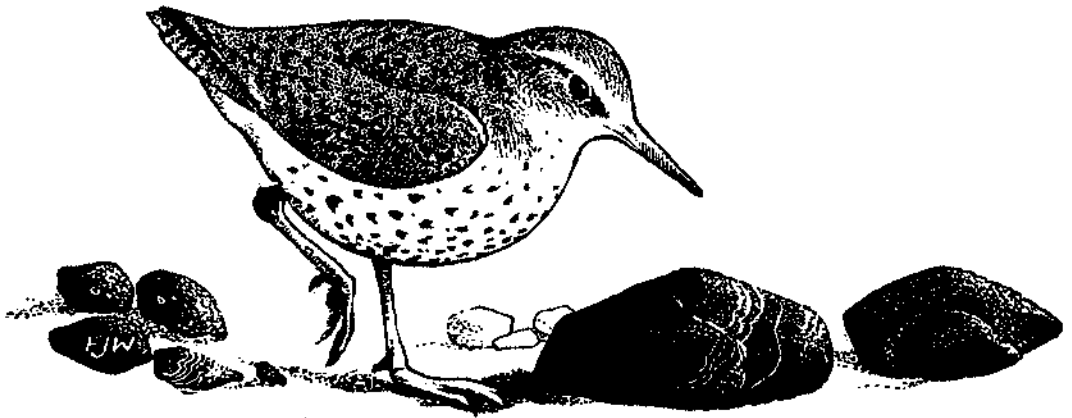


HBWC

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 1983



ANNUAL REPORT

BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1983

Report of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

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President's Report for 1983-4

I have pleasure in reporting several new developments during the last eighteen months or so which reflect the Club's continued healthy state.

A significant number of members continued to support the BTO's Winter Atlas Survey during the winters of 1982-1983 and 1983-1984 and this work is now complete. We look forward to the publication of the results in the near future. As usual, our recorder, John Dale, co-ordinated the work and I should like to thank him on behalf of the Club for that work and the diligence and care with which he has written this year's report.

The Club Quiz and Social Evening, the idea of our Secretary, was a great success for the second year running and has now become a regular spot in the Club's winter programme, largely due to her efforts. I should like to thank Stephanie for this and for the admirable programmes she has produced since taking office.

The Club's newsletter, the Huddersfield Harrier, which has produced three editions to date (May 1984), seems to be fulfilling a useful role. I hope members will continue to provide material for this so that it may become a permanent feature of the Club's activities. Our thanks are also due to Barbara and Derick Watson for printing the Harrier and Annual Report, undoubtedly a major contribution to the Club's smooth and efficient running.

I record, with great pleasure, the Club's decision at the 1984 AGM to award Honorary Life Membership to the following members:

Tommy Cantwell - who served the Club admirably, first as field meeting organiser for four years - devoting himself to the duty, and taking a deep interest in members who took part - and for a further four years as Treasurer, where his shrewd approach ensured that our finances were always sound.

Clifford Disbrey - our recorder from 1966-1969, who was also ornithological recorder for the Huddersfield Naturalist, Photographic and Antiquarian Society for ten years, and who accumulated much useful basic information on which the Club has since been able to build. He was also President in the 1970-1971 period.

Andrew Riley - who became our second Club President in 1968-1969 and, at the end of that period, carried out negotiations which enabled the Club to put a hide up at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. He further inspired and organised the construction of this hide which has been a valuable asset in subsequent years.

Walter Slater - who stepped into the position of Secretary in time of need and carried out the duties with great conscientiousness, giving us interesting programmes for a period of five years.

Finally, I should like to thank the committee and club members for their support and encouragement during the year.

M YATES - President

Introduction and Notes on the Classified List

The area under consideration comprises Ordnance Survey ten kilometre squares SE00, 01, 10, 11, 20, 21 along with parts of SE02 and 12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder.

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

Resident Breeder	Migrant Breeder
Partial Migrant	Winter Visitor
Passage Visitor	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

171 species were reliably recorded during 1983. These included four species which appeared for the first time. An Eider, which spent ten months just outside the eastern border of the Club area, briefly flew over our boundaries on 28th January and thereby became the first of this species, which had long been anticipated, to enter the area. There was a remarkable invasion of Parrot Crossbills in the late autumn of 1982, particularly into Yorkshire and Derbyshire. A few of this species were in the club area in the early months, and full details will be published later. On 2nd September, a Red-footed Falcon was found near Spicer House Farm, and re-found, over two weeks later about a mile to the south of Royd Moor Reservoir. It was then seen on many days up to 2nd October between these two localities. Considerable excitement was caused by the discovery on 13th September, by birdwatchers from Wakefield and Barnsley, of a Spotted Sandpiper on the shores of Ingbirchworth Reservoir. It drew observers from many parts of the north and midlands during its stay of just over two weeks and interest was added by the presence of a Grey Phalarope on the reservoir for two days during this period, and the rediscovery of the Red-footed Falcon. In general, the visitors behaved well, unlike a number who visited Blackmoorfoot Reservoir just before Christmas and scaled the walls in order to see a Great Northern Diver.

Another rarity for the area was a Red-backed Shrike near Middlestown in early June. Sightings of Hawfinches near Huddersfield are rare, but it seems significant that in recent years a scattering of records has occurred at Bretton, High Hoyland, Cannon Hall and also just outside our area, about two miles east of these sites, at Woolley. This is an elusive species and may be present more often than we know. Crossbill records were more frequent than usual, but like its rarer relative, this is an irruptive species, and a few good years can be followed by poor ones. The Grey Herons continue to do well at Bretton Park, and the record of Pied Flycatcher breeding near Meltham was only the fourth in the area since 1958.

A few dedicated members continue to make valuable observations from the Blackmoorfoot hide, and amongst recent skills developed has been the identification of less common varieties of Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Martin Yates again summarised the considerable amount of information from the Blackmoorfoot log.

Many thanks to all observers who have submitted records, and once more particularly to those who spend many hours in their own favourite localities.

The recorder again expresses his thanks to Derick and Barbara Watson for producing this report and for their assistance in editing the various sections.

JOHN E DALE - Recorder

Classified List - J E Dale

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

Rare visitor

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 10.30 to 11.30hrs on 26th December (MLD); seventh record.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor

An immature at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 12.25hrs on 26th December to the end of the year (MLD et al); tenth record.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Although breeding was proven at only three localities, the species seems to be in a healthy state locally but was scarce in January and December.

Scout Dike Reservoir: Recorded from 13th March (two) to 18th December (one). Four pairs on 19th July and four broods totalling at least eleven young on 4th September.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: Recorded from 4th February into December. Maximum of five in August and September. Two adults with a juvenile on 4th September.

A pair bred at Boshaw Whams, rearing one young, and one to two were seen regularly on the River Calder near Horbury Wyke, where two adults were feeding young on 25th May. Occurred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on at least twenty-three dates from 30th July to 4th December including four on 23rd October. One to two on nine other waters; four at Bretton Park on 27th March; three at Cannon Hall in February and November, and up to three at Gunthwaite Dam in the early autumn.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor

Bred at Bretton Park where one pair reared broods of three and two, another pair reared one, and a third pair failed. Present from 23rd January to 31st December with fifteen on 6th March and sixteen on 2nd October. Also bred at Scout Dike Reservoir where two pairs each reared one young, and at Elland Gravel Pits where five were present on 14th April and, of two pairs attempting to breed, one pair reared one young. Occurred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on a record number of seventy-five days with records in all months except February and December, with a maximum of four on 3rd May. Singles at Ringstone Edge and Slaithwaite Reservoirs, and two on the river at Dewsbury Sewage Farm in early May.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare visitor

A pair at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 9th May (TC, JED et al), and one on 4th December (MLD, JMP). One at Royd Moor Reservoir on 4th September (JMD, HCL et al).

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had most of the records, with two west on 28th March and 16th April; singles on 30th March, 19th April, 10th May, 2nd July and 19 and 20th September; on 2nd October five remained for twenty minutes before flying south-east.

Four flew west over Whitley Common on 4th April and one over Nether-ton on 16th. Singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 10th May and 19th September, and singles west over Digley Reservoir on 17th August and Royd Moor on 4th September.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Resident breeder (1)

The Bretton Park heronry had four successful pairs rearing a total of ten young, but the outcome for the fifth pair was uncertain. From one to three at about twenty-five localities with frequent records at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Hall Dike, Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth Reservoir. Five at Ryburn Reservoir on 19th January and 22nd September; four each at Whitley Common on 5th April; Baitings Reservoir on 31st August and Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 23rd September.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Resident breeder (1)

Breeding successfully at Horbury Wyke (three young), Cannon Hall (two young), and at Hartcliffe Mills, Denby Dale (three young). A pair on the River Ryburn, two at Birdsedge, and one to two at Bretton Park (four on 27th March) for most of the year. Two at Sparth Reservoir on 15th May, and singles occasionally at five other sites.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

Uncommon winter visitor

An adult and an immature at Boshaw Whams from 3rd to 10th December, with the immature remaining to 31st. Four on Winscar Reservoir on 29th December.

Birds flying over Nether-ton and Hall Dike area, reported as being this species, were two east on 19th January and two west on 7th November. Five swans on Digley Reservoir on 11th November were either of this species or the next.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Uncommon winter visitor

A party of nine flying north at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 28th March. Four on Scammonden Dam on 11th December, and one on Langsett Reservoir on 29th. One west over Hall Dike on 12th January.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Uncommon to common passage visitor

One semi-tame bird at Gunthwaite Dam in early January, and probably the same individual, at Bretton Park regularly from 20th March to 21st May. Twenty-four west over Crosland Hill on 13th January. A hundred north-west over Ossett on 16th January, and seven at Ossett Spa Sewage Farm on 12th December. 621 north-west over Netherton in nine skeins on 2nd March between 7.00 and 11.00hrs, and 308 east in three skeins on 23rd December. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had eighteen north-west on 1st February, four west on 17th October, and 13 west on 29th December.

Unidentified skeins of "grey geese" were thirty-five over Shepley on 1st January, fifty south-west over Skelmanthorpe on 15th January, and fifty west over Derby Dale on 8th March. Regular watchers in the Netherton and Hall Dike area had fifty-four south-east on 8th and 158 on 17th January; 103 west on 7th March (reported as Grey Lag Geese); three west on 11th and two on 12th April; during November, forty-two south-east on 4th and eighty-four on 6th; twenty-two flew west on 12th, twenty-four west on 13th and eighteen on 17th. Fifteen south-south-east over Shepley on 30th October.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (1)

Bretton Park: The flock continues to increase in numbers despite controls being carried-out in the breeding season. Highest counts were 257 on 3rd January and 220 on 13th February; 310 on 11th November and 235 on 30th. At least nineteen young reared.

Small numbers seen at various localities including Ryburn Valley, Booth Wood Dam, Elland Gravel Pits, Longwood Reservoir, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, over Hall Dike, over Honley, Ringstone Edge Reservoir, Digley Reservoir, Gunthwaite (fifteen north-east on 15th June), Ingbirchworth Reservoir (ten on 21st June), Boshaw Whams, Cannon Hall and Horbury Wyke.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor

One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 14th December (BUW, FJU).

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

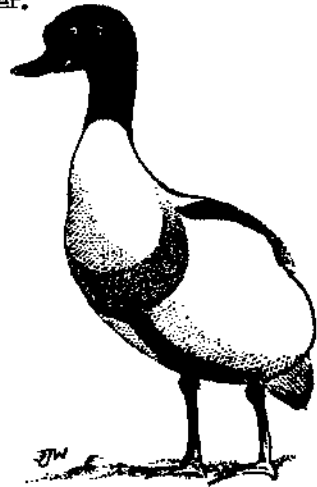
Uncommon passage visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: More records than usual, with birds present on fifty-three days, although many of these were due to an immature

which remained from 6th August to 4th September, and either that or another on four days from 6th to 12th September. Recorded in all months except June and July in parties of one to three, higher numbers being four on 21st January, 18th and 19th October and 27th and 28th December and fifteen on 2nd October.

On other waters, singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 16th and 17th March and 13th November, and four on 7th October; two at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 21st January and six on 22nd October; two at Langsett Reservoir on 26th February and nine on 13th November; one at Broadstones Reservoir on 24th September.

Parties flying over included two north-east at Shepley on 10th May; sixteen east over Lindley Moor on 12th July and thirty-four east over Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 25th July, where there were two on 8th May.



WIGEON

Anas penelope

Common passage and winter visitor

One to three on various dates, mostly up to mid March and during the autumn at ten waters. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had singles in February and March, then regularly after six on 1st September, with maxima of nineteen on 23rd September, thirty-nine on 1st October, forty-one on 17th December and nineteen on 21st.

At Ingbirchworth Reservoir, up to three in the early months, and regularly from 30th September to 13th November, with usually fewer than ten, but twenty-two on 30th October. Royd Moor Reservoir had seven on 24th and 27th September, ten on 16th and 11 on 22nd October with others between these dates. Eighteen at Broadstones Reservoir on 22nd October.

Correction to 1982 Report: Line two - nineteen on 18th September.

TEAL

Anas crecca

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor

Up to three pairs at Black Moss, where to seven ducklings were seen on 22nd June. Pairs at Scammonden and Booth Dam in late April, and individuals using distraction display along Oxgrains Beck in July. The species occurred at twenty localities and maxima were as follows:

Scammonden Dams: Fifty-three on 16th January and twenty-two on 27th December. Black Brook Dam: Twenty-three on 23rd January. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: Thirty-eight on 31st August and thirty-four on 12th November. Dewsbury Sewage Farm: Fifty-eight on 27th January. Horbury Wyke: Seventy-five on 27th February, fifty-four on 8th

March, thirty-seven on 4th April, forty-five on 30th August, sixty-three on 30th October, 111 on 27th November and seventy-five on 10th December. Ingbirchworth Reservoir: Twenty-four on 22nd October. Royd Moor Reservoir: Thirty-five on 22nd October. Scout Dike Reservoir: Thirty-eight on 27th October.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*
Resident breeder (2-3). Common winter visitor
Maximum counts: Scammonden Dam: Fifty-seven on 16th January. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: Thirty-three on 23rd January. Elland Gravel Pits: Seventy-five on 21st January and seventy on 4th December. Horbury Wyke: Seventy-five on 27th February and 107 on 10th December. Ingbirchworth Reservoir: 125 on 17th October. Royd Moor Reservoir: 198 on 6th November. Bretton park: 400 on 23rd January and 255 during September. Cannon Hall: 142 on 20th February. In each case the counts at the last four localities appear to be the highest on record.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*
Uncommon passage and winter visitor
Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: A record number of bird-days. Six on 18th August, twenty-two on 23rd September, six on 24th and twelve on 25th; then, in October, ten on 2nd, two on 10th, eleven on 14th, nine on 19th and six on 30th and finally one on 14th December. Two had also been released at the reservoir on 25th July, one of which remained through August.
Ingbirchworth Reservoir: Four on 21st September, and during October, two on 3rd and 4th, four on 9th, three from 11th to 14th, two on 15th and one on 17th. At other waters in October there were two each at Bretton Park and Royd Moor Reservoir on 2nd and at Broadstones reservoir on 9th. One at Royd Moor Reservoir on 6th November.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*
Rare summer visitor
A male at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 6th May (JRS, DL).

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*
Uncommon passage and winter visitor
Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: One on 3rd March, two on 4th May, eight on 6th, and six on 20th July, two on 9th and one on 29th August. One on 25th September, five on 1st and two on 22nd October.
Horbury Wyke had three from 16th to 24th April and a pair throughout May, June and July and then two on several days between 30th October and 27th November. One at Bretton Park on 7th April, two on 28th October and three on 13th November. Two each at Gunthwaite Dam on 13th and Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 18th June and singles at Scout Dike Reservoir and Royd Moor Reservoir on 6th November, and at Langsett Reservoir on 12th November.

POCHARD*Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: Infrequently in the early months with a maximum of six on 4th March. More regularly from 2nd July (six) to the year's end. Twenty-two on 1st October, otherwise one to eight.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: Regular up to 9th April and from 30th August. Numbers in the early months generally less than ten, apart from a period in February which peaked at fifteen on 14th and 15th. Maxima in the autumn of twenty on 20th November and twenty-six on 3rd December.

Bretton Park: Present up to April and from August, with maxima of twenty-one on 3rd January and 13th November. At Scout Dike Reservoir, sixteen on 2nd January and eighteen on 27th October and 6th November, and at Royd Moor Reservoir, thirty-four on 20th December and smaller numbers on other dates. Small parties of one to eight at Cannon Hall (January), Horbury Wyke (eight on 29th April), Elland Gravel Pits, Scamonden Dam (January), Black Moss (21st and 22nd June) Boshaw Whams (year's end) and Ringstone Edge Reservoir (eight on 22nd October).

TUFTED DUCK*Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor

Bred at Bretton Park where broods from three pairs totalled fourteen ducklings; at Scout Dike Reservoir (a brood of three); at Langsett Reservoir (a brood of six); probably at Silberry Reservoir (three young with adults at Digley in late August), and at Black Moss. Occurred at twenty-three localities, with significant maxima as follows: Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: thirty-four on 8th August and forty-six on 22nd October. Ingbirchworth Reservoir: Fifty-five on 12th July. Royd Moor Reservoir: Twenty-seven on 9th September. Bretton Park: Twenty-one during November. Horbury (on River Calder): Twenty-eight on 25th September.

SCAUP*Aythya marila*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

A female on Scout Dike and Ingbirchworth Reservoirs from 1st to 16th January (JED et al), and two on Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 3rd September (DS and VAI). One at Boshaw Whams on 15th October (JMP).

EIDER*Somateria mollissima*

Rare visitor

A male which spent ten months of the year at Millfield Lagoons, which are half a mile east of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area, flew west into the area towards Dewsbury on 28th January, returning later to Millfield (JRS). First record for the area.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Two on Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 21st January and one on the river at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 25th May. All other records at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, commencing with forty-four on 22nd June, then during July, three on 7th, thirty-four (thirty-one males) on 9th, one on 20th, one on 8th August and three on 19th October.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: Regular up to 21st May, with a maximum of thirteen on 16th February, and from 1st October (two) onwards with separate peaks of sixteen on 22nd October and fifteen on 13th November.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: Regular up to 22nd May (two) with a maximum of nine on 24th February, and from 22nd October (four) with a maximum of ten on 2nd December.

Occasional records of from one to four at twelve other waters plus regular occurrences at Ringstone Edge Reservoir, which had eight on 11th December, and at Scout Dike Reservoir, which had a maximum of seven during early November.

SMEW *Mergus albellus*

Rare visitor

The adult male which first appeared as an immature in January 1980 and had returned for a fourth winter on 13th November 1982, remained on Ingbirchworth and Scout Dike Reservoirs until 26th March. Presumably it was the same bird that reappeared on Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 14th November and remained on the two reservoirs until the year's end.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

Rather a poor year for this species and for Red-breasted Merganser, (*Mergus serrator*), which was not recorded in 1983.

One at Bretton Park on 21st January. A redhead on Broadstones Reservoir on 18th May and another on Gunthwaite Dam on 3rd November. A male at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th and 12th November and a redhead for forty minutes on 30th December and one on Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 20th November.

Additions to 1982 Report: Twelve on 11th August at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir departed westwards after a stay of ten minutes.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Rare visitor

A male on the Upper Lake at Bretton Park on 3rd May (PS). Eighth record.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*
Rare visitor
A ringtail near Langsett on 20th November (DH).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*
Scarce visitor
Records from two localities.

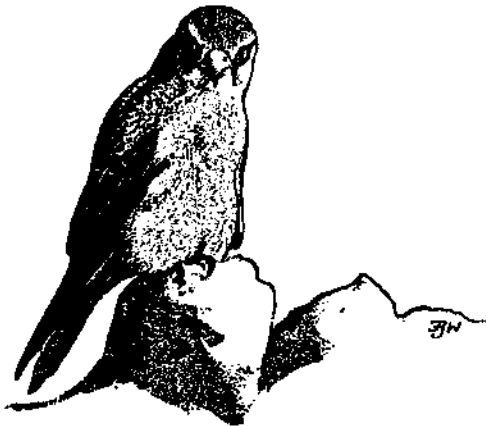
SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*
Resident breeder (1)
For the third successive year there was an increase in the number of sightings and localities at which the species occurred. At least eight pairs bred, five of which reared a total of twelve young.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*
Rare visitor.
One moved south over Hall Dike on 18th December (DMD).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*
Resident breeder
Ten breeding pairs located and reported regularly from twelve other localities.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*
Former breeder, now scarce visitor.
A pair at a former breeding site on 28th March and a pair at another locality on 17th April. Singles in the Ingbirchworth area on 11th January, 26th February, 5th April and on 3rd, 10th and 19th September. Singles near Meltham on 9th April; Yateholme on 4th September; Hall Dike on 12th September; Baitings on 18th October and Marsden on 4th December. Blackmoorfoot had singles on 2nd and 3rd October and on 20th, 24th and 25th December.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*
Rare visitor
An adult female near Spicer House Farm during the afternoon of 2nd September (DS) was at Spicer Hill that evening (BA, JE and SMD). Despite careful searches, it was not relocated until the morning of 18th September at Royd Moor Reservoir (JB, SMcC et al), from whence it returned to Spicer Hill before mid-day where it was seen regularly by many observers up to 22nd and again on 25th September (DS), and 2nd October (GC).
There are two previous records for the area, supported by verbal accounts only from the observers.
Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.



PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Rare visitor

An immature flew north at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 8th April (JMP) and an adult female flew south from Elland Gravel Pits on 16th October (NC).

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3)

Eighty-two in the Home Styes and Snailsden area on 13th February and twenty-eight on Snailsden Ridge on 13th November. Twenty-two on Slaithwaite Moor on 29th October.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1).

One at Gunthwaite on 13th March. Two at Digley on 3rd April and two near Broadstones Lodge on 23rd. A covey of 23 immediately west of Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 27th September included many first-year birds and probably consisted of two or three families (JED). Five at Emley Woodhouse on 29th November (GBS) and six at North Lane, Gauthorpe on 20th December (GB).

1982 addition: One at Dalton Bank on several dates (per DS).

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2).

Usually only small numbers reported, mainly in pairs and from twelve localities. A pair was with young at Gunthwaite on 30th June, where a covey of fourteen was noted on 31st October. A pair reared four young in the Hall Dike Valley, and a pair was with fourteen young on Whitley Common in August. At least four pairs bred near Elland Gravel Pits, where coveys of twenty-six on 22nd February and twenty on 18th September occurred. Eleven near Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th November and twelve at Gauthorpe on 10th December.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (3).

Very few records received. Possibly scarcer than the above status indicates.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce winter visitor.

One at Bretton Park on 2nd January (JMD, HCL). Two by Hall Dike on 29th January (DMd). Singles at Gunthwaite Dam on 11th March, 5th October and 18th November, and at Scout Dike Reservoir on 6th November (CB).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (3).

Horbury Wyke had eighty-two on 3rd January, forty-two on 8th March and fifty-two on 10th December. Fifty-two at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 16th February. Fourteen pairs bred in the Hall Dike Valley. Fourteen along the canal between Golcar and Longroyd Bridge on 5th November.

COOT *Fulica atra*

Resident breeder (2).

Pairs bred at Bretton Park (about four), Cannon Hall (one), Gunthwaite Hall pond (one), Ingbirchworth Reservoir (four), Royd Moor Reservoir (one), Scout Dike Reservoir (sixteen broods totalled thirty-eight young on 19th July - 8A), Horbury Wyke (four), Dewsbury Sewage Farm (one), Meltham Mills (one), Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (one), Elland Gravel Pits (two?), and possibly at Castle Dam, Penistone. Maxima of thirty-one at Horbury Wyke on 15th and 25 at Elland Gravel Pits on 16th January. Thirty-one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 10th August and seventy-three at Bretton Park on 27th November.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Uncommon passage visitor

During March, one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 3rd; three each at Blackmoorfoot and Ringstone Edge Reservoirs on 4th; singles west at Langsett and Yateholme on 13th; at Horbury Wyke on 15th and at Digley Reservoir on 19th. One at Broadstones Reservoir on 22nd May and one west at Ossett by the Calder on 30th. Singles west over Hall Dike on 5th April and 31st August. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, two on 18th and one on 28th July; three on 5th and singles on 9th and 21st September.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and occasional breeder.

One at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 29th March; two on 20th April and three on 8th May. A pair present at one locality from 2nd May hatched four young and were still present with a juvenile in August. A pair at another site probably reared three young. One at Horbury

Wyke on 27th July and two on 2nd August. One west at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th July; two there on 22nd August and one on 14th September.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir: One west on 16th April; two on 29th July; three on 11th August, seven on 17th, two on 28th and three on 29th August, and singles on two other July and August dates, and on six days between 14th and 29th September.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir: Singles regularly from 9th September to 4th October, with more than two individuals involved.

Dewsbury Sewage Farm: One on 17th April and singles on three July dates. On 17th August nineteen arrived in three groups, but only two remained on 18th and singles occurred on 6th and from 11th to 13th September.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Good numbers in the area during the early months with the usual peak in April, when many birds were of the "Northern" variety. During January, seventy at Croft House Moss on 1st, 520 at Crosland Hill on 20th, and 250 at Shelley Woodhouse on 23rd; in February, 650 at Grange Moor on 3rd, 200 at Dearne Dike Lane on 4th, 414 in Crosland Hill to Blackmoorfoot area on 5th and 250 at Broadstones on 6th; in March, 160 at Ringstone Edge on 27th, 179 at Broadstones on 18th and 249 on 31st; 387 at Whitley Common on 26th. Finally, during April, 355 (mainly Northern) at Ringstone Edge on 17th, down to 130 by 25th; Whitley Common, 406 (Northern) on 4th, 640 on 8th, then fewer until 22nd, when there were 700 at Whitley Common and eighty at Broadstones, where there were 368 on 24th. Finally, down to 230 at Whitley Common on 28th. Two of the Northern birds at Whitley Common on 4th April had prominent white wing-bars and largely white primaries.

Displaying birds at eight moorland areas during May. The majority of birds reported in the autumn were from the Crosland Hill and Blackmoorfoot areas, with 350 on 30th August, 450 on 21st September, 510 on 21st November and 670 on 11th December. 123 at Broadstones on 18th July and 95 at Grange Moor on 27th November.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th September (several observers) and one west over Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 2nd October (BBSG).

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

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

800 at Shelley Woodhouse and 285 at Blackmoorfoot on 23rd January, and 350 at Broadstones on 6th February, whilst during February and early March, flocks of 100 - 200 at New Mill, Holmfirth, Upper Derby, Whitley Common and Ringstone Edge. In the general area of the Ingbirchworth uplands on 23rd March, at least 150 scattered throughout the field, the majority being paired-up (JED).

High numbers at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir in early autumn, with 1000 on 24th July, 1300 on 21st August and monthly maxima, from September to December, of 630, 437, 487 and 475 respectively. 481 at Broadstones on 18th July, 300 regularly at Ingbirchworth Reservoir up to November and up to 700 in the surrounding area in the autumn. Over 200 at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 10th October and at Elland Gravel Pits in December; over 500 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir in late November.

Leucistic individuals at Ingbirchworth Reservoir from 27th to 29th September and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 3rd October.

An interesting case of kleptoparasitism on this species by both Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) at Grange Moor on 3rd February. The ground was still hard after early morning frost and possibly the Lapwings were more successful in finding food items (SMC).

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage visitor

Singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 13th September (JMD et al), at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 22nd to 25th September (MLD, JMP), at Royd Moor Reservoir on 27th September (JED), and at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 5th October (SMC).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce passage visitor

One at Dewsbury Sewage Farm from 16th to 21st September (JRS et al) and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 2nd October (RW).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Three west over Hall Dike on 1st April and two at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 17th. One nest found at Black Moss during late May and probably four pairs breeding there during June (MLD). Regularly at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 5th July to 22nd October, but no more than three on any one day. Thirty-six west over the reservoir on 30th October, when movement into a westerly gale was also noted at Oakes (two) and Lindley Moor (seven). Twenty-two east over Hall Dike on 1st September. Two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 10th October. Bred on Sleithwaite Moor.

More late records than usual, which, apart from one west over Dean Wood on 20th November, were all at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir as follows: Three on 8th and one on 19th November; two on 2nd, five on 4th and one west on 17th December.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor

Dewsbury Sewage Farm had one on 11th and three on 12th August, with five on 13th September. Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th August, 3rd, 4th, 11th and 12th September. Ingbirchworth Reservoir had singles on 4th and 30th September and 1st October with two west on 17th September. One at Royd Moor Reservoir on 27th September.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had singles on 26th March, 10th, 13th, 14th and 15th October; two on 29th October and 19th November, three on 20th November and singles on 4th and 20th December, and two on 18th December. In the Hall Dike Valley, there were two on 12th February, one on 30th and two on 31st October, then one regularly from 12th November to 30th December. One at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 3rd and 4th December.

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*

Resident breeder (2). Common passage and winter visitor

Reported from eighteen localities and probably breeds at ten of these. Maxima at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir of twenty-seven on 23rd August, thirty-one on 26th September, forty-four on 9th October, fifty-six on 12th November and twenty-one on 2nd December. A good autumn at Ingbirchworth Reservoir, with fifty on 27th September, eighty-seven on 3rd October, forty-five on 13th November and thirty-one on 3rd December. Eighteen at Ringstone Edge reservoir on 8th March and up to fifteen at Dewsbury Sewage Farm and twenty at Horbury Wyke in January and December.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2). Uncommon winter visitor

Roding birds at Bretton Park, Deffer Wood (two), Coxley, Bank Wood, Gunthwaite, Langsett (three), Yateholme (two) and Hall Dike, where a pair reared two young, and at three other localities in the breeding season. Seven at Bentley Springs on 5th September (GBS).

BLACK-TAILED GOOWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage visitor

One in summer plumage flew west from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir at 18.50hrs on 21st April (MLD, JMP).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Scarce passage visitor

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th September and 30th October (JMP, MLD).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

One at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 23rd and two on 27th April (JRS). Two near Whitley Common on 3rd May (JMO). Singles west at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th and 24th July and 24th August (MLD). Nine departed west from Ringstone Edge Reservoir at 19.20hrs on 16th August (JED).

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (2). Common passage visitor

Singles over Outlane on 6th March and at Penistone and Blackmoorfoot on 9th were the first before a more obvious arrival on 13th which included five at Scout Dike Reservoir. Appeared at four more places before 31st March, with thirty-three at Whitley Common on 20th and twelve at Digley on 24th. Breeding evidence at the usual moorland localities and again from the Bretton Park and Cawthorne districts. Few noted after mid September and the last one was at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 31st October.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

Scarce passage visitor

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir for an hour on 3rd September (KH).

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Singles at Horbury Wike on 3rd February, Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 11th March, Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 13th and at Broadstones on 18th. Six at Horbury Wike on 6th and four at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 17th April.

Breeding evidence from Black Moss (more than three pairs), Whitley Common and Broadstones (single pairs with young at both sites).

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th October and Hall Dike on 12th November.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage visitor

One at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 13th March, three on 12th, two on 13th and three on 17th August. Three at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th July and present on twenty-one dates from 6th to 29th August, including six on 20th, four on 14th and 21st and later, two on 22nd September. Four at Digley Reservoir and one at Bretton Park on 14th August. Ingbirchworth had from one to three regularly between 23rd August and 27th September. Also during August, two at Horbury Wike on 10th, one on 14th and 24th; one at Deer Hill Reservoir on 28th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Singles at Elland Gravel Pits on 12th April, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th, 22nd and 24th August, and at Royd Moor Reservoir on 4th September. Two at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 11th, three on 12th and two on 13th and 17th August.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

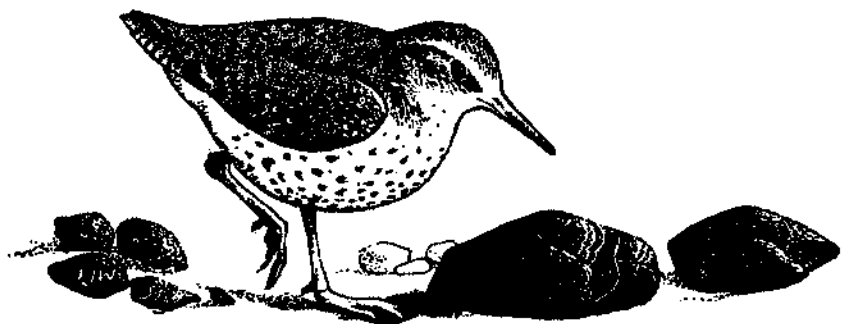
Rare passage visitor

One calling overhead at Broadstones Reservoir on 19th August (RW).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2)

Two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th April and singles at Ringstone Edge Reservoir and Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 17th, then eight at the sewage farm on 21st, and two each at Brownhill Reservoir and Black Moss on 24th. Bred at Scammonden, Bilberry, Winscar and doubtless many more places. Two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th, six at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 18th and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 19th September.



SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularia*

Rare visitor

An adult in summer plumage at Ingbirchworth Reservoir was first found by G Speight on 13th September and was subsequently watched by many observers as it fed along the stony shoreline of the reservoir until 28th September. First record for the area. Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Scarce passage visitor

One at Whitley Common on 3rd May (CB, JMD).

GREY PAHALAROE Phalaropus fulicarius
Rare visitor
An immature at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 16th and 17th September
(PDB, PG, DH et al). Third record.

ARCTIC SKUA Stercorarius parasiticus
Rare visitor
One came into the Dewsbury Sewage Farm area from the west and briefly harried Black-headed Gulls over the lagoons before departing east at 18.27hrs on 7th May (JRS). Fourth record.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL Larus melanocephalus
Rare visitor
A second-winter bird flew west at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir at 16.40hrs on 10th March (MLD). Eighth record.

LITTLE GULL Larus minutus
Scarce passage visitor
One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 28th April (JW). Descriptive details to be submitted to recorder.

BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus
Resident breeder (2-3). Numerous passage and winter visitor
Blackmoorfoot had roost counts of 2700 on 16th and 4411 on 23rd January, 2000 on 8th August, 2945 on 3rd and 3550 on 24th October and 4650 on 25th December. Combined totals of this species and Common Gull (*Larus canus*) peaked at 5650 on 21st February and 5350 on 20th December.

The Black Moss colony had 108 nests on 7th June and a total of 100 pulli had been ringed by 22nd June, when at least 113 young were present. 850 at Scammonden Dam on 8th January.

COMMON GULL Larus canus
Numerous winter and passage visitor
Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had 700 on 16th and 679 on 23rd January, 150 on 15th April, 350 on 24th October and 575 on 25th December. 620 at Scammonden Dam on 8th January and 192 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 29th January.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus
Common passage and winter visitor
Rather low early maxima at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with 64 on 19th March and 47 on 8th April. Autumn figures were higher with 115 on 28th August, 151 on 2nd September and 163 on 15th October. Birds showing characteristics of the races *L.f.fuscus* on 2nd and 22nd September and *L.f.intermedius* on 18th, 23rd (two), 26th, 27th, 29th September, 1st (two), 2nd, 3rd and 6th October (MLD, JMP).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*
Common passage and winter visitor
The Blackmoorfoot roost had 164 on 2nd January, 137 on 9th February, 40 on 20th November and 101 on 10th December. 106 at Langsett Reservoir on 22nd January. Yellow-legged birds of the type *L. a. omisus* occurred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th, 26th, 27th, 29th (two) September, 1st, 2nd (three), 3rd, 6th, 7th, 10th (two) October (MLD, JMP).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoïdes*
Scarce winter visitor
A sub-adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd January (CH).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*
Scarce winter visitor
Three different second-winter birds at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during January; one on 9th and 13th, and the others on 23rd and 26th respectively (JMP, MLD) and an adult on 11th December (NC, MLD). A first-winter individual on Langsett Reservoir on 22nd January (JED).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*
Common winter visitor
Maximum roost counts at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir of 144 on 1st and 152 on 9th January, eighty-three on 3rd February, twenty-one on 20th November and thirty-six on 25th December. Fifty-five at Langsett Reservoir on 22nd January. Twenty-five on Whitley Common on 23rd December.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*
Scarce passage visitor
Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had adults on 15th (two) and 16th (three) January; 6th (two) and 26th February; 4th, 10th (three), and 19th March, an immature on 21st October and an oiled adult on 10th December.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*
Rare passage visitor
One at Elland Gravel Pits on 12th September and two flew west from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir at 07.55hrs on 10th October (JMP).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*
Uncommon passage visitor
At Elland Gravel Pits, seven on 28th May, singles on 11th, 12th and 14th September. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, singles on 11th and 13th July, three on 1st and one on 2nd October. An immature at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 1st to 11th October showed characters of this species and Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) (JMP, MLD).

Birds not specifically identified, which would be either this species or Arctic Tern and were submitted as "commic terns" were as listed below:

Ingbirchworth Reservoir, one on 21st May. Two south over Thick Hollins Moor on 13th May. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, singles on 9th July and 28th August; three on 1st, five on 2nd and singles on 3rd, 4th, 6th to 8th and 10th October. At Elland Gravel Pits, singles on 13th July and 8th and 9th October. Flying west over Hall Dike Valley, three on 16th and four on 21st August, plus six on 3rd September.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon passage visitor

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd September, and two west at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 25th September.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Scarce passage visitor

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir an adult and an immature arrived at 08.35hrs on 11th September, and the immature remained until 16th when it was joined at 13.30hrs by an adult and both departed north at 13.35hrs. The immature returned at 14.05hrs and remained until 07.05hrs on 18th. An adult on 21st September (JMP, MLD et al).

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage visitor

Sixteen immatures arrived from the east at 07.20hrs on 2nd September at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and there were two there on 3rd (MLD, CH) Two at Broadstones Reservoir on 1st October (JMD). One at Elland Gravel Pits from 7th to 11th October, and singles on 17th and 20th October (various observers).

STOCK DOVE *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3). Common winter visitor

Thirty-three at Deffer Wood and nineteen on Whitley Common on 13th February. At least sixty at Langsett on 5th March and fifty-four flying east over Cowcliffe on 26th March. A large flock in Whitley Common and Broadstones area totalled forty-nine on 29th August, 130 on 17th September, fifty on 3rd and eighty on 23rd October. Bred in many localities throughout the area, with sites including disused buildings, quarry ledges and tree holes.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor

There had been an obvious influx into the area in the last seven weeks of 1982, so it was not surprising to find good numbers at several localities in early January with flocks of 150 to over 500 at Gunthwaite, Royd House Wood, Hall Dike, Bretton Park, where 600

flew east on 23rd, Deffer Wood and Elland Park Wood 633 flew north-west over Blackmoorfoot on 3rd. On 29th January, 650 were at Farnley Line and 3500 in the Storthes Hall area. In early February these numbers showed some increase, with over 1000 in Dean Wood on 2nd, 800 at Wood Nook, 840 at Blackmoorfoot (Orange Wood) and 620 at Windy Bank Wood on 6th. There was an apparent build-up in the Hall Dike area from 620 on 1st to 4500 on 8th. However, on 9th and 10th it appeared that something like 20,000 had moved over and into the Netherton and Hall Dike areas. On 11th and 12th, early morning watches from near Netherton for spells of less than two hours resulted in counts of 27,636 and 28,916 respectively. It was not established whether this was a dispersal from a roost to the east or whether it was a generally westward movement. It seems likely that large numbers were roosting to the east of the Holme Valley and for a short period in early February, were feeding during the mornings in woodlands round Honley, Meltham and Netherton, and probably further south. Other counts over Netherton included 9688 on 13th, 2850 on 14th, 1685 on 20th February, and 1230 on 3rd March (DMD et al). Other counts during February were probably all associated with the above activity and included 500 at Meltham Mills on 9th, 1500 at New Mill on 12th, 620 at Deffer Wood and 3500 at Storthes Hall on 13th (late afternoon, but all moved south before dusk, 1200 each at Mag Wood and Old Spring Wood on 20th and 280 north-east over Crossland Moor on 28th. 320 at Gunthwaite on 6th March and over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, mainly west and north-west, 270 on 13th and 285 on 27th March. Numbers reported at the year's end were quite low.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3)

Difficult to establish from the records whether or not this species is still increasing or spreading. It is probably increasing slowly within areas already colonised. Forty-two in the Hall Dike area in late March and early April, and sixty-seven near Mirfield Railway Station on 26th September.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

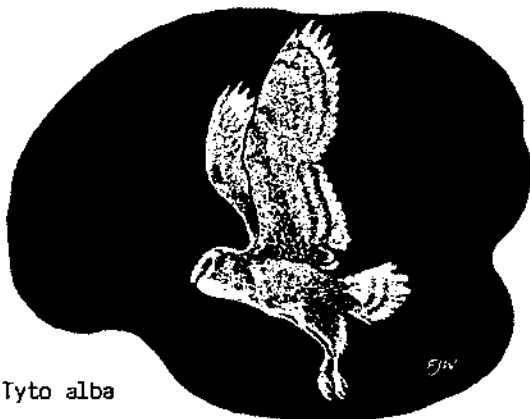
Migrant breeder (1 - 2)

One at Thurgoland on 12th May and three singing at Deffer Wood on 13th May. Most reports were of single pairs or singing males during June, and localities included Dewsbury Sewage Farm, Silkstone Fall Wood, Gunthwaite Hall, Coxley Bank Wood and near Thornhill. Less usual was one in the Little Don Valley on 3rd June and the last were sixteen at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 14th August.

CUCKOO*Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (2)

More April records than usual starting with one at Middlestown on 23rd and 24th, then singles at Digley on 24th, Coxley on 26th, Rishworth on 27th, Marsden on 28th and Gunthwaite and Swinden Plantation on 30th. Reported from over twenty localities in May and June and may be a little more numerous than in recent years. At least three regularly at Digley, where one was flying south-west on 14th August and five in the Little Don Valley on 15th May. Juveniles at Mag Dale and Yateholme in July. Last one at Hall Dike on 21st August.

**BARN OWL***Tyto alba*

Resident breeder (1)

Singles at Netherton on 7th February, Horbury on 5th March, near Golcar in early June and at Hall Dike on 21st November. Two adults with three young at Shepley in late August and early September.

LITTLE OWL*Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2)

At least nine pairs bred successfully, including a pair on Lindley Moor with four young during August. Four more pairs may have bred, and one to two birds at five other places, with singles at seventeen other places. Considerable increase in the number of records received.

TAWNY OWL*Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (3)

At least twenty-six pairs bred, and recorded in ten more localities where breeding may have occurred.

LONG-EARED OWL*Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1)

Two pairs bred at one site, probably rearing five young and at another site at least one pair was successful in rearing three young.

SHORT-EARED OWL*Asio flammeus*

Resident / migrant breeder. Scarce winter visitor

Rather more records than usual, which may be due in part to the breeding of four pairs south of Black Moss, just on and beyond the southern boundary of the area. A pair displayed near Langsett on 9th February and an adult was with recently fledged young on high moorland on 7th July.

Recorded in the Ingbirchworth area on twelve dates between 3rd January and 21st May, and on 19th and 24th August, two on four dates and three on 23rd March. Two near Flouch on 8th January. Singles at Horbury Wike on 9th March, the Scammonden Valley on at least five dates from mid March to 21st April, Blackmoorfoot on 6th, Digley on 14th and 20th April, Holme Moss on 30th April and 21st May; Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 11th and 12th May; Snailsden on 23rd May, Yateholme on 25th May and 4th June; Hartcliffe Hill on 26th May and Cartworth Moor on 29th August. Two near Home Styes on 26th and three on 29th December.

SWIFT*Apus apus*

Migrant breeder (3)

Singles at West Vale on 28th and Netherton on 29th April and at Elland Gravel Pits, Lockwood, Golcar and Meltham on 2nd May, when there were up to twelve at Ingbirchworth and at five more localities on 5th May. Good numbers over Ingbirchworth Reservoir from 13th to 30th May with a peak of 400 on 22nd. Eighty over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 28th May and widespread in the area from 17th May onwards. No other large concentrations reported and the majority left the area by 21st August. Singles at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 21st and Almondbury on 23rd September.

KINGFISHER*Alcedo atthis*

Resident breeder (1)

A pair breeding near Bretton Park had their nest hole flooded in late April. One or two at Bretton Park on nine dates in January, February, April, August, September and November. A family party was on a dam near Penistone in July. The remains of one were found in the grounds of St Paul's Church, Huddersfield on 15th August. Singles on various dates, mostly during the autumn, at Scout Dike Reservoir, Ingbirchworth Reservoir, Gunthwaite Dam, Lockwood, Elland Gravel Pits and Black Brook.

GREEN WOODPECKER*Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (1-2)

Pairs bred at Dean Wood, Hall Dike, Molly Carr Wood, near Elland Gravel Pits and probably near Brockholes. Present for much of the year in Grimescar Wood, at seven other localities during the breeding season, and at six others later in the year.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred in Hall Dike Valley (three), Hanley Wood, Spring Wood and probably at Windy Bank Wood, near Elland and in Bretton Park. Also occurred in nine other woodlands where it has bred in other years.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1)

Again, the majority of records were from Bretton Park, where individuals of both sexes were seen regularly between 8th March and 24th April and drumming was heard frequently.

Singles at Carr Head Wood, near Gunthwaite on 19th March; at Grimescar on 28th March and 16th April and near Brockholes on 27th May. A male in Molly Carr Woods from 20th to 24th April was excavating on 24th and one drummed for long periods on Farnley Line from 16th to 19th May. A male drummed at Gunthwaite Mill on 25th April and 4th May. One flew across the main road in Salendine Nook on 20th October and one was at Bretton park on 4th December.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Resident breeder (4). Partial migrant

Fifty in the Broadstones area on 23rd March. Some visible migration over the Ingbirchworth area in late September and late October, but no counts taken. Movements noted were forty-two north over Hall Dike on 1st February and a total of ninety-eight north-west there between 23rd and 29th October. Forty-seven north-west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd October and fifty west over Crosland Hill on 25th November.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder

Singles at Bretton Park on 22nd March, Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 9th April, Elland Gravel Pits and Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th April and at three other sites by 16th. Elland Gravel Pits was the only site where the species appeared regularly and breeding may have occurred near the River Calder, west of Brighouse. Four over Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 28th April; five south over Hall Dike on 3rd September; three at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th September and one south on 2nd October.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4). Numerous passage visitor

One at Bretton Park on 8th April, two at Ossett and two at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 9th April and singles at Elland Gravel Pits on 10th, Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th, Broadstones Reservoir on 14th, Gunthwaite and Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th and at seven other places on 16th. No large counts were reported in the spring, apart from 150 at Bretton Park on 10th May and about 100 over

Ingbirchworth Reservoir regularly in the last ten days of May. No roost counts reported, but more than 200 were over Royd Moor Reservoir during the evening of 21st September. October records from thirteen localities included regular southerly movement at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with fifty-six on 3rd, thirty-nine on 13th and three on 22nd. In Almondbury, twenty were on the wires in Sharp Lane on 17th October and one on Lumb Lane on 21st. Two at Scout Dike Reservoir on 22nd October and one at Coxley on 3rd November.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Migrant breeder (3)

Singles at Bretton Park on 12th and Netherpton on 16th April and Bretton Park on 17th, with two at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 21st. Then, up to nine at four other localities before the month end. Fifty at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 28th April and 100 there on 9th May. Forty at Elland Gravel Pits on 7th, forty-six in the Hall Dike Valley on 8th and fifty at Bretton Park on 10th May. 150 in the area around Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 10th September and up to 100 at Elland Gravel Pits on 17th of that month. Records from four localities in October, with two near Thornhill and one at Bretton Park on 19th and the last one at Netherpton on 3rd November.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (3)

One at Bretton Park on 14th and in Swinden Plantation on 16th April. Five singing males in Deffer Wood on 17th. In eight areas by the end of April, with nine singing males at Coxley on 26th. As in 1982, at least sixty singing males reported during May and early June at widespread localities. Last ones were singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th August and Ingbirchworth on 13th September.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Resident breeder (4-5). Partial migrant

Found wintering in the Hall Dike Valley where there were eighty-four on 30th January during heavy snow. Over 100 in the Digley area in late March and early April and at least seventy on Rishworth Moor on 6th April and at Swinden on 10th. 120 near Ford Inn, Digley on 21st August. Westerly movement over the Ingbirchworth area in late September. A total of 216 south over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir between 1st and 3rd October and 342 west over Hall Dike area between 8th and 23rd October. Thirty-five at Netherthong on 22nd November.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare visitor

One flew south over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th October (MLD). One feeding on the east bank of Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 22nd October may have been of the Scandinavian race (*A.s.littoralis*, JED)

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder (1-2)

One at Bretton Park on 12th and two at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 17th April, singles at Horbury on 25th, Shepley on 26th. Pairs bred in Hall Dike Valley, Armitage Bridge and Clayton west. Four at Elland Gravel Pits on 3rd May. Singles at Royd Moor on 4th and Hall Dike on 6th September.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

A big increase in the number of records, with sightings reported from thirty-two localities. Bred at Bretton Park, Horbury, Brockholes, Hall Dike and Meltham; possibly at Lepton, Derby Dale and Langsett. Twelve in Hall Dike Valley on 24th March.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Resident breeder (3). Partial migrant

The roost in Huddersfield Civic Centre had 100 on 14th and fifty-five on 21st January; 144 on 21st March; fifteen on 1st May; 122 on 17th October and 52 on 1st December (JED, MLQ,JP). Up to fifty at Dewsbury Sewage Farm during the winter months. Thirty-four at Colne Bridge on 30th March; thirty-two at Springwood Colliery, Bretton on 23rd June and twenty-two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 28th September. Southerly movement over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during October, of twenty-seven on 2nd, sixteen on 8th and fourteen on 23rd. White Wagtails (*M.a.alba*) were three at Broadstones on 17th April, three at Dewsbury Sewage Farm from 24th to 27th April and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 18th September.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred successfully at Rishworth Moor, Hall Dike, Hepworth and near Langsett; they bred or may have bred at Black Brook (ten on 23rd April, and three pairs regularly), between Marsden and Slaithwaite, Denby Dale, Ryburn Valley, near Brockholes, near Meltham, and attempted breeding at Bretton Park. Also noted at Thongsbridge, Ferry Beck, Longwood, Digley and Dean Wood during the spring.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (3)

Some recovery in status apparent from frequency of singing males noted in localities regularly visited, but the population is still well below that of 1978. Very small numbers (maximum seven) reported on Winter Atlas counts.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*
Resident breeder (4)
Seventeen recorded on 22nd February in the northern half of SE10 (Holmfirth) during Winter Atlas count.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*
Resident breeder (5)
Most Winter Atlas counts showed modest numbers, from six to fifteen, but thirty-four were in the northern half of SE10 (Holmfirth) on 25th January, with twenty-eight in the same area on 18th November.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Rare visitor
One in Booth Dam Quarry on 16th April (JED).

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Migrant breeder (2)
A male at Hepworth on 12th April was well in advance of the next arrivals which included one near Langsett on 23rd and four in Swinden Plantation on 30th April. Bred in the Upper Little Don Valley (six territories), in the Digley area (four singing males), Hall Dike Valley (two pairs) and at Jackson Bridge (one pair). Singing males at Turner Wood, Hoyland Bank, Thurstonland, Home Styes, Yateholme, Deffer Wood, Dean Wood and Spring Wood. Last one at Lindley Moor on 10th September.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Migrant breeder (2)
One in Black Brook Valley on 23rd April and the next at Winscar on 2nd May, and Whitley Common on 3rd (three). Bred at Rishworth Moor, Scammonden Valley, Hepworth, Winscar and near Langsett and probably near Dewsbury Sewage Farm. Late records at Hepworth and Scout Dike on 18th September, and Brown's Edge near Ingbirchworth on 22nd. Fewer records than usual.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*
Scarce passage visitor
Singles in the Scammonden Valley in early October (JB) and Grimescar Valley on 12th October (CD, SMC).

WHEATEAR *Deranthe oenanthe*
Migrant breeder (2)
Five at Broadstones on 20th March, two at Scammonden on 21st, three at Whitley Common on 23rd, two at Digley on 24th and five on 26th March were the first arrivals. These sites and a few others had four to eight in the first three weeks of April, but on 17th, there were twenty-four (including twenty males) near Broadstones. Birds, probably of the Greenland race (*D.o.leucorrhoea*), were - eight on Whitley

Common on 3rd May, two by Grimes Lane (near Broadstones) on 9th May and one at Ringstone Edge on 15th.

Bred at Digley, where there were seven young on 14th August, Rishworth Moor, Booth Dam Quarry and Scammonden; probably bred at Deer Hill and Wessenden Head. Twelve at Ringstone Edge on 6th August. One at Whitley Common on 24th September and late singles at Hoylandswaine on 15th and Broadstones on 16th October.

RING QUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder (2)

One at Digley on 26th March and two near Bilberry Reservoir on 27th, followed by a slight build-up in that area, which peaked at ten on 5th April. At least two pairs bred in the Digley area, a pair at Wessenden Head on 15th June had at least two young; a pair was on Royd Edge on 2nd May. At least two pairs bred on Rishworth Moor where there were four males on 23rd May. Four pairs bred in the Upper Little Don Valley, but some of these would be south of the Huddersfield area. Other records in the breeding season from Yateholme and the Scammonden Valley. One in the Little Don Valley on 25th September.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor

One in song near the Civic Centre at 16.30hrs on 7th January. Eighty-two in the Hall Dike Valley on 30th January, during snow. Something of an influx in late October, with fifty-four in Hall Dike Valley on 23rd and ninety-four on 30th, when there were twenty-six at Blackmoorfoot, plus sixty-four over Dakes and sixty-five over Lindley Moor on the morning of the 30th, flying into a westerly gale. A Winter Atlas count in the eastern half of SE20 totalled eighty-eight on 2nd January.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor

Good numbers in the area during January, with 150 to 200 at five places and, on 3rd, 500 at Royd Moor and 400 West of Bretton Park. 450 on 8th at Victoria; on 16th, 349 at Ingbirchworth and on 23rd, 1000 at Shelley Woodhouse. A flock of 100 near Ingbirchworth on 4th February, but otherwise fewer during that month. Good numbers passed through the area in March and flocks of 120 to 260 were at seven places, with 420 at New Hall on 20th March. Fewer than usual during April, the largest flock being 300 at Gunthwaite on 20th, with 150 there on 28th. Small numbers at four locations on 30th April and one at Digley on 14th May.

An adult and at least two immatures at one locality in mid August. Two west over Ossett on 25th September and four at Hepworth on 26th. No large influx during October, although the species occurred at seven places including thirty-five at Dalton on 8th, fifteen at Golcar on 14th, thirty at Digley on 29th. There was an increase in

numbers during November with flocks of up to thirty in several places, and, on 6th and 7th, 100 to 120 in the Ingbirchworth area. Evidence of movement during that month, with sixty-three east at Yateholme on 13th and sixty west along Longwood Edge on 17th November. A large influx during December, particularly over the Hall Dike Valley, where 2154 were moving west between 5th and 26th. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, 276 flew westwards on 10th and seventy-seven and thirty-nine south on 3rd December. Also on 10th, forty flew west over Elland and 100 flew west over Outlane, whilst 174 were on Whitley Common. Flocks of 100 to 200 at Almondbury (10th), Dovestones and Dunford Bridge, and 352 at Blackmoorfoot on 29th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Resident breeder (4)

Small numbers were again recorded on the Winter Atlas counts, mostly away from land above the 700 foot contour, and no more than six on any one count.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor

Flocks of eighty to 230 at five localities in January and three in February, plus a total of 470 in the Ossett Spa Sewage Farm area on 8th February. Most of the late records in spring were from the Hall Dike Valley with 120 on 8th March, 268 east on 24th March, 106 north on 1st and 2nd April, and last one on 24th April.

The first of autumn was at Hall Dike on 29th September, then two at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd October. On 23rd October, 1812 flew west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir between 07.10 and 08.20hrs and on the same day, 1038 flew west over Hall Dike Valley. Others moving west at the end of October included 124 over Hall Dike on 27th, 150 over Langsett on 29th and fifty-three over Lindley Moor plus twenty eight over Oakes on 30th. Moderate numbers in the area during November, but as with Fieldfare in December an increased number moved west, 468 over Hall Dike from 5th to 26th and 164 over Blackmoorfoot between 3rd and 16th. Flocks of fifty to 120 at four places in December and good numbers at Rushfield Dike, Almondbury, peaked at 330 on 28th.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3)

Thirty at Hartcliffe Hill on 31st July. Over thirty in the Scamonden Valley on 19th August. Nineteen at Blackmoorfoot on 27th September.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Migrant breeder (1)

One at Elland Gravel Pits on 14th May was the only record received.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1)

Singles at Elland Gravel Pits and Horbury on 29th April. Singing males at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 4th May and Bretton Park on 8th May (two). Pairs bred at Dewsbury (two), Healey Mills (one), Ossett (one) and Horbury (three) Sewage Farms; at least one pair bred at Elland Gravel Pits, where there were three singing males on 5th July. There was a male in song at Clayton West Sewage Farm on 23rd July and the last record was on 13th September at Elland Gravel Pits.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1)

A male singing at Stockmoor Reserve on 7th May. At Bretton Park, a pair mating on 8th May and two adults with at least two young on 19th June. A male in song at Gunthwaite Dam on 14th, 15th and 16th May and 26th June and up to two feeding in a Gunthwaite garden in late July. One at Horbury on 2nd August and one caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 14th August.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first were singles at Bretton Park on 26th April and Elland Gravel Pits on 4th May and at five more places on 7th and 8th, including one at Scapegoat Hill.

Singing males along the Calder Valley from Horbury to Dewsbury, and Brighouse to Elland, totalled fifteen in early to mid May. In the east of the area, from Coxley south to Cannon Hall, eleven singing males were located in May and June. Singing males also at Colne Bridge, Mag Wood, Dean Wood and in the Hall Dike Valley (four), where one pair bred. Five at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 18th August. One at Grimescar on 21st September.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2)

One at Meltham Mills on 27th April and the next at Bretton Park on 4th May, where there were five on 7th. Singing males in the eastern halves of squares SE20 and SE21 totalled twenty-nine from counts taken between 24th May and 16th June. Singing males were near Hall Dike and in Windy Bank Wood in May and Mag Wood in June. Singles at Blackmoorfoot on 13th and Hall Dike on 18th August.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3). Rare winter visitor

One at Thorpe Lane, Almondbury on 4th and 9th March and one singing at Netherton from 11th to 13th March had probably wintered in Britain. Singles at Bretton Park and Blackmoorfoot on 16th April and Deffer Wood on 17th. Singing males in the east of the area only totalled twenty-six in May and June. Only sparsely reported from

woodland areas south of Huddersfield although twelve males were singing in the Hall Dike area on 26th May and three pairs bred in that valley. Four singing males in the Upper Little Don on 13th July. One at Elland Gravel Pits on 15th September.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Migrant breeder (1)

Several males passed through Bretton Park between 26th April and 7th May, with two on 27th April and 4th May. Singing males present in Hall Dike Valley on 7th May (two), with a third on 4th June; at Hoyland Bank Wood on 25th May (two) and 2nd June; at Windy Bank Wood from 4th to 19th June, with a second on 19th; at Coxley on 15th and Turner Wood on 20th; at Dean Wood from 6th to 8th June and in Grimescar Wood in early June. Last one at Hall Dike on 28th July.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder (2)

Bretton Park had two males as early as 13th March but none was found at any other locality before 9th April. Singing males in the east of the area totalled twelve during May. Others singing at Hagg Wood, Thongsbridge, Armitage Bridge, Hall Dike (six on 2nd May), Almond-bury and near Elland. Two pairs in the Little Don Valley, with the last singles there and at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 25th September. An individual was present in the Elland Gravel Pits and Brighouse area at the end of 1982 and may be the same one that was in a Brighouse garden on 29th and 30th January, and near Brookfoot on 3rd and 20th February.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4)

One on 5th and two on 10th April at Bretton Park and over twenty males there on 17th, with singles at Lockwood and Hall Dike on 14th. A rapid influx produced birds at eleven more localities by 16th and three more on 17th, including twenty-seven at Hall Dike on 16th and twelve at Deffer Wood on 17th. Twenty-two along Black Brook on 23rd, forty at Coxley Wood on 26th April and over twenty in the Swinden area on 27th. Last one at Elland Gravel Pits on 20th September.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3). Common passage visitor

Generally only low single figures from Winter Atlas counts and on approximately 60% of these counts the species was not located. Autumn movements particularly apparent at Blackmoorfoot between 11th September and 20th October and in several gardens where the species only appeared at this time.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder (3)

Singles at Bretton Park on 1st May, Meltham Mills on 5th and Stocks-moor Reserve on 7th. Breeding was proven at seventeen localities or a male was in song regularly. Last ones at Lindley Moor on 23rd, Royd Moor on 24th and Upper Little Don on 25th September.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Rare passage visitor and occasional breeder

One at Bretton Park on 4th May and a male in song at Gunthwaite Dam from 21st to 26th May. At Windy Bank Wood, near Meltham, a male was present on 12th May and a pair were nest-building on 15th. On 8th June they were taking food into the nest-hole, but on 19th June they could not be found (PDB, DMD).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (2)

Parties of seven to fifteen during January and February at Silkstone, Deffer Wood, Bretton Park, Denby Dale and Lockwood. A total of thirty-two in the Hall Dike Valley on 15th February and twenty-two in Dean Wood on 19th March. Bred in these localities and Mag Wood, Spring Wood, Molly Carr Wood and Gunthwaite. No parties exceeding seven reported during the autumn.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

Rare visitor

Two birds believed to be this species at Toby Spout, Hartcliffe Mills, Denby Dale on 31st March (DB).

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

Resident breeder (2)

At Bretton Park, which has been a stronghold of this species and where breeding has occurred regularly for twenty-five years, fewer were noted than usual and breeding was not recorded. Bred in eight localities and was present in six more during the spring.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Resident breeder (3)

Most Winter Atlas counts only produced single figures but there were seventeen in SE10 on 21st February. Bred at Coxley, Bretton Park, Deffer Wood and Swinden Plantation and, doubtless, in all other coniferous woodlands. Eighteen in Dean Wood on 12th February.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5)

Winter Atlas counts were higher than in 1982 and included sixty-two in the eastern half of SE20 on 2nd January, 107 in the northern half of SE10 on 25th January and forty-eight in the south-west quarter of

SE11 on 14th February. Bretton Park had forty-nine on 3rd January and 100 on 24th August; ninety-eight in the Hall Dike Valley on 14th February, fifty at Horbury on 29th August.

GREAT TIT. *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4)

Flocks during February of thirty-two in Dean Wood on 12th, forty-six in Hall Dike Valley on 15th and twenty-six in Rough Hey Wood on 27th.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Rare visitor. Bred in the late 1970's

Singles at Cannon Hall on 3rd (CB) and in Dean Wood on 24th and 26th December (DMd).

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Breeding evidence from Elland Gravel Pits, Bretton Park, Derby Dale, Gunthwaite, Hagg Wood, Hall Dike, Netherton, Royd House Wood and Swinden Plantation and pairs present in the breeding season at three other localities. Ten in Dean Wood on 14th February.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

Rare visitor

A female in the Coxley area on 8th and 10th June (DP et al). Last record in 1954.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2)

At least seventeen pairs bred in the Netherton and Hall Dike Valley areas. An obvious influx into the area in late September and early October with individuals in up to ten localities where they are not normally seen, including eight at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th September.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4)

The roost by Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had 103 on 12th January, 113 by 4th February, forty-six on 19th March and forty-two on 2nd December. Fifty-two roosting in the Hall Dike area on 15th February. Most Winter Atlas counts totalled well over twenty, with sixty-nine in the eastern half of SE20 on 2nd January and sixty-six in the northern half of SE10 on 22nd February, 18th November and 26th December.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4)

Most Winter Atlas counts produced rather low numbers, but there were 180 in SE20 on 16th January and 135 near Silkstone on 27th November.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*
Resident breeder (5)
See Page no. 52 for "A Census of Rookeries in the Huddersfield Area".

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*
Resident breeder (2)
The Winter Atlas counts of 1983 did not produce the exceptional numbers of January 1982, the highest recorded being fifty in SE20 on 3rd January.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*
Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor
1900 at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd and 2000 at Whitley Common on 20th March. 1000 at Blackmoorfoot on 7th June were mainly juveniles, as were 5000 near Ingbirchworth on 3rd July.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*
Resident breeder (5)
An all white juvenile, with pink eyes and legs and a yellow bill at Crosland Moor on 22nd and 25th August.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*
Resident breeder (3)
Forty-six at Hall Dike on 3rd and twenty-seven near Marsden on 9th January. Forty at Blackmoorfoot on 4th August. Over fifty at Emley Moor on 1st October and forty at Thurlstone on 4th December.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*
Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor
Once again the winter flocks were not large, with about 100 at Bretton Park during January and a similar number near Langsett in February and March. 106 in eastern half of SE20 on 2nd January, 180 at Digley on 29th October and fifty-five at Broadstones on 20th December.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*
Uncommon to common winter visitor
Very few in the early months after ten at Bretton Park on 16th January. There were one to two there and at three other places before April, five at Hall Dike on 15th February, sixty-one at Digley on 13th February and up to forty in the first two weeks of April, with twenty-two on 25th April. Six at Bretton Park on 3rd April, five on 2nd May and one on 4th May. One at Ingbirchworth on 31st July (CB).
Thirteen at Thornhill on 19th October, two on 22nd October at Blackmoorfoot (five on 23rd), ten at Royd Moor and at least one at Ingbirchworth. Six flew west over Hall Dike on 27th and up to twenty

at Digley on 29th October. Four near Langsett on 13th and eleven west over Hall Dike on 20th November. Three at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd and 25th December; five at Ingbirchworth on 4th; ten at Broadstones on 20th; seven at New Mill on 21st and 120 near Langsett on 29th December. Singles at some of the above and at Horbury and Silkstone in November and December.



GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4)

During February, thirty-four in Deffer Wood on 19th, sixty-two in Hall Dike Valley on 20th, up to forty feeding in a garden at Oakes on 21st and twenty-eight caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th. Over fifty near Langsett on 13th March; 100 at Broadstones on 2nd October, seventy-nine caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd December and fifty-two (including retraps) on 11th and 26th December.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Only very small numbers (one to three) reported before April apart from nine in SE20 on 16th January. A pair was singing and displaying near the Sports Centre on 30th April. Fourteen at Elland Gravel Pits on 7th May. The Hall Dike Valley had thirty-four on 2nd May and forty-two on 21st and 22nd August and twenty-nine flew over westward on 27th October. Fourteen at Crosland Hill on 14th September. During October, twenty-five on 1st and sixty-five on 2nd at Ingbirchworth, twenty at Emley Moor on 1st and fourteen south over Blackmoorfoot on 7th.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon winter visitor

At Gunthwaite, twelve on 16th and four on 23rd January plus nine on 13th February. In Deffer Wood, nine on 29th January and seven on 19th February. Three in Hall Dike area on 4th March. At Bretton Park, twenty on 30th March and three on 3rd April, singles on 6th

March and 2nd April. Singles at some of these localities on other dates. Present in the Langsett area from late March with at least five males singing and two pairs breeding. A flock of fourteen in the Little Don Valley on 16th April. A male in song at Dakes on 21st April.

During November, there were thirty at Bretton Park on 13th and 27th; sixty-five at Silkstone on 13th and fifty-two on 27th; twenty-five at Gunthwaite on 19th, and thirty by the river and canal at Golcar on 27th. Fifteen at Dovestones and twenty each at Lees Mill and Gunthwaite on 4th December, with six at Elland Gravel Pits on 10th and six near Ossett on 25th.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Resident breeder (4). Partial migrant

None reported in the area before early April. At least seventy-five in the neighbourhood of Elland Gravel Pits on 7th May. 100 at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 14th and 143 in the Hall Dike Valley on 21st August. In the Ingbirchworth and Broadstones area generally, between 13th September and 9th October flocks of eighty to 140 were regularly observed and on 2nd October, three flocks of 300, 140 and ninety were present.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Resident and partial migrant breeder (3)

None recorded in the early months, so the March influx was fairly obvious. Two at Whitley Common on 4th March and forty there on 20th. Twenty-three at Hartcliffe on 12th March; two at Rishworth Moor and eight at Ringstone Edge on 19th. Ten west over Digley on 20th March and sixty there on 28th. Sixteen at Bradshaw Road, Honley on 26th March. Smaller flocks remained in the Digley, Rishworth Moor and Whitley Common areas before dispersing to breeding-sites in late April but forty-eight were still in a flock at Deer Hill on 30th April. Post-breeding-season flocks of seventy at Scammonden on 16th and thirty-six at Ringstone Edge on 25th August; twenty-two in the Hall Dike Valley on 12th September; flocks of thirty at Greenley Carr on 19th September; Broadstones on 2nd and Snittlegate on 9th October. Seventeen at Blackmoorfoot on 6th and ten at Grimes Lane, near Broadstones, on 22nd October. Bred at the usual moorland sites.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Resident breeder (3). Uncommon to common winter visitor

Flocks of seventy at Horbury Wike on 8th, and twenty at Bretton on 22nd January. Maxima in Hall Dike Valley of thirty-six on 12th February and sixty-eight on 12th March. Sixty in Swinden Plantation on 13th March. A flock of twenty-five off Rowley Lane, Lepton on 8th April.

Bred in the Little Don Valley, Crossley's Plantation, Digley, Deffer Wood, Hall Dike Valley and probably elsewhere. Fourteen at

Blackmoorfoot on 29th October and twenty near Ossett on 25th December were the only flocks reported in the autumn and winter. Four birds showing characteristics of the race Mealy Redpoll (*C.f.flammea*) were in the Hall Dike area on 12th and 14th February (DMD).

CROSSBILL

Loxia curvirostra

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor

Present in the Langsett area from at least 29th January to early May with probably four pairs breeding. Flocks of thirty-one to thirty-five reported in this area on 2nd and 5th February, and 19th March. May have bred near Digley where a family party occurred between 19th and 24th May which included adults of both sexes and four immatures, totalling at least eleven birds.

PARROT CROSSBILL

Loxia pytyopsittacus

Rare visitor

The following records constitute the first for this species in the area. At a locality in the south, individuals were present from at least 23rd February to 7th May. Four were located by D Hursthouse on 23rd and three by JE and SM Dale on 27th February. Subsequently, birdwatchers from Huddersfield and Barnsley had regular sightings. These were as follows: March, one on 5th (BA, JH), two on 6th (GJS) and on 13th (JE and SMD); four (DJS, JIM), two (JL) and eleven (JMD) at various times on 19th; ten on 20th (BA) and on 21st (HCL) and one on 27th (JL); April, eight on 2nd (JE and SMD), two on 8th (SGD), four on 9th (JE and SMD), one on 15th (BA), 17th (JL) and 21st (SGD); five on 23rd (JED) and one on 27th (JL) and finally seven on 7th May (JE and SMD).

The following additional details were recorded by JE and SM Dale: Courtship feeding on 13th March (one pair) and 9th April (two pairs). Nestbuilding at two separate sites on 13th March and 2nd April respectively. The party of 7th May included an adult male, two adult females and two juveniles, with two others not aged or sexed, and a female fed a juvenile on two occasions. The birds fed on cones of Larch (*Larix* sp) on all dates except 7th May, when they fed on cones of Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Several observers noted singing males on dates throughout the period and it is certain that at least three different males held territory for parts of the period.

BULLFINCH

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Resident breeder (3)

Reported from twenty-four localities, many of which would be breeding sites. Eighteen in the Hall Dike Valley on 15th February and eleven in Honley Wood on 24th December.

HAUFINCH*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare visitor

A pair at Bretton Park on 25th and 26th May were observed courtship feeding (CD). Three in Cannon Hall Park on 19th November (CB).

SNOW BUNTING*Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor

One at Dewsbury Sewage Farm on 3rd and 4th December (JRS).

YELLOWHAMMER*Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3)

Flocks of ten to forty-five reported from six localities in January and February included one of forty-five at Green Moor on 19th February. Winter Atlas counts were modest, the highest being thirty-five in the east of SE20 on 2nd January. Autumn flocks of about ten birds in three places, plus thirty at Emley Moor on 1st October.

REED BUNTING*Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident breeder (3)

Singing males and/or breeding pairs at all four reservoirs in the Ingbirchworth area, Whitley Common, Boshaw Whams, Hall Dike Valley, Cupwith Reservoir, Scamonden, Rishworth Moor, Eliand Gravel Pits and Bretton Park; also present along the canal near Golcar and Colne Bridge. More records at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir than in 1981 and 1982, with a total of sixteen bird days.

CORN BUNTING*Miliaria calandra*

Resident breeder (1)

Most records concerned singing males and were as follows: Ingbirchworth, one on 15th May; Emley, one on 16th May and 8th June; Hall Dike Valley, two from 20th May to late June; Bank Wood, near Bretton, one on 24th May and two on 28th June; Dewsbury Sewage Farm, singles occasionally in the spring, and Hartcliffe, near Penistone, one during July.

FERAL PIGEON

112 in SE20 on 13th November, 180 at Hopton on 15th November and 150 in the northern half of SE10 on 3rd December.

List of Contributors

(with apologies for omissions)

B Armitage	K Horne
J S Armitage	O Hunton
D Barrans	DS and VA Ives
J Beaumont	Miss A D Jagger
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G Belbin	O Ladley
P D Bell	H C Laidlaw
J Beverage	N Leece
C Biltcliffe	J Lunn
C Blunham	O Manchester
C Braham	J I Martin
S M Burton	O Maude
D Butterfield	W S McCormack
T Cantwell	J Naylor
G Carr	B and J Oliver
N Carter	J Palliser
S Chippendale	J M Pinder
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J M and M S Dale	G B Silver
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W Harris	F J and B Watson
P Harrison	R Wells
J Hewitt	B W Woodcock
R B Holloway	G M Yates
C Horne	Halifax Scientific Society
Barnsley Bird Study Group	Wakefield Naturalists' Society

The recorder is grateful to all of the above for their help and co-operation.

J E Dale

A Problematical "Commic" by M L Denton
(Illustrated by J M Pinder)

A single immature "Commic" Tern which appeared at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st October 1983 was initially identified as a Common. Closer, more detailed views revealed that the bird showed characters of both Common and Arctic Terns, being a Common whilst at rest and on upperwing pattern but an Arctic on underwing pattern.

The bird remained in the area until 11th October and the following points of identification were noted:

GENERAL FEATURES

Bill black, save for a red base which extended along the cutting-edge of the lower mandible for half its length. This feature was only visible at close-range with a telescope, the bill looking wholly black at any distance. Legs rather bright orange-red.

When perched, the carpal-bar appeared very dark and contrasted with the rest of the plumage. Mantle, light grey with faint scaling caused by paler tips to the feathers. In flight, the carpal-bar was again obvious and a faint secondary-bar was visible under certain light-conditions at close range. Between these two bars, the area was pale grey.

The whole of the underwing was pure white except for a well-defined, but thin, black bar on the trailing-edge, this being created by the tips of the primaries.

An illustration showing all these field-marks has been supplied by J M Pinder.

DISCUSSION

The bill and leg colour suggest Arctic, but as the colours of the soft-parts in most species are variable, this is not a very reliable feature. The carpal-bar and pale grey area on the upperwing suggest Common, but the pale underwing, with a well-defined black trailing-edge are features of Arctic.

Although the possibility of a Common-Arctic hybrid remains, this seems unlikely and a search of the literature has produced no records of hybridisation. Even so, a record of probable inter-breeding between Common and Roseate Terns does exist.

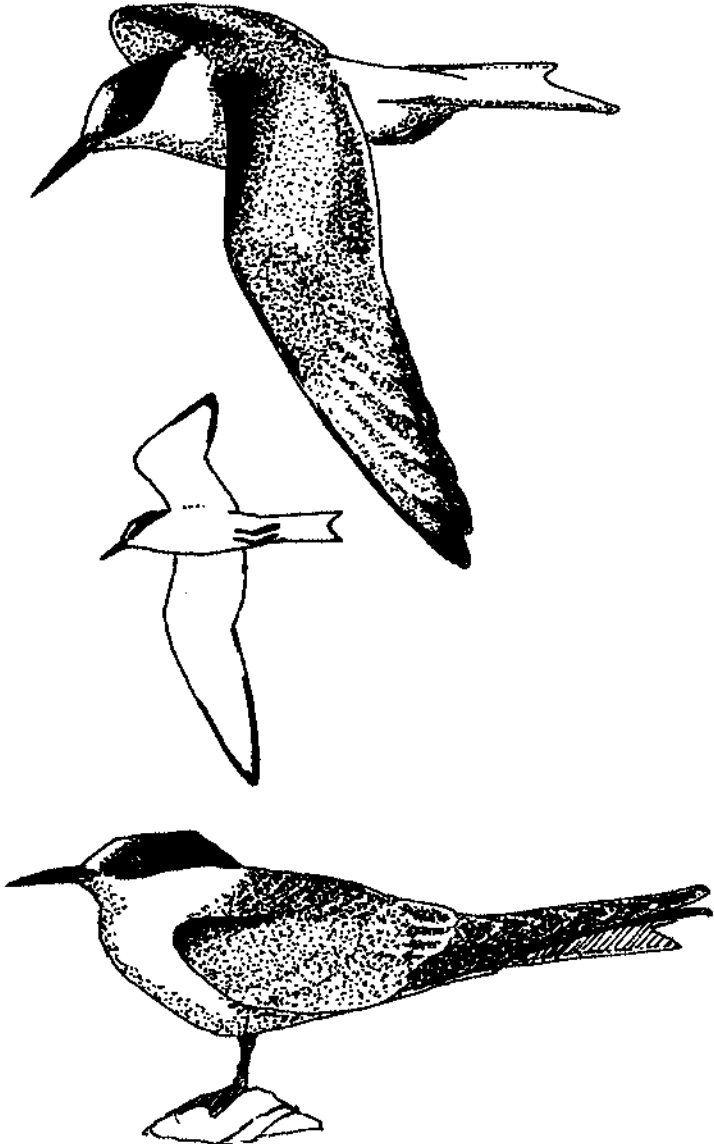
P J Grant (in litt) has suggested that the bird was probably an Arctic Tern in which the secondary-bar was rather more pronounced than usual.

The above is published as a warning to would-be "Commic" Tern identifiers and shows the pitfalls that could be encountered if only certain identification characters are used. The need for critical field observations is borne-out by this "Problematical Commic".

REFERENCES

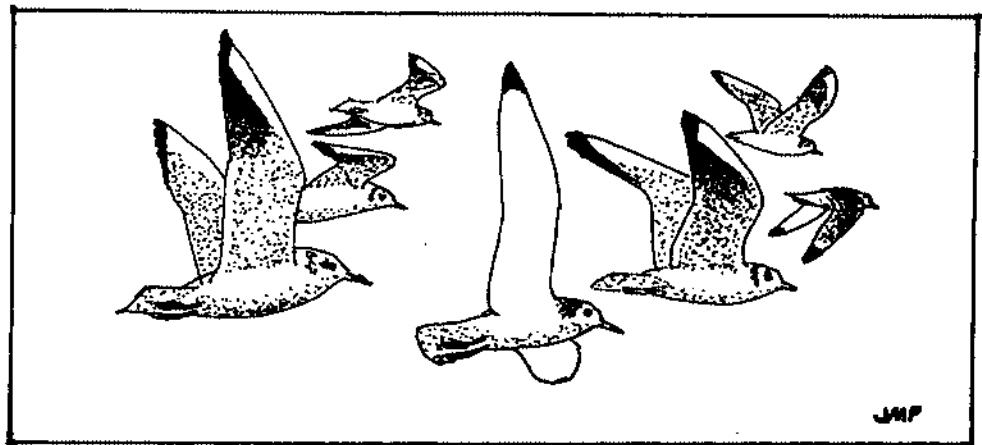
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Kittiwakes at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1971-1983

J M Pinder



Since 1971, Blackmoorfoot has been one of the best-documented ornithological sites in inland Yorkshire. A log-book has been kept since that year, recording not only the birds seen, but also weather conditions. Entries were made on 4425 days during the period in question, an average of some 332 days per annum.

Whilst coverage has been uneven, with most being at the main migration times, it is nevertheless possible to analyse the records of Kittiwakes, and come to some simple, if tentative conclusions. In the middle of the period, less attention was paid to gull numbers, but the less common gull-species were always looked for, and the effect of uneven coverage is not reflected in the number of records, which have varied from none in 1980 to nine (fifteen birds) in 1983.

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF RECORDS

Kittiwakes have been recorded on forty-two days during the period, involving a total of sixty-seven birds (fifty adults and seventeen immature). The largest flock was of seven immatures on 11th September 1978.

The most obvious feature of the monthly break-down is that the months January to March are the peak periods for adults, while the period from August to October is when most immatures are seen, (as might be expected).

*****	Jan	*		****	Jan	*
*****	Feb			*****	Feb	
*****	Mar	*		*****	Mar	*
****	Apr			****	Apr	
*	May			*	May	
	Jun				Jun	
	Jul				Jul	
**	Aug	***		**	Aug	**
	Sep	*****			Sep	**
***	Oct	**		***	Oct	**
*	Nov			*	Nov	
**	Dec			**	Dec	

Adult Immature Adult Immature

Analysis by number of birds

Analysis by number of days

REASONS FOR OCCURRENCE

The two most obvious factors affecting the occurrence of Kittiwakes at Blackmoorfoot are the weather and geographical situation. I shall deal with the weather first. On the day of each record, this was looked at under the following headings: Variable wind; strong wind (force 5 or more); poor visibility (rain/fog); cloud cover. When looked at in this way, the record reveals some interesting statistics.

Five percent of records (including the seven immatures already mentioned) were on days when all four factors were in evidence, while seventeen percent of records coincided with three of the factors and a further thirty-two percent with two factors. Thirty-two percent of all records were on days of strong winds and eighty percent on days of heavy cloud. Forty-one percent of records were on rainy days. Only twelve percent (five days, seven birds) were on calm, clear days.

The direction of the wind is of some significance. Seventy percent of all birds were seen when the wind was between south-west and north-west; indeed twenty-nine percent of all birds arrived on north-westerlies. There appears to be no seasonal bias.

The weather preceding the day of record is also of some significance. Because of the comprehensive details available, it has been possible to analyse the weather during the six days before most of the records. For thirty-six occurrences, the weather on four of the previous six days was noted.

Force	0 - 7%
	1 - 0
	2 - 3
	3 - 14
	4 - 12
	5 - 14
	6 - 24
	7 - 14
	8 - 7
	9 - 5
	<u>100%</u>

Percentage of Records by Maximum Wind Force in Previous Six Days

As can be seen, most records occur after winds between force three and seven, whilst sixty-four percent of records (seventy-five percent of birds) were after winds of force five or more. Forty-eight percent of records, (sixty-four percent of birds) were after SW/NW winds of force five or more.

The geographical position of a particular site is an important influence on the birds recorded there, especially those on migration. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir is situated overlooking both the Colne and Hall Dike Valleys, near the head of both. It is well-known that many migrant birds follow river systems where this is convenient and there seems little doubt that Kittiwakes do also. Their regular appearance in the valleys of the Aire and Nidd, (where large flocks have occurred) points strongly to this. It would be helpful to be able to cite correlating records with those from Blackmoorfoot, but there are very few on record and none appear to be significant.

DISCUSSION

The reasons why Kittiwakes should occur inland are not well understood. Sandeman (Scot Birds 8:2 1974) noted large numbers moving inland up the Firth of Forth after November gales to the north and west, which has been interpreted as a relocation movement by displaced birds. There are several records of flocks flying west (inland) at Blacktoft Sands, mainly in May, but they have not been recorded thereafter during their westerly transit.

It seems unlikely that all the birds recorded at Blackmoorfoot are the victims of gales. The marked peak of adults in March may possibly reflect a return movement to breeding colonies by birds which have ended the winter in the North Sea. The peak of immatures in the autumn (although our numbers are statistically valueless) may be an indication of a general movement westwards, by young birds, towards the Atlantic. What our series of records shows without doubt is that, apart from June and July, Kittiwakes can turn up in any

month, strongly suggesting that overland movements are a regular feature of Kittiwake behaviour. It is only the effects of adverse weather, perhaps on sick or weak birds, that brings them to our attention.

Birds reaching the Pennine river valleys must gain altitude in order to cross the hills westwards. Low cloud, rain and strong westerly winds would all conspire against this, and it is at these times that the sight of Blackmoorfoot must be very welcome. Whilst it may only be a reflection of observer effort, it is true to say that most Kittiwakes have been found amongst the gulls gathering to roost on the reservoir. Very few have been recorded during the day, before the flock forms. While birds have on occasion roosted overnight, the majority carry on westwards after anything from minutes to a couple of hours. The main cause of departure is probably the harassment the Kittiwakes have to endure from the Black-headed Gulls.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing can perhaps best be summed-up in the following way. Kittiwakes are most likely to occur at Blackmoorfoot on days of strong, variable, westerly winds, following persistent westerly gales during the previous few days. It must also be said that they can and do appear for no obvious reason.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank the many members of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club whose contributions to the Blackmoorfoot log have made these researches possible. I would especially like to thank the dedicated few who visit the reservoir regularly throughout the year. Kittiwakes are among their rewards.

Ringing Report 1983

Although the weather conditions were more favourable than in previous years, the period January to March only lent itself to the ringing of birds around the peanut basket at Blackmoorfoot. Consequently, the Edgerton "thrush" roost was not visited, the most desirable conditions for this site being settled weather with a complete lack of wind.

Unlike last year, the breeding season weather was little short of excellent and this was reflected in the number of birds ringed during the autumn migration period. As usual, Willow Warblers were the main species concerned, a total of 320 being handled. This is the largest number ever ringed in a single season.

The whole of the September period was dominated by very windy, unsettled weather and consequently few birds were ringed during this time. The months October to December were also dominated by unsettled weather and due to this fact, the Edgerton "thrush" roost was again not worked. This is only the second year the roost has not been worked since T D Bisiker started ringing there in 1960.

Good numbers of Greenfinch at Blackmoorfoot during December boosted the total for this species to 494 and hopefully, some interesting results will be forthcoming.

A total of thirty-seven species was handled during the year and the total of 1760 birds ringed was very encouraging. This is the fifth consecutive year that no new ringing species for the area were encountered.

The following pulli were ringed during the year: Mallard (three at Blackmoorfoot), Kestrel (four at Wessenden), Little Ringed Plover (one, suitable site), Lapwing (two at Elland Gravel Pits and three at Blackmoorfoot), Black-headed Gull (100 at Black Moss), Swallow (seventeen at Netherton and five at Blackmoorfoot), Dunnock (fourteen at Blackmoorfoot), Robin (six at Honley), Ring Ouzel (two at Digley), Blackbird (twelve at Blackmoorfoot), Song Thrush (four at Farnley Bank and twelve at Blackmoorfoot), Mistle Thrush (four at Honley and seventeen at Blackmoorfoot), Chaffinch (eight at Blackmoorfoot) and Greenfinch (four at Blackmoorfoot).

RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used:

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

Sex M Male
F Female

Manner of Recovery

- V Caught or trapped and released with ring
- VV Ring number read in field or sight record of identifiable colour marks
- X Found dead or dying
- + Shot or killed by man

Date of Recovery

Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets

All recoveries of five kilometres or more are published. The recoveries of Black-headed Gull (MATSALU U343619), Swift (SA36307) and Swallow (A951892) were received too late for inclusion in earlier reports.

RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDS

Black-headed Gull

EF61300	1	10/06/75	Black Moss, nr Marsden - 53°34'N 1°56'W
	X	(11/07/83)	Delph, Saddleworth, Gt M/c - 53°34'N 2°01'W 5 Kms W
EH41030	1	13/06/78	Black Moss
	X	28/12/83	Audenshaw Res. M/c - 53°28'N 2°08'W 17 Kms SW
EH56215	1	19/06/79	Black Moss
	X	09/07/83	Grotten, Oldham, Gt M/c - 53°32'N 2°03'W 9 Kms WSW
EH69347	1	21/06/83	Black Moss
	X	08/08/83	Blackmoorfoot, nr Hudds - 53°37'N 1°52'W 7 Kms NE

Willow Warbler

ZH3321	3	14/08/83	Blackmoorfoot
	V	24/08/83	Winterset Res, Wakefield - 53°38'N 1°26'W 29 Kms E

Greenfinch

NE00617	SF	19/03/78	Blackmoorfoot
	V	22/10/83	Springf'ld Pk, Rochdale, Gt M/c 53°36N 2°11'W 21 Kms W
NE89533	6M	19/01/80	Blackmoorfoot
	X	23/08/83	Thornhill, Dewsbury - 53°41'N 1°38'W 17 Kms ENE
NJ40940	SF	27/02/83	Blackmoorfoot
	V	26/03/83	Keworth, York - 53°38'N 1°02'W 67 Kms NE

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELDBlack-headed Gull

MATSALU	1	13/06/80	Kilmenasva, Matsalu reserve, Estonia S S R 58°45'N 23°41'E
	X	07/02/81	Horbury, Wakefield - 53°39N 1°33'W 1658 Kms WSW

Swift

SA36307	4	24/05/75	Wintersett
	V	25/06/82	Osset Spa S F, Yorks - 53°40'N 1°36'W 11 Kms NW

Swallow

A951892	3J	15/09/80	Wintersett
	V	24/09/80	Wicken Fen, Cambs - 52°18'N 0°17'E 187 Kms SE
	X	11/08/81	Kirkburton, Hudds - 53°36'N 1°43'W 18 Kms W

Starling

RX12464	4	19/02/82	Pool-in-Wharfedale, Otley - 53°54'N 1°38'W
	X	15/12/83	Marsh, Hudds - 53°39'N 1°48'W 30 Kms SSW

Greenfinch

NK05447	5M	05/01/83	Sutton Weaver, Runcorn, Ches 53°19'N 2°41'W
	V	22/01/83	Sutton Weaver
	V	10/12/83	Blackmoorfoot 63 Kms NE

M L Denton

BIRDS RINGED IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA 1983

Mallard	3	Lesser Whitethroat	1
Sparrowhawk	2	Whitethroat	1
Kestrel	4	Garden Warbler	1
Little Ringed Plover	1	Blackcap	1
Lapwing	5	Chiffchaff	3
Black-headed Gull	100	Willow Warbler	320
Swallow	38	Goldcrest	40
House Martin	6	Spotted Flycatcher	3
Meadow Pipit	4	Willow Tit	1
Wren	30	Blue Tit	288
Dunnock	60	Great Tit	28
Robin	115	Tree Creeper	2
Redstart	2	Magpie	2
Whinchat	1	Starling	1
Ring Ouzel	2	Tree Sparrow	76
Blackbird	53	Chaffinch	28
Song Thrush	17	Greenfinch	494
Mistle Thrush	22	Reed Bunting	1
Sedge Warbler	4		
=====			
		TOTAL	1760

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

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

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

Table 1 - Retraps

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	TOTAL
Dunnock	1						1
Blackbird	2			1			3
Blue Tit	10	7	2				19
Great Tit	1 3						4
Greenfinch	1				1	1	3
=====							
							TOTAL
							30

Table 2 - Recoveries

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	TOTAL
Blackbird			1	1	2		1	5
Greenfinch		1						1
<hr/>								
					TOTAL			6

M L Denton

British Birds

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John E Dale

Census of Rookeries in the Huddersfield Area 1983

Howard C Laidlaw

INTRODUCTION

There was a general increase in the breeding pairs of Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*) over most of Great Britain between 1930 and 1960 (Parslow 1967), and in nearby Leeds there was a twelve percent increase between 1945 and 1955 (T R Birkhead 1974).

A national census of Rookeries (a rookery being defined as a cluster of nests not more than 100 metres apart) was completed in 1945 and this showed that the British Rook population had increased by about twenty percent since the previous census in the 1930's. A census of the rookeries in the Club area in 1944-1945 revealed 3,352 nests in sixty-three rookeries.

Further censuses of the local rookeries were made in 1964, 1973 and 1975, although that of 1964 was, unfortunately, incomplete. However, for thirty-four rookeries, counts were made in each of these three years and the results were as below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nests</u>
1964	1,612
1973	1,724
1975	1,922

The full results of the various years can be summarised as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nests</u>	<u>Rookeries</u>	<u>Average Rookery Size</u>
1945	3,352	63	53.21 nests
1964	1,612	34 (incomplete)	47.41
1973	3,252	70	46.46
1975	4,369	78	56.01

Comparison between the 1945 and 1964 figures is, of course, impossible. Whilst there was a slight decrease in the number of nests counted in 1973, the 1975 results show an increase of 30.34%. It is known that the 1975 census was more accurate in its results than that of 1973 and therefore it is considered safe to disregard the 1973 results and conclude that there was a 30.34% increase in the number of breeding pairs of Rooks in the Club area between 1945 and 1975.

In the knowledge that a further census may be of interest in monitoring any further population changes, national opinion being that Rook populations are stabilising, the writer undertook to complete such a survey in 1983 and the results can now be detailed.

RESULTS OF 1983 CENSUS

The whole of the Club area was covered in the present survey, during March and April, and the results are summarised in the table below:

<u>Ten KM Square</u>	<u>Total Nests</u>	<u>Rookeries</u>
SE00	-	-
SE10	382	15
SE20	977	23
SE01	915	19
SE11	1,195	20
SE21	650	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,119	90
	=====	=====

Therefore, the total number of nests has declined slightly since 1975 and the next table shows the changes between the counts in 1945, 1975 and 1983.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rookeries</u>	<u>Total Nests</u>	<u>Average Rookery Size</u>	<u>%Inc/decrease</u>
1945	63	3,352	52.21 nests	
1975	78	4,369	56.01	+ 30.34%
1983	90	4,119	45.77	- 05.72%

DISCUSSION

It has already been concluded that there was a 30.34% in the number of breeding pairs in the Club area between 1945 and 1975, which compares with a general increase over most of Britain between 1930 and 1960 (Parslow 1967) but the present census shows that the Rook population in the Club area has now stabilised. In fact the number of breeding pairs has decreased marginally since 1975 by 250, or 5.72%, whilst it is interesting to note that the number of rookeries has increased from 78 to 90, producing a smaller average rookery size. Therefore, the conclusions to be reached from the present census are as follows:

1. The population of Rooks in the Huddersfield area has stabilised following a notable increase between 1945 and 1975. In fact the results of the 1983 census show a 5.72% decrease since 1975.
2. The present pattern appears to be for slightly smaller rookeries, although the smallest rookeries (20 nests or less) seem to appear and disappear whilst the large ones continue for decades.

3. Some established rookeries have disappeared due to felling of trees, but as the birds seem to establish replacement sites without difficulty, or join other established sites, it is not considered that this will have any long-term adverse effect on the species locally.

4. There is some evidence that at least one established rookery in the area has decreased in size because of persecution, the writer having witnessed the nests being shot at, probably by farmers / landowners. The Club Recorder is in possession of the details and this is no doubt a situation which should be monitored in the future.

It is known that Rook populations generally change slowly and therefore we cannot anticipate any drastic changes in the number of breeding pairs in the Club area in the immediate future. Whilst it will be interesting to monitor the local population, and identify any unexpected fluctuations, it is considered that a further census in ten year's time should adequately reflect population changes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful thanks are due to the following who supplied information for this census:

B Armitage
Miss A D Jagger
G M Yates

J E Dale
J R Smithson

J M Dale
D Sykes

I apologise if any names have been omitted.

H C Laidlaw

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Huddersfield BWC: boundaries of Club area:

