Res.	006188
Bank Wood, Emley	263138
Banks Hall	282066
Bare Bones Road	144043
Bargate	096147
Barkisland	055197
Bartin	091072
Beaumont Park	130147
Bell Royd Farm	228048
Berry Brow	141138
Big Valley	130136
Bilberry Res.	102070
Binn Edge	053105
Bird's Edge	202077
Bird's Nest Lane	187066
Birkby	137181
Birks Moss	056078
Black Brook	060177
Black Hill	078047
Black Moss	040085
Blacker Beck	297161
Blacker Pit	299164
Blacker Wood	240111
Blackley Tip	102195
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127
Blake Lee, Marsden	029121
Blakeley Res.	054096
Booth Dam Quarry	018161
Booth Wood Res.	026163
Boothroyd Wood	183118
Boshaw Whams	151057
Bradley	165205
Bradley Park GC	159207
Bradshaw	052144
Bretton Lakes	280127
Broadstones Lodge	203064
Broadstones Res.	195065

Location	Grid ref.
Brookhouse Bridge	198007
Brown's Edge	195058
Brownhill Res.	114060
Buckstones	010140
Bullecliff Farm	290156
Bullecliff Wood	292152
Bunny Wood, Golcar	095173
Butterley Res.	050103
Butternab Wood	122138
Cannon Hall	275085
Carlecotes	178034
Carr Wood	180133
Cartworth Moor	138060
Castle Dam, Penistone	255022
Castle Hill	152141
Cawthorne	285080
Cawthorne Dike	295089
Cheesegate Nab	175065
Chew Hills	023030
Chew Valley	025025
Choppards	142064
Cinderhills	147075
Clayton West	260110
Clayton West S.F.	266118
Cliff Wood, Langsett	215002
Cliff, Holmfirth	145082
Clock Face Quarry	044173
Clough Lee	046116
Clough Wood	175114
Cockley Hill	188179
Colne Valley	070140
Colnebridge S.P.	175207
Cooper Bridge	175206
Cowcliffe	139187
Coxley Bank	275168
Coxley Valley	271165
Cranberry	247008
Crimble	085145
Crosland Heath GC	110142
Crosland Hill	115145
Crosland Moor	120150
Crossley's Plantation	125050
Crow Edge	188046
Cubley	245023

Location	Grid ref.
Cupwith Res.	038141
Dalton	165168
Dean Clough	080067
Dean Rocks	025038
Dean Wood	119134
Deanhead Res.	038152
Dearne Dike Lane	195075
Dearne Head	185076
Deer Hill Res.	070115
Deffer Wood	260090
Deighton	167191
Denby Dale	225084
Dewsbury SF	260198
Digley Bottom	115068
Digley Res.	107070
Dogley NR	187137
Dovestones Res.	018040
Drop Clough	048133
Dunford Bridge	158024
Edge Hill	235016
Edge Moor	104125
Elland GP	125222
Ellentree Brow	142045
Elvium Fields	133055
Emley Moor	225135
Emley Tx	223130
Farnley Tyas	166128
Farnley Wood	164134
Featherbed Moss	044010
Fenay Beck	183152
Fixby	139196
Flight Hill	153042
Flockton	245151
Flouch Inn	198016
Folly Hall	142159
Ford Inn	114084
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring	276027
Fox Clough	136057
Fox Holes, Langsett	190006
Fox House Moss	165042
Fullshaw	210012
Fulstone	175095
Garside Hey	032133
Gawthorpe Green	193168
Gilbert Hill	210007
Gledholt	133170
Golear	096160

Location	Grid ref.
Golear Tip	104156
Grain's Moss	125025
Grange Moor	220160
Green Gate	204060
Green Gate Road	113080
Greenfield Res.	030054
Greenfield Road	103080
Greetland	085215
Grimescar Valley	130190
Gunthwaite Dam	246062
Hade Edge	146053
Hades Green Clough	141052
Haigh	294120
Haigh Clough	023127
Hall Bower	145140
Hall Dike	115118
Hall Ing Road	162115
Hard Hill	056111
Harden	153037
Harden Clough	144039
Harden Edge	158038
Harden Moss	100083
Harden Res.	150037
Hartcliff Hill	221017
Hazlehead	195028
Healey Greave Wood	194116
Healey House	115124
Healey Mills	268193
Helme	101118
Hepworth	164066
Hey Green, Marsden	032122
Heyden Moor	092024
High Hoyland	273102
High Wood	290106
Highburton	193133
Hill Top Res.	074141
Hinchliffe Mill	127072
Hingcliffe Common	194001
Holmbridge	120068
Holme	108060
Holme Moor West	062114
Holme Styes	136054
Holme Styes Res.	141055
Holme Woods	105045
Holmfirth	143082
Holt Head	080123
Honley	138118

Location	Grid ref.
Honley Moor	116113
Horbury Strands	288177
Horbury Wyke	297172
Houses Hill	199169
Hoylandswaine	265047
Huddersfield	145165
Hullen Edge	100208
Hullock Bank	172075
Ingbirchworth Res.	215060
Isle of Skye Quarry	093080
Issues Clough	082053
Issues Road	095061
Jackson Bridge	165075
Jebb Lane	280112
Jenkinson Wood	184116
Jubilee Quarries	103128
Kaye Lane	160147
King's Mill Lane	150161
Kirkburton	198128
Kirkheaton	185185
Kirkroyds	156091
Krumlin	056183
Langsett	212005
Langsett Banks	205003
Langsett Res.	210001
Law	158047
Law Slack Ponds	156047
Lepton	203152
Lepton Great Wood	195145
Lindley	120182
Lindley Moor	095185
Lingards	060132
Linthwaite	095145
Liphill Brook	129078
Litherop Lane	273123
Little Black Moss Res.	032087
Little Don Valley	195005
Lockwood	135152
Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150
Longwood	108167
Lower Cumberworth	223095
Lower Hopton	202191
Lower Maythorn	187056
Lower Stones Wood	187106
Lower Windleden Res.	157017
Lowfields, Elland	117219
Lumb Lane	160140

Location	Grid ref.
Magdale Dam	135124
Magdalen Clough	090082
March Haigh Res.	015130
Margery Wood	275096
Marsden	045115
Marsden Clough	094072
Marsh	125171
Mathewman Wood	182098
Maythorn	186057
McAlpine Stadium	155176
Meal Hill	168070
Mellor Wood	158144
Meltham Cop	093120
Meltham Moor	080093
Meltham SF	112115
Middlestown	267172
Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Millhouse Green	218032
Millmoor, Meltham	088107
Milnsbridge	113158
Molly Carr Wood	160137
Morton Wood	158067
Myers Wood	188125
Mytholm Bridge	154102
Nether End	124081
Nether Moor	117133
Netherthong	139097
Netherton, Wakefield	283170
Netherwood	054127
Nettleton Hill	094170
New Hall Wood	265155
New House Wood	210082
New Mill	164088
Nont Sarah's	048152
Nopper Road	107135
Onkes	120174
Oldfield	136103
Orange Wood	102123
Ossett	290200
Outlane	085180
Ox Lee	168055
Oxygrains Beck	003159
Paddock	125161
Park Mill	260114
Paul Lane	184203
Penistone	245033
Penny Spring Wood	160155

Location	Grid ref.
Pole Moor	067158
Potato Lane	089125
Pule Hill	033104
Ramsden Res.	115055
Ravensthorpe	222202
Ravensthorpe GP	233202
Redbrook Res.	027098
Reynard Clough	136050
Riding Wood Res.	117050
Ringstone Edge Res.	050182
Ripponden	040197
Rishworth	032182
Roughbirkworth	264016
Round Wood	157101
Royd Edge	095097
Royd House Wood	162133
Royd Moor Res.	222048
Ryburn Res.	020188
Salendine Nook	105178
Salters Brook	137002
Sand Ridge Moss	158032
Sands GP.	217196
Sands House	116145
Scammonden	050160
Scissett	248104
Scout Dike Res.	233049
Shelley	204113
Shelley Woodhouse	218110
Shepley	193098
Shore Head	148166
Silkstone	290059
Silkstone SF	295065
Skelmanthorpe	233105
Slaithwaite	080140
Slaithwaite Moor	040143
Smith Wood	179115
Snailsden Moor	135035
Snailsden Res.	135040
Snap Res.	117088
Snittle Road	149050
Snowgate Head	179085
South Crosland	113130
Sparth Res.	055125
Spicer House Lane	205055
Spring Wood	130124
Square Wood Res.	217078
Squirrel Ditch	152154

Location	Grid ref.
Stainland	077194
Standedge	016098
Stocks Moor Common	275152
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158
Storthes Hall Moor	175112
Storthes Hall Woods	183125
Stubbin Clough	124072
Swinden Plantation	190002
Swinny Knoll	125097
T. P. Wood	132166
Taylor Hill	135145
Thongsbridge	151097
Thornton Lodge	135161
Thorpes	235095
Thunderbridge	188115
Thurgory	191158
Thurleston Moor	175020
Thurstonland	165104
Tinker Hill	163038
Totties	157082
Townhead	166028
Tunnel End Res.	039120
Tup Stones	096018
Underbank	144076
Upper Cumberworth	210087
Upper Denby	230072
Upper Greetland	075212
Upper Longendale	095005
Upper Royd	095095
Upper Stones Wood	185104
Upper Windleden Res.	152012
Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Waring Bridge	065131
Waterloo	177166
Way Stones Edge	004142
Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Wessenden Valley	055088
West Nab	077088
West Wood, Honley	151123
Wetshaw Edge	147032
Whitegate Lane	128055
Whitley Common	192056
Whitley Willows	196166
Wholestone Moor	077167
Will's o' Nats's	090121
Wilshaw	118100
Windle Edge	152017

<b>Location</b>	<b>Grid ref.</b>
Windleden Edge	142010
Windmill Lane	195072
Windybank Wood	112104
Winscar Res.	150025
Wolfstones	124092
Wood Nook	122106
Wood Top	046113
Woodhead Res.	095002
Woodsome Lees	186134
Woodsome Road	185146
Wooldale	155090
Yateholme	115050
Yeoman Hey	033050

## THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

The following is a list of the 267 species of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club recording area since records began, up to the end of 2008, i.e. up to the year-end prior to the date of publication. Eleven 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, highlighted, the less common 'additional' race(s). For those species and races that have been recorded only once or twice, the year(s) in which the birds appeared are also listed.

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

Three new species and one race were added to the Huddersfield List in 2008:

**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Scout Dike Reservoir on 9<sup>th</sup> February).

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* (flying north over Dalton on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008).

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis fulcinellus* (flying over Boshaw Whams on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008).

**Kumlien's Gull** *Larus glaucoideus kumlieni*, which is a race of Iceland Gull found in arctic Canada (Langsett Reservoir on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008).

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 YNU or the BBRC. 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. Details may also be requested of un-seasonal records and well-defined races. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

Inexperienced observers may like to contact one of the Records Sub-committee at the time of the sighting to obtain help if they are confronted with a "mystery" bird:

Brian Armitage	Tel. 01484 305054	Mick Cunningham	Tel. 01484 680409
Russ Boland	Tel. 01226 281827	John Dale	Tel. 01844 652453

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarce species, to the Club Recorder (see page 130).

See the map on page 131 for a definition of the Club recording area.

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
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>	1996	YNU
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
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>		
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2002	YNU
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	2002, 2007	
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		
23	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		YNU
24	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		
25	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>		
26	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		
27	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
28	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		HBC
29	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		HBC
30	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		
31	Snew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>		
32	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		
33	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		
34	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		
35	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>		
36	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>		
37	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		
38	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>		
39	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		
40	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		
41	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		HBC
42	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		HBC
43	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		HBC
44	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		
45	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		
46	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		HBC
47	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		HBC
48	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		HBC
49	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		HBC
50	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		HBC
51	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		HBC
52	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		HBC
53	Gannet	<i>Morus bassana</i>		HBC
54	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		
55	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		HBC
56	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		HBC
57	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2008	YNU
58	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		HBC



# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
59	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1989	YNU
60	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		
61	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2008	BBRC
62	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		HBC
63	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2008	BBRC
64	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		HBC
65	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		YNU
66	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		
67	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005	YNU
68	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		HBC
69	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		HBC
70	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		YNU
71	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		HBC
72	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		
73	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		
74	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		YNU
75	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982	YNU
76	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		HBC
77	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		
78	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1983, 1994	YNU
79	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		
80	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		
81	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		
82	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		
83	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		HBC
84	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874	BBRC
85	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		HBC
86	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		
87	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		
88	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		HBC
89	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
90	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005	HBC
91	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedipnemos</i>		
92	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		
93	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		
94	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		HBC
95	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		
96	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		
97	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		
98	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		
99	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		
100	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		HBC
101	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		HBC
102	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990	YNU
103	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2007	
104	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		HBC
105	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		HBC
106	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		
107	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>		YNU
108	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		
109	Jack Snipe	<i>Limnospiza minima</i>		
110	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		
111	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		BBRC
112	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		
113	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		
114	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		
115	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		
116	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		
117	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989	BBRC
118	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		
119	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	1983, 1990	BBRC
120	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
121	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		
122	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		
123	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		HBC
124	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		
125	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		
126	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978	BBRC
127	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985	YNU
128	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		HBC
129	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		HBC
130	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		HBC
131	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988	HBC
132	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992	HBC
133	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		HBC
134	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		
135	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		
136	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		
137	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		HBC
138	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		
139	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		YNU
140	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
141	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>		
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>		HBC
142	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		HBC
143	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	2002	YNU
144	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>		HBC
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>		HBC
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	2008	BBRC
145	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		HBC

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
146	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		
147	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		HBC
148	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		HBC
149	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998	YNU
150	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		HBC
151	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		
152	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		HBC
153	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964	HBC
154	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		HBC
155	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		HBC
156	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		HBC
157	Pallas's Sandpoule	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	1888	BBRC
158	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)		
159	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		
160	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		
161	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		
162	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		
163	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		
164	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		HBC
165	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		
166	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		
167	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>		
168	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		
169	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		
170	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		
171	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	1872	YNU
172	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		
173	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968	BBRC
174	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		HBC
175	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		HBC
176	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
177	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		
178	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		
179	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947	HBC
180	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		
181	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000	HBC
182	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		
183	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		
184	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		
185	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989	YNU
186	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		
187	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		
188	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
189	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		HBC
190	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>	1990	HBC
191	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		
192	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarelli</i>		
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		HBC
193	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>		
194	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		
195	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		
196	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		
197	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		
198	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		HBC
199	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		HBC
200	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
201	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		
202	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		
203	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>		
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>		HBC
204	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>		
205	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		
206	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		
207	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		
208	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		
209	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		
210	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		
211	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		
212	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</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	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977	HBC
218	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985	HBC
219	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		HBC
220	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>		
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000	HBC
221	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		
222	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		
223	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		
224	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		
225	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		
226	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		
227	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
228	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		
229	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		
230	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>		
231	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		HBC
232	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		
233	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		
234	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		HBC
235	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		HBC
236	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		
237	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		
238	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		
239	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		
240	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		
241	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		
242	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		HBC
243	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		
244	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	1859	HBC
245	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		
246	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		
247	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		
248	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		
249	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		
250	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		
251	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>		
252	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		
253	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>		
254	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>		
255	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>		
256	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		
257	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983	BBRC
258	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		

# THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
259	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		
260	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarinus lapponicus</i>		HBC
261	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		HBC
262	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		
263	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>		YNU
264	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999	YNU
265	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		
266	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998	BBRC
267	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		



## NOTES

## **CLUB OFFICERS 2008–2009**

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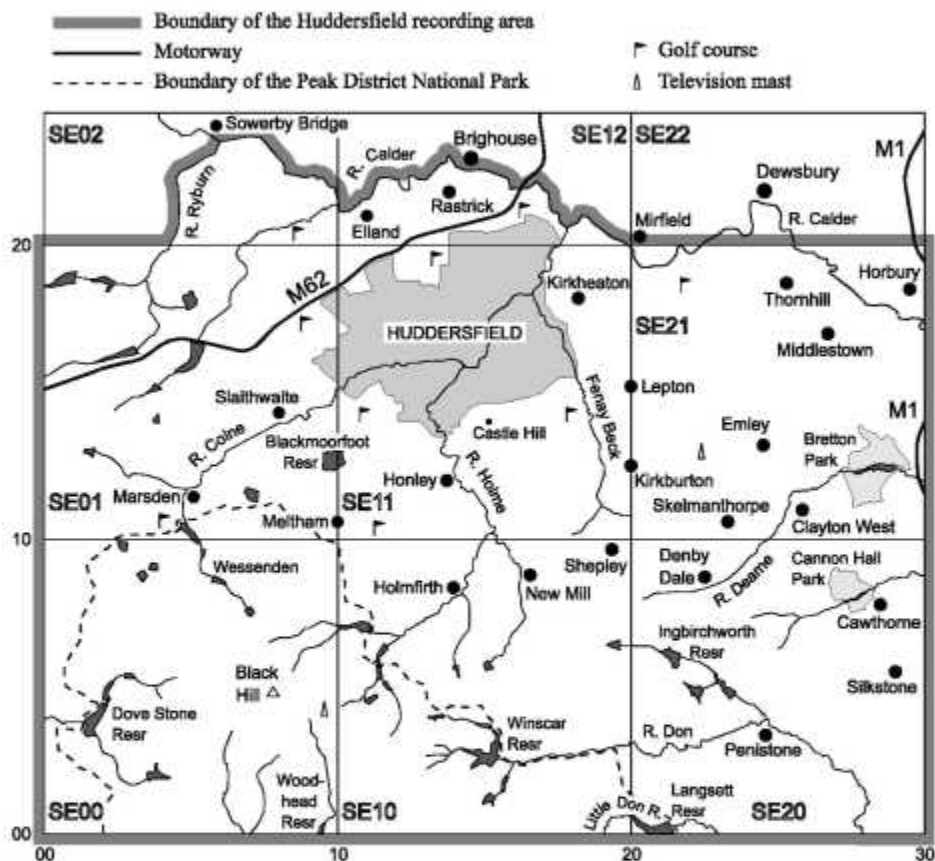
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### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Russ Boland      David Holloway      Terry Piggott

## 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 SE 12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits.





# **Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

Registered charity no 1098296

## **INTERESTED IN BIRDS ?**

### **DID YOU KNOW ...**

- **The Huddersfield area**
  - **has nationally important breeding habitat for some of Britain's most endangered birds.**
  - **attracts rare and scarce birds every year.**
  - **offers interesting birding all year round, if you know where to look.**
- **Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, a registered charity, has been studying the birds of the area since 1966.**
- **Through recording and surveys, the Club helps conserve these important habitats and birds.**
- **"Birds in Huddersfield", published annually, shows all the latest local trends in bird populations and what birds have been seen where and when.**
- **Sales help fund the charity's work.**

[www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk](http://www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk)