

# **RESULTS FROM BIRD-RINGING IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA**

**by Mike Denton**



**HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB  
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### All illustrations by Stuart Brocklehurst

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## **DEDICATION**

This report is dedicated to the founder of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, the late T.D. Bisiker. His ability as a teacher, along with his perseverance and encouragement, enabled me and others to make the grade necessary to become bird-ringers. This report could not have been attempted without the extensive knowledge of birds which he unselfishly passed on to others. Undeniably, the birdwatchers of Huddersfield, and the ornithological world, owe Douglas a tremendous debt of gratitude.

## WHY RING BIRDS ?

Before we answer that question, let us first understand what is meant by bird-ringing. Generally speaking, bird-ringing is the placing of a metal ring around the leg of a bird. As the rings are inscribed with a unique number, as well as a return address, much can be learned about an individual so marked. In answering the question 'Why ring birds', I can do no better than quote from *The Ringer's Manual* (Spencer, 1972), which so adequately describes the contribution that ringing makes to our understanding of birds.

"Today ringing has long been accepted as a major research tool and is used extensively in most advanced countries of the world...Although it would be possible to devote many pages to current interests of ringers, the scope of activities may be indicated as follows:

- to map in as much detail as possible the winter quarters of every breeding population and vice versa;
- to discover the routes normally followed by migrants, and whether or not there are important resting areas for each species;
- to discover the general time-table for such migrants, the duration of journeys and the effects of weather upon them;
- to discover which species are partial migrants, and whether partial migration consists of some individuals from a population migrating every year while others remain, or of individuals migrating in some years and not in others;
- to investigate juvenile dispersal and its role in the colonisation of new areas;
- to discover the average expectation of life of each species, and such related features as the age at which breeding first occurs, whether breeding continues into old age, and maximum life-span;
- to discover the main causes of death for each species;
- to monitor population vicissitudes of certain common species by measuring (a) annual variation in the numbers, cause and seasonal distribution of deaths; (b) the varying proportion of young birds in the population from season to season and year to year.

It should be noted that most of these ringing studies could never be carried out on an adequate scale by individual ringers: they are possible only as collective endeavours. It is a common fallacy that enough birds have been ringed: for most forms of analysis it is important to have as many recoveries as possible, and this requires large-scale ringing."

A bird in the hand can also yield valuable information on biometrics e.g. wing, bill, tarsus and tail: weight can be recorded and the bird checked for fat score, muscle score, moult and parasites.

From the above it can be seen that it is vital to continue to ring birds on a large scale so as to increase our knowledge and understanding. Nowadays, the monitoring of bird populations, particularly survival rates and breeding success, is the single most important application of ringing data (Peach et al, 1997).

## **HISTORY**

As far back as 1890 there had been several ringing schemes of limited scope; the honour of founding bird-ringing as we know it, however, must go to the Danish ornithologist H.C. Mortenson. In 1899 he was to ring 164 Starlings with numbered and addressed rings similar to the ones used today. Organised bird-ringing in this country was formulated in 1909 with the independent launching of two schemes - one by H.F. Witherby, run in connection with the journal *British Birds*, the other by A. Landsborough Thomson. The former scheme developed into the national scheme of today; the other ended during the First World War. It was in 1937 that Witherby transferred the scheme to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), and they have been holding the reins ever since.

During the early years of the scheme most birds were ringed as nestlings or were caught in large, static traps e.g. the Heligoland Trap (as seen at bird observatories). It was the advent of the mist-net in 1956 that revolutionized the catching of adult birds. Other nets e.g. clap and cannon, have now been developed and are used mainly for the large-scale catching of wildfowl and waders.

## RINGING TOTALS

The following table indicates the totals of each species ringed in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area for the period 1966 - 1997 inclusive, along with the number of reported recoveries. For the purpose of this report the Huddersfield area can be taken as being the six ten-kilometre squares SE00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, along with the parts of SE02 and 12 which lie south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder (see inside front cover). The totals represent the birds ringed by Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club members and do not take into account those birds ringed by non-members (mainly the late Arthur Frudd in the east of the area). It would now, unfortunately, be an impossible task to acquire these figures. The recoveries which emanated from Arthur's work are, however, included in the main section.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Ringed</u>	<u>Recovered</u>
Great Crested Grebe	1	1
Teal	4	0
Mallard	24	1
Sparrowhawk	14	1
Kestrel	72	3
Merlin	11	0
Water Rail	1	0
Moorhen	19	0
Coot	7	0
Little Ringed Plover	16	0
Ringed Plover	1	0
Lapwing	83	2
Knot	1	0
Dunlin	4	0
Jack Snipe	8	1
Snipe	53	3
Woodcock	1	0
Curlew	5	0
Greenshank	1	0
Common Sandpiper	9	0
Black-headed Gull	672	45

<u>Species</u>	<u>Ringed</u>	<u>Recovered</u>
Common Gull	2	0
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	1
Stock Dove	5	0
Woodpigeon	19	2
Collared Dove	17	1
Cuckoo	1	0
Barn Owl	1	0
Little Owl	3	0
Tawny Owl	16	1
Long-eared Owl	2	0
Short-eared Owl	1	0
Swift	197	2
Kingfisher	6	0
Green Woodpecker	2	0
Great Spotted Woodpecker	8	1
Skylark	5	0
Sand Martin	21	0
Swallow	3553	19
House Martin	630	4
Tree Pipit	11	0
Meadow Pipit	233	1
Yellow Wagtail	14	0
Grey Wagtail	32	0
Pied Wagtail	667	11
Dipper	214	2
Wren	566	1
Duncock	1240	15
Robin	1812	31
Redstart	31	0
Whinchat	88	0
Stonechat	1	0
Wheatear	23	0
Ring Ouzel	28	0
Blackbird	5545	233
Fieldfare	4	1
Song Thrush	548	17
Redwing	606	3
Mistle Thrush	268	2
Grasshopper Warbler	3	0



<u>Species</u>	<u>Ringed</u>	<u>Recovered</u>
Sedge Warbler	73	1
Reed Warbler	6	1
Reed/Marsh Warbler	1	0
Lesser Whitethroat	11	0
Whitethroat	32	0
Garden Warbler	55	0
Blackcap	98	0
Pallas's Warbler	1	0
Wood Warbler	21	0
Chiffchaff	81	1
Willow Warbler	5274	21
Goldcrest	425	2
Firecrest	4	0
Spotted Flycatcher	49	0
Pied Flycatcher	5	0
Long-tailed Tit	78	1
Marsh Tit	2	0
Willow Tit	44	0
Coal Tit	111	3
Blue Tit	4624	37
Great Tit	1082	7
Treecreeper	39	0
Great Grey Shrike	1	0
Jay	15	2
Magpie	147	10
Jackdaw	12	0
Rook	18	0
Carion Crow	18	0
Starling	732	22
House Sparrow	1873	24
Tree Sparrow	1814	5
Chaffinch	814	7
Brambling	84	0
Greenfinch	6695	102
Goldfinch	78	0
Siskin	2	0
Linnet	419	2
Twite	350	7
Redpoll	129	1

<u>Species</u>	<u>Ringed</u>	<u>Recovered</u>
Crossbill	4	0
Bullfinch	433	13
Yellowhammer	23	4
Reed Bunting	248	3
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>43,466</b>	<b>681</b>

## **BIRD RINGING IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA**

As long ago as 1913 birds were being ringed in the Huddersfield area (see Dunlin), but this was only on a very small scale. The founder of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, the late T.D. Bisiker, was instrumental in undertaking large scale ringing in the area and this commenced on the 1st January 1960 (six years before the advent of the Club) and has continued ever since. Members of the Club who have held full ringing permits and who have ringed birds in the area are: T.D. Bisiker, J.G. Ireland, M.J. Palmer, D.W. Sill, D. Hogson, J.T. Sutton and the author.

A large proportion of birds ringed in the area have been captured with the aid of mist-nets. These nets are made of very fine terylene or nylon and, basically, the vertical net has an abundance of netting which lies between a number of taut, horizontal shelf-strings. Upon flying into the net the bird is encapsulated in a pocket of netting. The advantages which mist-nets have over traps are that they are light weight, easily transported and can be erected almost anywhere. A variety of small traps e.g. Potter and Chardonneret, have also been utilized to catch birds for ringing, although these methods are little used today.

Only a small proportion (5 - 10%) of birds ringed in the area have been marked as nestlings or chicks. The major advantage of ringing a bird while it is still a fledgling lies in the fact that the precise place of birth is known; free flying birds could have originated from anywhere. As the exact place of origin is known this can produce invaluable information on movements and longevity. Interestingly, however, only three passerine nestling ringed by Club members have added to this pool of information (two Swallows and a Magpie). Several species of non-passerine, mainly Black-headed Gull, have produced recoveries and these are discussed below.

Although a single recovery may appear somewhat isolated and meaningless, when several accrue, patterns emerge and interpretations can be made. When large-scale ringing of birds is undertaken nationally, it is these which produce the results that can be interpreted and, therefore, make the ringing programme organised by the BTO so vitally important; many scientific papers and publications are based on these findings. The dedication of liceneed bird-ringers is therefore paramount in the contribution to this pool of knowledge and our understanding of bird movements.

Upon seeing a recovery it is far too easy to assume that the bird in question has flown a straight line between its ringing and recovery locations. In the vast majority of instances, of course, this will not be the case, but, as nothing is known about this interim period, it is only possible to quote straight line distance and direction. With the Redwing recoveries, for example, most of which are from Europe in subsequent winters, the birds had presumably returned to the Scandinavian breeding grounds during the summer months.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

In the report which follows, a recovery can be taken to be a bird reported by a member of the public (usually dead) whereas a control is a bird caught and released by a licenced ringer. Only species with movements that exceed 5 Kms are discussed.

### **Storm Petrel** *Hydrohates pelagicus*

There are six Huddersfield records of this pelagic species which, when they do occur inland, are generally associated with storm conditions at sea. It is of interest that one of these storm driven waifs was found to be wearing a ring. The individual concerned had been ringed as an adult on Skokholm (Dyfed) on 13th August 1968 and was found, badly injured, near the canal at Brighouse on 14th August 1979, having travelled 323 Kms NE. It will be noted that the bird was over 11 years old, although this is not an unusual feat amongst several sea-bird species. The oldest British ringed Storm Petrel had attained an age of 25 year 1 month between ringing and last handling.

### **Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

It is of interest that out of the eleven records of this species in the Club area (between 1831 and 1997) one was found to be wearing a ring. The bird in question had been ringed as an adult on the Bass Rock, Firth of Forth (Lothian) on 16th September 1914 and was picked up, presumably uninjured, at St. Abbs Head (Borders) some 13 days later; on 12th October of that year the bird was found near Huddersfield (exact location unknown), having travelled a further 255 Kms S.

### **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

All the Herons ringed in Huddersfield have been nestlings at the areas only known breeding colony at Bretton Park. Most of these birds were colour-ringed and, with the exception of eight recoveries, all others relate to colour combinations being read in the field. The eight recoveries concern birds which had been found dead or dying. There is no seasonality or set pattern to these recoveries, the furthest distant being of a bird ringed on 13th March 1988 which was found with a broken wing at Moss Side, Lytham St. Annes (Lancashire) on 3rd March 1990 (92 Kms WNW) and one ringed on 15th June 1989 which was found long dead at Coed Bryn Meurig, Bethesda (Gwynedd) on 31st December of that year (172 Kms WSW). With the exception of a bird ringed in April/May 1988 which was present at the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Reserve at Washington (Tyne and Wear) between 4th September and 2nd October of that year (161 Kms N), all other sightings (19) were of a more local nature and came from the reservoirs around Penistone, to the north of Sheffield, or Blackmoorfoot (10). Most of these sightings were during the birds' first year of life, but two birds at Blackmoorfoot Res. during spring and summer 1993 were 3 years old.

### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

This is not a common species in the Huddersfield area, with very small numbers being restricted to a handful of sites. Although generally sedentary throughout the British Isles, with long distance movements being unusual (less than 3% undertake journeys over 100 Kms), there are recoveries to and from the Continent. An adult ringed at Scout Dike Res. on 19th August 1984 was seen to be paired with another at Wombwell Ings, Barnsley (S. Yorkshire) on 3rd March 1991 (19 Kms E).

The only proof of immigration came on 29th November 1981 when a first-year female ringed at Osney, Oxford (Oxfordshire) was found dead at Holmfirth, having travelled 206 Kms N. An adult at Newmill from mid-August 1991 to at least the year end was wearing a pink colour-ring on its right leg inscribed with 059. The Wildfowl and Wetland Trust indicate that although there are a few records of pink ringed birds these rings have never been issued to licensed ringers. The origin of this bird, therefore, remains a mystery.

### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

This is a scarce, but annual, winter visitor to the area. It had been hoped that the colour-ringed adult at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th October 1994 had been marked on the breeding grounds, most probably Iceland (Merne, 1986). Unfortunately, this was not the case, for the bird had been ringed as an adult

male at Martin Mere (Lancashire) on 15th December 1993 and was last seen at that locality on 22nd January 1994. On paper the bird had only travelled 67 Kms in an easterly direction, but it had presumably returned to the breeding grounds during the summer months.



**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The adult ringed at Bretton Park on 7th July 1971 was almost certainly of captive origin, but in January 1973 it had moved 87 Kms WNW to join a wintering flock of its congeners at Cockerham (Lancashire). Although no recovery details were given by the finder, the bird would, had it still been alive, presumably returned to the species' breeding grounds to become part of the breeding population.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

During the 1960s and early 1970s the late Arthur Frudd was responsible for ringing this now common introduced species at Bretton Park. The analysis of data indicates that whilst there is some interchange of birds between sites in North Yorkshire and Derbyshire, most movements have been reported between sites in Nottinghamshire i.e. Clumber Park (12 to and 3 from) and Thoresby Park (10 to and 2 from). Two goslings, ringed on 2nd July 1966 were caught together on the Beaulf Firth, Inverness (Highland) on 11th July 1968, having travelled 444 Kms NNW. Interestingly, on 28th June 1969, both birds were caught again, one at Harewood Park, near Leeds (W. Yorkshire) some 432 Kms SSE of the Beaulf Firth, the other at Ripley, Harrogate (N. Yorkshire) some 416 Kms SSE. These two goslings are examples of non-breeding birds undertaking a moult migration to Scotland. This moult migration was originally a unique Yorkshire trait, but in the last 20 years has spread to some of the Midland populations and, more recently, to birds from southern England. Walker (1970) has shown that approximately 25% of Yorkshire Canada Geese undertake this annual moult migration.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

There is no evidence to indicate that wild birds of this species have ever visited the area. On 30th September 1991, however, two colour-ringed birds (along with two unmarked individuals) at Blackmoorfoot Res. raised hopes that wild birds may be involved. Investigations at the Widdfowl and Wetland Trust revealed that these birds were almost certainly escapes from a

collection as the rings did not fit any of the combination currently in use by licensed ringers.

#### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Although the winter population of this species is augmented by birds from Scandinavia and Iceland, the British breeding population is generally sedentary (Salmon, 1986). There are two recoveries of Huddersfield ringed birds and, as one of these appertained to a bird ringed as a duckling, it is not surprising that it had only moved a short distance. The bird in question, ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 4th August 1965, was shot at Cuerden Park, Preston (Lancashire) on 23rd November 1966, having travelled 56 Kms W. The other recovery, a male ringed at Bretton Park on 27th February 1979, had only moved 57 Kms NNW when it was found dead at Grassington, Skipton (N. Yorkshire) in December 1981.

#### **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

This species is a sporadic breeder and rare visitor to the Huddersfield area, the initial origins of which remain a mystery. Proof of immigration, however, came when a nestling, ringed as a female in North Derbyshire on 11th June 1982, was shot at Holmfirth on 27th April 1985. As the nesting sites of this Schedule 1 species remain highly confidential, the distance and direction travelled by the bird have been omitted.

#### **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Within the British Isles the dispersal of nestlings from their natal area appears to be quite random but there is evidence that Continental birds visit Britain during the winter months. There are ten recoveries of birds ringed in the area (nine of which were ringed as nestlings). There is no seasonality or set pattern to these recoveries, the most interesting being: a first-year female ringed at Edgerton on 13th February 1981 (retrapped the following day) which was found dead at Drifffield (E. Yorkshire) on 10th October 1985 (98 Kms ENE); a female nestling ringed at Langsett Banks on 8th July 1992 which was found dead at Hinckley (Leicestershire) on 25th April 1993 (110 Kms SSE); a male nestling ringed at Bretton Park on 5th July 1993 which was found dead at Pontefract (W. Yorkshire) on 17th August of that year (21 Kms ESE) and a female nestling ringed at Birds Edge on 9th July 1993 which had travelled 68 Kms in a SSE direction when it killed itself by flying into a patio door at Allestree (Derbyshire) on 7th April 1994.

The only evidence of immigration came on 31st October 1993 when a male nestling ringed at Wharmcliffe Wood, Sheffield (S. Yorkshire) on 3rd July 1993 was found dead at Shepley, having travelled 18 Kms NW.

The following table gives the calendar month of recovery along with the number of individuals concerned.

#### RECOVERY AREA

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Britain 9 - 21 Kms	1	2		1				2		1			7
68 - 110 Kms				2						1			3

#### **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Many British-bred birds migrate (those from northern Britain more so than their southern counterparts) and some cross the Channel in autumn to winter, mainly, in northern France (Village, 1990). With few exceptions the Kestrels ringed in the Huddersfield area (72 by Club members) have been ringed as nestlings and have produced the following recoveries: a bird ringed at Brockholes on 5th July 1963 was found dead at Fishlake, near Thorne (E. Yorkshire) on 4th November 1964, having travelled 52 Kms E; a bird (from a brood of 3) ringed at Deer Hill on 5th July 1972 had travelled 100 Kms SSE to Stainton Harold, Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Leicestershire) by 30th August of that year and another, again from Deer Hill (from a brood of 4) ringed on 23rd June 1989 was found dead at Leek (Staffordshire) on 14th February 1991, some 58 Kms S. Two siblings, ringed at High Hoyland on 15th June 1993, had departed in totally different directions: one had travelled 31 Kms NW to Denholme, Bradford (W. Yorkshire) when it was found dead on 18th July 1993 whilst the other had moved 211 Kms SSE when it was found waterlogged (released when dry) at East Hyde (Bedfordshire) on 29th October 1993. The single recovery of a free-flying bird concerns a first-year male ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th December 1985 which was found shot at New Mill on 5th February 1989, having travelled 9 Kms SE.

The only evidence of immigration came on 21st January 1994 when a nestling ringed at Ryhill, Wakefield (W. Yorkshire) on 19th June 1993 was found dead at Thurlstone, having travelled 19 Kms SSW.

#### **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Some British-bred birds migrate to Europe (France, Spain and the Low Countries) for the winter months, but most nestlings recovered during their first year of life have only made short distance journeys (Brown, 1976). There are no recoveries of the eleven nestlings ringed in the area. Evidence of immigration, however, came when a male nestling (from a brood of 3) ringed on West Mainland (Shetland) on 4th July 1989, was found dead at Lower



Common. Hepworth on 2nd December of that year, having travelled 856 Kms S

#### **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

There are a good number of recoveries of British ringed birds to and from the Continent (mainly the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany) (Mead and Clark, 1993). Hardly surprising, in view of the small number ringed in the area, there is but a single recovery. The individual concerned, an adult ringed at Ossett Spa S.F. on 26th March 1961, was found 109 Kms S at Newton Burgoland (Leicestershire) on 26th July of that year.

#### **Coot** *Fulica atra*

This species undertakes small-scale movements within the British Isles but much depends on the altitude of breeding and the severity of the winter weather. As only a handful of Coot have been ringed in the Club area it is surprising that it features in the recoveries: a first-year ringed at Scout Dike Res. on 8th August 1981 was found dead at Tittesworth Res., Leek (Staffordshire) on 16th October of that year, having travelled 51 Kms SSW.

#### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

A good number of British Lapwings emigrate to France, Iberia or Ireland for the winter months, but much depends on the severity of the weather, more birds vacating when conditions become severe. All birds ringed in the area (83 by Club members) have been ringed as chicks and, therefore, the precise place of birth is known. Several recoveries have been forthcoming, the most interesting being as follows: a bird ringed at Ingbirchworth on 11th June 1955 was found at Melton Mowbray (Leicestershire) on 19th January 1956 (120 Kms SE); another bird from Ingbirchworth, this time ringed on 18th June 1955, was found at Campos (Mallorca) Spain on 12th February 1956 (1655 Kms SSE); a bird ringed at Ossett on 5th June 1962 was found near Soria (Soria) Spain on 25th January 1963 (ca. 1380 Kms SSW); a bird from Blackmoorfoot Res., ringed on 16th June 1966, was shot at Ables (Oviedo) Spain on 21st January 1967 (1255 Kms SSW); a bird ringed near Penistone on 26th May 1983 was found dying on 1st March 1986 (during a period of cold weather) at Penzance (Cornwall), having travelled 464 Kms SSW and a bird from Cranberry, ringed on 31st May 1984, was found freshly dead at Blackrock (Dublin) on 15th February 1985 (302 Kms W).

A bird which had moved into the area, albeit only by travelling 6 Kms to the ENE, was found dead on Wessenden Head Moor on 28th May 1981, having been ringed as a chick at Greenfield, Saddleworth (Gt. Manchester) on 24th May 1977.

### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

A chick ringed at Black Moss on 5th June 1913 was recovered at Port Louis (Lorient) France on 10th May 1914. Most of the British breeding population, which belong to the race *schinzii*, move to north-west Africa in winter, although there is evidence of possible wintering in south-west England (Cramp and Simmons, 1982). This bird had presumably wintered in Africa and may have been returning to the breeding area when recovered; most first-year birds return to their natal area (though not all breed). The recovery date is rather late in the season for it to have been contemplating breeding (such birds having returned by mid-April). This was probably one of the first (if not *the* first) Dunlin ever to be ringed in the British Isles.

### **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

A large proportion of the Snipe which winter in Britain originate from Scandinavia and the Baltic States, although southern parts of Britain are augmented by movements of birds fledged further north (Swift, 1986). In the 1970s good numbers of this species were caught at Blackmoorfoot Res. The three recoveries which stem from these activities concern a bird ringed on 24th December 1971 (retrapped at the place of ringing on 30th November 1977) which was then found dead at Cawood, Selby (N. Yorkshire) on 18th February 1978, having travelled 55 Kms ENE; a first-year ringed on 23rd January 1972 was shot at Odense Fjord (Fyn) Denmark on 15th October of that year, 845 Kms to the ENE and an adult ringed on 5th November 1973 was shot at Jerez de la Frontera (Cadiz) Spain on 12th December 1974, having travelled 1955 Kms SSW.

### **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Large numbers of this species visit the British Isles in winter from Scandinavia and, to a lesser extent, from the Low Countries and Russia. The single control within the Huddersfield area reflects this movement; an adult ringed near Skallingen (Jutland) Denmark on 18th October 1960 was shot near Huddersfield (exact location unknown) on 3rd December of that year, having travelled 710 Kms WSW.

### **Curlew** *Numenius arquatus*

Many British Curlew migrate in a south-westerly direction in autumn to winter on west coast estuaries or Ireland, and some southern breeders move into France or Iberia (Bainbridge, 1986). The two recoveries of chicks ringed at Ingbirchworth reflect this movement: a bird ringed on 18th June 1955 was found at Ardilly (Charante Maritime) France on 25th September of that year (870 Kms S) and a bird ringed on 25th May 1963 was found dead at Reenascreena, Clonakilty (Cork) on 4th April 1964 (541 Kms WSW).

### **Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Breeding Redshanks tend to be site faithful, returning to the same area each year to breed (Thompson, 1993) and the British breeding population is less migratory than any other (Hale, 1986). A chick ringed at Potteric Carr, Doncaster (S. Yorkshire) on 18th May 1975 was found dead (entangled in fishing line) at Penistone on 8th April 1982 (34 Kms W).

### **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

It has been estimated that 71% of Black-headed Gulls wintering in England and Wales are of Continental origin (Mac Kinnon and Coulson, 1987). Accordingly, birds from Belgium (1), Denmark (22), Estonia (2), Finland (3), Latvia (1), Norway (1) and Sweden (2) have been found in the area. With very few exceptions, most of these birds had been ringed as nestlings and, therefore, the precise place of birth was known. The most interesting of these concerns a bird colour ringed as an adult (not first-winter as stated in *Birds in Huddersfield 1994*) at Utterslev Mose (Kobenhaven) Denmark on 13th April 1986. The bird was not located again until it was seen at the same locality in March and June 1988 and also March and April 1989. On 13th January 1990 the bird was seen at Blackmoorfoot Res., and was then seen sporadically until 25th February 1990; by 16th March of that year it was back in Kobenhaven but had returned to Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd July 1990. On 14th March 1991 it was again back in Kobenhaven. The bird was then not located until 26th March 1992 when it was again present in Kobenhaven, it then remained at this location until June of that year. On 7th July 1993 it was again present at Blackmoorfoot Res. There were then no sightings until it was seen in Kobenhaven on 28th March 1995 where it remained until 4th June of that year. On 29th August 1996 the bird was once again present at Blackmoorfoot Res. The following year, on 23rd March, it was again seen in Kobenhaven and remained at this locality until the end of June.

Nestlings ringed at Black Moss, Huddersfield's only regular breeding colony, have shown a parallel dispersal pattern to their Continental cousins, with the largest proportion of recoveries stemming from the area between Clwyd in north Wales and St. Annes in Lancashire. The most interesting of these concerns a bird ringed on 21st June 1983 which was seen (the ring number was read in the field with a telescope!) at Southport (Lancashire) on 26th February 1985 and 28th October of the same year.

The table below gives the calendar month controlled along with the number of individuals involved.

AREA OF ORIGIN

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
BELGIUM	1												1
DENMARK	3	2	1				3	6	3	2		2	22
ESTONIA		1										1	2
FINLAND				1				1				1	3
LATVIA												1	1
NORWAY		1											1
SWEDEN	1											1	2

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

A large number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls vacate the British Isles during the winter months, although fewer are doing so now than did so in the 1940s (Hickling, 1986). Whilst these birds are migrating in late summer/autumn many utilize the roost at Blackmoorfoot Res., the low water level at this time of year often allowing observations to be made for colour-ringed individuals. The only recovery not appertaining to a colour-ringed bird relates to a nestling ringed on Walney Island (Cumbria) on 13th July 1968 which was found dead at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th August 1975 (100 Kms ESE). Two of the colour-ringed birds had originated from Glasgow (Strathclyde), having been marked as adults at Bishopbrigg on 3rd October 1979 and Helensburgh on 11th June 1980. The birds were seen at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6th July 1984 (309 Kms SSE) and 14th July 1984 (332 Kms SSE) respectively. The other five sightings were of adults ringed at Plank Lane Tip, Leigh (Gt. Manchester). Individuals ringed on 10th June 1984 and 24th June 1984 were respectively seen at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th June and 12th August of that year, having travelled 48 Kms in an ENE direction. Another individual ringed on 10th June 1984, was seen at Blackmoorfoot Res. some 15 days later (48 Kms ENE), whilst on 1st February 1989 this same bird appeared at Throckmorton Tip (Hereford and Worcester) some 172 Kms to the south and on 12th August 1991 it was found dead between St. Bees and Netherton (Cumbria), having travelled a further 277 Kms in a NNW direction. A bird ringed on 24th June 1984 was encountered at Throckmorton Tip (Hereford and Worcester) on 14th November 1988 (169 Kms SSE) and turned up at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd September 1995 (172 Kms to the N). The other bird, again marked on 24th June 1984, was present at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th September, 9th October and 18th October 1995 (48 Kms ENE).

### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

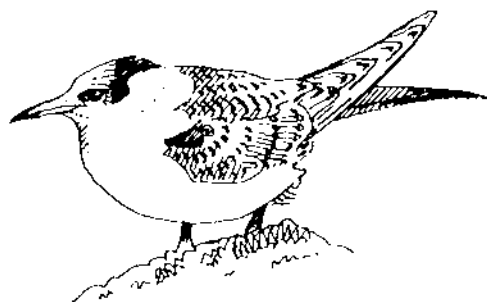
Within the Huddersfield area a build up in numbers of this species is witnessed during October or November, the species being very scarce during the summer months. Although a proportion of these birds are of the nominate race (from Scandinavia), the British race, *argenteus*, also occurs. The only evidence of immigration, however, comes from two colour-ringed birds seen at Blackmoorfoot Res.; a male (of unknown age) ringed on Walney Island (Cumbria) in June 1978 was present on 25th November of that year, having travelled 100 Kms ESE and a third-winter female ringed on 13th October 1981 at Coxhoe (Durham) was seen on 22nd January 1987, some 129 Kms to the SSW. Unfortunately, the sub-specific status of these birds was not determined at the time but the bird from Walney Island was presumably of the British race.

### **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

This is a scarce, but annual, visitor to the area in very variable numbers. A nestling ringed at Goulien (Finistere) France on 21st June 1983 had travelled 660 Kms NNE when it was found near Brighouse on 10th March 1984. The bird was long dead when found and may have been present at this locality for several months before being discovered. The recovery date, unfortunately, gives no indication of the true passage period.

### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

This is an uncommon passage visitor to the area, birds mainly appearing in autumn, and in very variable numbers. A chick ringed at Mikoszewo (Elblag) Poland on 19th July 1982 was found dead at Newsome on 6th October of that year, having travelled 1355 Kms W. This was the first recovery in Great Britain of a Polish ringed Common Tern, there being none since.



### **Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

This species is generally rather sedentary within the British Isles (movements in excess of 100 Kms being unusual). Of the three recoveries of Huddersfield birds, two relate to movements within the area, both birds having been ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res.: an adult ringed on 24th July 1986 was shot at Flockton on 15th August 1987 (14 Kms E) and a nestling ringed on 4th July 1989 was shot at Wood Nook, near Meltham on 7th October 1991 (6 Kms SE). The other recovery concerns a nestling ringed at High Hoyland on 8th May 1983 which was shot near Naburn (N. Yorkshire) in early March 1984, having travelled 47 Kms NE.

### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

With the exception of the four hand reared birds mentioned below, the seven other recoveries of Huddersfield ringed birds all refer to birds ringed as nestlings, three of these being from ringing at Cawthorne during the late 1940s and early 1950s. A bird ringed on 24th August 1947 was found 96 Kms to the SSW near Stafford (Staffordshire) on 19th February 1948; one ringed on 11th August 1951 was found 82 Kms to the SSE at Ruddington (Nottinghamshire) on 3rd December of that year. The furthest recovery involved a bird ringed on 31st July 1948 which was found dead at Newcastle Railway Station (Tyne & Wear) on 16th June 1950. Although this recovery is 150 Kms to the north of the birds ringing place it is possible that the bird had been carried for some distance after being struck by a train. Nestlings ringed in the east of the Club area since 1986 (locations not published for security reasons) have produced the following results: a bird ringed on 14th June 1986 was found dead at Middlesborough (Cleveland) on 9th November of that year (109 Kms NNE); one ringed on 6th September 1987 was found freshly dead inside a building at Cattal, near York (N. Yorkshire) on 12th November of that year (50 Kms NNE); a bird ringed on 18th July 1988 became a road casualty in the Irwell Valley, near Swinton (Gt. Manchester) on 16th October of that year (51 Kms W) and one ringed on 29th June 1990 was found dead on the road at Tadcaster (N. Yorkshire) on 31st October of that year, having travelled 40 Kms ENE. The parents of this last mentioned bird had been released after a short period of confinement and originally came from the Leeds area (W. Yorkshire).

Several hand reared birds (all in their first year of life and from unknown origins) have been released in the Club area during the last decade. Four of these have produced recoveries, all being reported as road casualties. Three birds released at Lepton on 6th September 1991 were recovered as follows: Churwell, Morley (W. Yorkshire) on 16th October 1991 (15 Kms NNE); near Leeds (W. Yorkshire) on 4th November 1991 (33 Kms NE) and Middleton,

Manchester (Cit. Manchester) on 9th November 1991 (34 Kms WSW). The other bird, released at Bretton Park on 19th March 1992, was found between Swinefleet and Eastoft (E. Yorkshire) on 30th January 1993 (52 Kms E). It has long been argued that hand reared Barn Owls do not survive sufficiently long enough to augment the breeding population, and the first three mentioned recoveries (within two months of release) establishes that these three never made an input.

#### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Although generally sedentary within the British Isles, a nestling ringed at Denby Dale on 9th May 1990 was found dead on the road at Cubley on 31st October 1991 (6 Kms SSE) and a nestling ringed at Floekton on 14th May 1990 became a railway casualty near Bosley, Congleton (Cheshire) on 15th April 1991, having travelled 55 Kms SSW. Movements into the area concern a nestling ringed at Broadbottom, Hyde (Cit. Manchester) on 23rd May 1979 which had moved 22 Kms NNE by 21st December of that year when it was found dead at Slatthwaite and a nestling ringed at Haw Park, Wakefield (W. Yorkshire) on 1st May 1993 which was found drowned in a pond at Bretton Park on 15th August of that year, having travelled 9 Kms WSW. All these recoveries are instances of post-juvenile dispersal.

#### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

Large numbers of Scandinavian birds cross the North Sea in autumn to augment the British breeding population during the winter months, but British-bred birds are far less mobile (although there are post-fledging movements of up to 340 Kms within the British Isles). A nestling ringed at Langsett Banks on 12th May 1977 was controlled at Royd Moor Res. on 17th June 1979 (5 Kms NNE) and was then found dead at Shiregreen, Sheffield (S. Yorkshire) on 17th April 1980 some 15 Kms ESE. No Scandinavian migrants have been found in the area, and the only evidence of immigration comes from a nestling ringed near Sheffield (S. Yorkshire) on 15th May 1965 which was found dead near Huddersfield (exact location unknown) on 11th November of that year, having travelled ca. 21 Kms NW.

#### **Swift** *Apus apus*

Although this species winters in sub-Saharan Africa, the only recoveries of Huddersfield ringed birds are of a very local nature. The two recoveries both stem from Deer Hill: an adult ringed on 2nd July 1972 was controlled at Ingbirchworth Res. on 20th May 1984 (17 Kms ESE) and the other, again an adult, was ringed on 11th July 1972 and controlled at Wintersett Res., near Wakefield (W. Yorkshire) on 1st August 1974 (28 Kms E). It will be noted that the first mentioned bird was over 12 years old when controlled at

Ingbirchworth Res. The oldest British ringed Swift had attained an age of 16 years 0 months between ringing and last handling.

With the exception of an adult ringed at Glossop (Derbyshire) on 7th August 1971 which was controlled at Deer Hill on 2nd July 1972 (23 Kms NNE) all other immigrations (16) have concerned birds moving short distances between the Barnsley / Wakefield area and localities in the east of the Club area (mainly Ingbirchworth Res.).

#### **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

British birds are generally very sedentary, although there is some post-juvenile dispersal and birds have been reported from the Continent (only about 4% undertake journeys in excess of 100 Kms). A juvenile female ringed at Scout Dike Res. on 16th August 1981 was controlled 9 Kms ENE at Higham, Barnsley (S. Yorkshire) on 24th July 1983.

#### **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

British birds are very sedentary, rarely showing movements in excess of 20 Kms, but birds of the nominate race (from northern Europe) are known to visit Britain in times of irruptions. A female ringed at Scissett on 2nd February 1957 was found dead at Thunderbridge on 11th December 1961, having travelled 6 Kms W. This bird had, apparently, killed itself by striking a window.

#### **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

This species has always been decidedly uncommon in the Huddersfield area and, because of the low number ringed (21 by Club members), it is not surprising that there is but a single recovery. Even though the species winters in sub-Saharan Africa, the bird had only moved 101 Kms (in a SE direction). The bird in question, an adult, having been ringed at Ossett on 21st July 1963, was found (recovery details unknown) at Ancaster, Grantham (Lincolnshire) some six days later.

#### **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

It is now known, through ringing, that British Swallows winter in South Africa but, despite the fact that 3,553 have been ringed in the area (by Club members) there is but a single foreign recovery: a juvenile ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6th September 1972 was controlled at Tarifa (Cadiz) Spain on 4th October of that year, having travelled 2050 Kms SSW. Several birds ringed at an autumn roost near Blackmoorfoot Res. during the 1970s have produced recoveries within the British Isles. Surprisingly, no set pattern to these movements emerges with same autumn recoveries radiating in most



directions; some even moving the wrong way, as shown by a juvenile ringed on 23rd August 1973 which was controlled at Wetherby (W. Yorkshire) some five days later, having travelled 43 Kms to the NE. Birds which had joined the roost had mainly arrived from the north (as is to be expected), but a number had travelled in the opposite direction during the same autumn: a nestling ringed at Rostherne, Knutsford (Cheshire) on 16th July 1972 was controlled on 11th September (50 Kms NE) and another nestling, this time ringed on 6th August 1972 at Hazel Grove (Gt. Manchester) was also controlled on 11th September (35 Kms NE). The longest movement of a bird joining the roost included an adult ringed at Dunshelt, Auchtermuchty (Fife) on 21st August 1972 which had travelled 315 Kms SSE when it was controlled on 14th September of that year.

The longest reported movement of any Huddersfield ringed Swallows (with the exception of the Spanish recovery reported above) all concern birds ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res.: a juvenile ringed on 11th September 1972 was controlled at Eddleston (Borders) on 28th May 1973 (250 Kms NNW); a juvenile ringed on 19th August 1978 was controlled at Ringstead G.P., Kettering (Northamptonshire) some eight days later (155 Kms SE) and a juvenile ringed on 20th July 1986 was controlled at Lopham Fen, South Lopham, near Diss (Norfolk) on 29th August of that year (236 Kms SE). The only recoveries of nestlings ringed in the area concern a bird ringed at Booth Wood Dam on 5th July 1987 which was controlled at Wintersett Res. near Wakefield (W. Yorkshire) on 30th August of that year (35 Kms E) and a bird ringed at Penny Hill, Barkisland on 28th June 1989 was controlled at Fleetwood Power Station (Lancashire) on 8th August of that year (79 Kms NNW). Interestingly, with the exception of a recovery of a nestling Magpie, these are the only recoveries to have emanated from passerine nestlings ringed by Club members.

Interesting recoveries of birds moving into the area concern: a nestling ringed on 31st August 1974 at Netherhouses, Armadale (Highland) which was controlled at Elland G.P. on 15th September 1975 (275 Kms SE); a juvenile ringed on 3rd August 1978 at Walcot, Wellington (Salop) that was controlled at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 19th August of that year (115 Kms NNE); a juvenile ringed at Thrapston G. P., Kettering (Northamptonshire) on 23rd September 1980 which was controlled at Ingbirchworth Res. on 22nd May 1983 (147 Kms NNW) and, perhaps the most interesting, a juvenile ringed at Wintersett Res. near Wakefield (W. Yorkshire) on 15th September 1980 which was controlled at Wicken Fen (Cambridgeshire) some nine days later (187 Kms SE) and was not handled again until it was found dead at

Kirkburton on 11th August 1981, the bird having presumably been in South Africa during the winter months.

The following tables give the calendar month of recovery (1) or control (2) along with the number of individuals involved.

RECOVERY AREA. (Table 1)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
BRITAIN 7 - 43 Kms					1	1	2	2	6				12
60 - 84 Kms								2	1				3
114 - 250 Kms					1			3	1				5
SPAIN										1			1

AREA OF ORIGIN. (Table 2)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
BRITAIN 15 - 82 Kms			2	1	1	4	6	1					15
107 - 315 Kms					1	3	4	2	1				11

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

The national recovery rate of this trans-Saharan migrant is only .41% and recoveries abroad are still relatively infrequent (Mead et al, 1995). Of the 630 birds ringed in Huddersfield (by Club members) two have produced recoveries over 5 Kms, one of these from abroad: an adult ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th July 1973 was found dead at Mine de Salau, near Seix (Ariege) France in October 1974 (1200 Kms SSE). The other bird, again from Blackmoorfoot Res., was ringed as a first-year on 29th July 1986 and was found dead at Hazelhead, Sheffield (S. Yorkshire) on 1st June 1991 (16 Kms SE).

Evidence of immigration came on 22nd July 1979 when a juvenile ringed at Worsbrough Dale S.F., Barnsley (S. Yorkshire) on 13th July 1977 was found dead at Ossett (21 Kms NNW).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

There is a substantial southerly, and perhaps southwesterly, movement of British bred Meadow Pipits in autumn and a marked altitudinal movement is also apparent; birds from the uplands vacating these inhospitable areas during

the winter months (Spencer, 1986). A nestling ringed on Rishworth Moor on 14th June 1989 was found dead at Kenitra, Morocco on 22nd November of that year, a distance of 2160 Kms to the SSW.

The only evidence of immigration came on 1st March 1963 when a bird ringed at Adwick-le-Street, Doncaster (S. Yorkshire) on 2nd December 1962 was found dead near Huddersfield (exact location unknown), having travelled 40 Kms WNW.

### **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Although birds in southern Britain are mainly sedentary (some emigrate to western Europe in response to cold weather), the populations in northern Britain are largely migratory. Most of these northern birds winter in central and southern England but some migrate to western France and the Iberian Peninsula, or even Morocco. A return passage occurs in early spring (Davis, 1966). The four foreign recoveries of Huddersfield ringed birds reflect this movement: a juvenile ringed at Ossett on 8th September 1960 was recovered at Matozinhos (Douro-Litoral) Portugal on 2nd January 1961 (955 Kms SSW); a juvenile ringed at Kirkburton S.F. on 23rd August 1964 was found dead at Rio Major (Ribatejo) Portugal on 6th January 1965 (1795 Kms SSW); another juvenile from Kirkburton S.F., this time ringed on 28th August 1965, was found dead near Mortemolin (Badajoz) Spain on 23rd December of that year (1810 Kms SSW) and a juvenile ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 20th July 1977 was shot at Frechas (Tras os Montes) Portugal on 7th November 1978 (945 Kms SSW). The only other reported recoveries concern birds ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res.: a first-year ringed on 4th October 1973 was found dead at Bristol (Avon) in February 1975 (250 Kms SSW); another first-year, this time ringed on 12th August 1977, was controlled (sexed as a female) at Stalybridge (Ch. Manchester) on 11th March 1978 (21 Kms SW) and a juvenile ringed on 23rd August 1980 was controlled at R.A.F. Innsworth (Gloucestershire) on 22nd October 1981 (192 Kms S).

The only evidence of a return in spring came when a first-year male ringed at Manor S.F., Reading (Berkshire) on 13th January 1973 was controlled at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th March of that year (250 Kms NNW).

### **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

This species is of a very sedentary nature and consequently suffers drastic reductions during severe winters. Some birds, however, are known to undertake movements that are far greater than normally recorded. Such a movement involved a first-year ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd July 1976 which was killed by a car in early January 1977 near Llanybythter

(Dyfed), some 230 Kms to the SW. Another long distance movement, this time into the area, concerned an adult ringed at Low Hauxley (Northumberland) on 31st July 1973 which was found dead at Kirkburton on 17th November of that year, having travelled 190 Kms S.

#### **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

With the exception of a first-year bird which moved from Blackmoorfoot Res. (ringed on 2nd October 1977) to Edgerton (found dead on 4th March 1978), a total of 6 Kms to the NNE, all other recoveries have simply reflected the very sedentary nature of the species.

#### **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Most British Robins are very sedentary, although a minority do migrate abroad for the winter (mainly to France and the Iberian Peninsula), and large numbers of migrants pass through in autumn and spring (Mead, 1984). Birds ringed in Huddersfield have shown virtually no migratory tendencies, the longest movements reported being as follows: a bird ringed in Huddersfield (exact location unknown) on 19th March 1950 was recovered at Thirsk (N. Yorkshire) on 22nd December of that year (ca. 72 Kms NNE); a bird ringed at Ingbirchworth Res. on 22nd October 1960 was found dead at Hamsterley (Durham) on 6th April 1961 (123 Kms N); a first-year ringed at Royd Moor Res. on 25th July 1978 was killed by a cat at Headingley, Leeds (W. Yorkshire) on 10th February 1982 (32 Kms N); all other recoveries concern birds from Blackmoorfoot Res.; a juvenile ringed on 19th June 1976 was found dead at Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury on 15th July of that year (15 Kms ENE); a juvenile ringed on 10th July 1976 (retrapped on 14th July and 8th August of that year) was found dead at Droylsden (Cit. Manchester) on 7th July 1977 (25 Kms SW); a first-year ringed on 22nd July 1976 (retrapped 5 days later) was reported dead at Rothwell, Leeds (W. Yorkshire) on 27th January 1977 (28 Kms NE) and a first-year ringed on 1st August 1992 was found dead at Dodworth, Barisley (S. Yorkshire) some 16 days later (25 Kms ESE). It is of interest that three of the birds involved in the above movements were ringed during the period of severe drought in 1976.

#### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

It has been shown, through ringing, that large numbers of this species cross the North Sea to spend the winter in Britain and Ireland, with some travelling even further to France and the Iberian Peninsula. The only foreign ringed birds that have been found in the area were wearing rings attached in Sweden (2), Germany (1) and the Netherlands (1). However, wintering birds, mainly ringed in the 1960s and 1970s at a roost at Edgerton, have subsequently been found in Belgium (2), Denmark (6), Estonia (1), Finland (5), France (1),

Norway (7), Sweden (5) and the Netherlands (1). One of the birds, ringed at Edgerton on 19th March 1972 had shown a very rapid return to Scandinavia, being controlled at Svenner (Vestfold) Norway some seven days later (1000 Kms NE).

It is generally known that certain summer visitors show fidelity to breeding sites, less well documented, however, is site fidelity to wintering grounds. A first-year male ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. in January 1973 was still present the following month, but was not seen again until being retrapped in January and February 1974. The following October the bird was snared in Norway. This bird had presumably been born in Scandinavia and had spent the summer months of 1972 (the year of its birth), 1973 and 1974 there, but was using Blackmoorfoot as a wintering area.

Four Huddersfield ringed birds have been recovered in Ireland, the most interesting being a first-year female ringed at Ossett Spa S.F. on 14th December 1957 which was controlled at Glenties (Co. Donegal) on 19th February 1960 (430 Kms WNW), the bird was not reported again until it was found dead at the same locality on 2nd August 1961. There have been many reported movements within the British Isles, the furthest being of 225 Kms (to Gwynedd) and 345 Kms (to Sussex).

The table below gives the calendar month of recovery along with the number of individuals involved.

#### RECOVERY AREA

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Sum	Aut	Total
IRELAND	2	1						1							4
BELGIUM											1	1			2
DENMARK	1	1	1	2	1										6
ESTONIA				1											1
FINLAND			1		1	2		1							5
FRANCE		1													1
NETHERLANDS										1					1
NORWAY			1	1						3	1			1	7
SWEDEN							1	1	1	1			1		5

The recoveries in Ireland during February and August relate to the same individual.

### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

This winter visitor from Scandinavia has, even though rarely caught in the area, produced seven interesting recoveries; five which have travelled to the Continent from Huddersfield and two which have migrated into the area. An adult ringed at Ossett Spa S.F. on 29th December 1961 was found dead at St. Valery-en-Caux (Seine Maritime) France on 2nd January 1962 (442 Kms SSE). It will be noted that this bird had undertaken a movement of 442 Kms in just four days. A first-year from Middlestown, ringed on 4th January 1967, was found at Grimstad, Haried (More-o-Romsdal) Norway on 12th October 1968 (1065 Kms SSW). Another first-year from Middlestown, this time ringed on 11th February 1967, was found dead at Khios (Khios) Greece in 1974 (2735 Kms SE). It is to be regretted that only the year of recovery was given by the finder of this bird, but as this was only the second Greek recovery of a British ringed Fieldfare it is of special interest. A first-year male ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th February 1973 was shot at Benassey (Vienne) France on 18th December 1975 (845 Kms SSE) and a first-year ringed at Upper Denby on 25th January 1992 was found dead at Barslov, near Helsingborg (Malmohus) Sweden on 11th June of that year, having travelled 967 Kms ENE.

Both of the birds which had moved into the area were ringed as nestlings and, therefore, their exact place of origin is known. The first bird, ringed at Djura (Dalarna) Sweden on 1st July 1949, was controlled at Dunford Bridge on 24th January 1950 (1320 Kms SW). The other individual, ringed at Pori (Turku and Pori) Finland on 2nd June 1966, was controlled at Middlestown on 7th February 1967 (1700 Kms SW).

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

A large proportion of the ringing recoveries from locally marked Song Thrushes have fallen within a 15 Km radius of their place of ringing, although a bird ringed at Kirkburton S.F. on 13th January 1963 was found drowned in Sheffield (S. Yorkshire) on 15th April 1964 (30 Kms SE). Many Scottish and northern English birds do, however, migrate to winter in Ireland (Snow, 1986a) and two such recoveries of Huddersfield ringed birds have been forthcoming. A bird ringed in Huddersfield (exact location unknown) on 1st March 1946 was found at Kildare (Kildare) on 9th April 1947, having travelled ca. 325 Kms WSW and a juvenile ringed at Ossett on 13th July 1962 was found at Milltown Pass (Co. Westmeath) on 28th January 1963, some 368 Kms to the W.

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Birds ringed in the area have subsequently been found in Ireland (1), France (3), Portugal (1), Spain (2), Italy (3), Greece (1) and the Netherlands (1). The Greek bird, ringed as an adult at Middlestown on 26th December 1966, was shot at Gythion (Peloponninos) on 20th February 1969 (2670 Kms SE). This was only the fourth Greek recovery of a British ringed Redwing. Ringing has shown that birds which have wintered in Britain one year may spend a subsequent one far away, this nomadic lifestyle is aptly illustrated in the recoveries above, as most fall into this category. It is of interest, however, that there is not a single recovery from the Scandinavian breeding grounds.

There have been two reported movements within the British Isles, the only one of any distance being a first-year ringed at Bretton Park on 13th October 1973 which was found at Troon, Camborne (Cornwall) on 18th November of that year, having travelled 736 Kms SW.

The table below gives the calendar month of recovery along with the number of individuals involved

#### RECOVERY AREA

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
IRELAND	1												1
FRANCE	2									1			3
GREECE		1											1
ITALY									2	1			3
NETHERLANDS		1											1
PORTUGAL	1												1
SPAIN											1	1	2

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Although Scottish Mistle Thrushes are highly migratory, especially in their first-year, birds from northern England seem to be less so (Snow, 1986b). The only ringing recovery which indicates any movement by a Huddersfield bird concerns a juvenile ringed at Ossett on 29th September 1957 which was found at Silsden, near Keighley (W. Yorkshire) on 26th May 1958, having travelled 32 Kms NW

### **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

As only 73 Sedge Warblers have been ringed in the area it is not surprising that there are no recoveries from the species' wintering grounds (sub-Saharan

Africa) An adult ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th August 1993, however, was controlled at Turnhouse Airport (Lothian) on 26th June 1994 (275 Kms NNW). The bird was sexed as a male on cloacal protuberance when caught in Scotland. The only evidence towards the origins of individuals which appear on autumn passage in the area came on 20th July 1989 when a nestling ringed at Scotsmans Flash, Wigan (Gt. Manchester) on 12th June of that year was controlled at Blackmoorfoot Res. The bird had travelled 51 Kms E. and had been retrapped at its place of ringing some 11 days prior to finding itself at Blackmoorfoot.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

When one considers that only six Reed Warblers (excluding a Reed Marsh Warbler) have been ringed in the area it is incredible that one of these has been recovered. The bird in question, ringed as an adult at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th June 1975, was controlled at Silverdale, Carnforth (Lancashire) on 23rd July 1976. On paper the bird had only travelled 85 Kms NW, although it had presumably been on the species' wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa during the interim.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Although this species winters in sub-Saharan Africa, the only recovery of a Huddersfield ringed bird concerns a first-year ringed at Scout Dike Res. on 5th August 1991 which was controlled at Icklesham (Sussex) some eight days later (331 Kms SSE).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Ringed has shown that Blackcaps from the breeding population in Britain move south to winter in Iberia and north Africa (generally north of the Sahara) whilst those which winter in Britain originate from central European populations. The only recovery of a Huddersfield ringed bird concerns a juvenile female ringed at Scout Dike Res. on 22nd August 1987 which was controlled at Mexilhoeira (Algarve) Portugal on 15th April 1988 (1898 Kms SSW).

The only evidence of immigration comes from a juvenile ringed at Sprotbrough Flash, Doncaster (S. Yorkshire) on 15th July 1985 which was controlled at Scout Dike Res. some 13 days later (31 Kms W).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

There are no recoveries of the 21 birds ringed in the area. Evidence of immigration, however, came on 23rd May 1985 when a nestling ringed at Strone, Katrine (Central) on 23rd June 1984 was found dead at Clayton West,



near Denby Dale, the bird having travelled 350 Kms SSE (although it had presumably spent the winter months in sub-Saharan Africa).

#### **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

As only 81 Chiffchaff have been ringed in the area it is not surprising that there is but a single recovery: a full-grown ringed at Toothill, Brighthouse on 7th September 1966 was controlled 400 Kms to the SE at Dungeness (Kent) some 14 days later.

The only evidence of immigration came on 18th September 1987 when a first-year ringed at Eaglesfield, Cockermouth (Cumbria) on 12th July of that year was controlled at Blackmoorfoot Res. The bird in question having travelled 152 Kms to the SE.

#### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Although this species winters in sub-Saharan Africa, and despite the fact that over 5,000 have been ringed in the area, the longest reported movement is of only 356 Kms. The bird in question, ringed as a first-year at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th September 1993, was controlled at Dungeness (Kent) some 13 days later (356 Kms SSE). A first-year ringed at Scout Dike Res. on 28th July 1982 was controlled at Shoreham-by-sea (Sussex) on 22nd August of that year, having travelled 311 Kms SSE. Other ringing returns of interest, all appertaining to birds from Blackmoorfoot Res. are: a full-grown ringed on 14th August 1975 which was found dead 12 days later at Sturminster Newton (Dorset), having travelled 305 Kms S; a first-year ringed on 17th July 1978 was controlled at Gibraltar Point (Lincolnshire) on 9th May 1979 (155 Kms ESE); a first-year ringed on 25th August 1983 was controlled 147 Kms SSE at Naseby (Northamptonshire) on 26th August 1984; a first-year ringed on 30th July 1984 was controlled at Hall Wood, Fairseat (Kent) on 18th August of that year, having travelled 294 Kms in a SSE direction; a first-year ringed on 8th August 1987 was controlled 337 Kms S at St. Albans Head, Purbeck (Dorset) on 20th April 1989 and a first-year ringed on 19th August 1995 was also controlled at St. Albans Head, this time on 11th April 1997.

The only evidence of immigration came when a nestling ringed at Loweswater (Cumbria) on 13th June 1985 was controlled at Scout Dike Res. on 14th August of that year (160 Kms SE), a nestling ringed at Cracoe, near Skipton (N. Yorkshire) on 7th June 1987 was controlled at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 4th August of that year, having travelled 47 Kms in a SSE direction and a nestling ringed near Wilton, Redcar (Cleveland) on 4th June 1989 was controlled at Scout Dike Res. on 4th August of that year, having travelled 121 Kms SSW. All the autumn recoveries accord with the findings of Norman

and Norman (1985) in that they have travelled in a south or south-south-easterly direction

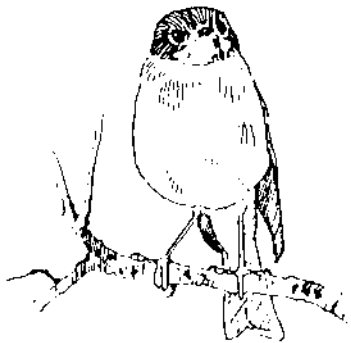
#### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Ringling has now proved that Goldcrests are annual visitors to Britain from the Continent, but the numbers arriving - and the area of origin - tend to vary year to year. A full-grown male ringed at Toothill, Brighouse on 8th September 1966 was found dead at Bailleul-les-Pernes (Pas de Calais) France on 25th March 1967 (455 Kms SE). This was only the second foreign recovery of a British ringed Goldcrest and the first from France. A first-year male ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 21st September 1989 was controlled 347 Kms to the S at Portland Bill (Dorset) on 30th March 1990.

The only evidence of immigration came when a first-year male ringed at Hightown, Formby (Merseyside) on 21st October 1981 was controlled at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th November of that year, having travelled 80 Kms E.

#### **Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

None of the five birds ringed in the area have produced recoveries, although this is to be expected from such a small sample. Two birds ringed as nestlings have, however, been found in the area. A bird ringed on 13th June 1983 at Guilsfield, Welshpool (Powys) was found dead at Elland on 26th April 1984, a distance of 140 Kms NE. The other, ringed on 3rd June 1988 at Holme Wood, Loweswater (Cumbria), was controlled at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd August of that year, having travelled 144 Kms SE. The first mentioned bird, although probably still on passage, may have been contemplating breeding locally; the species often shows a marked unfaithfulness to their natal area (Mead and Hudson, 1985). The last mentioned bird shows the earliness of the autumn passage out of Britain; late August or early September being the expected dates for Scandinavian migrants (Mead and Clark, 1989).



### **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caedatus*

Although there are recoveries of flocks which have moved in excess of 100 Kms, this species is generally very sedentary within the British Isles. There are no recoveries over 5 Kms stemming from the 73 birds which have been ringed in the area by Club members. However, a full-grown bird ringed by Barnsley Ringing Group at Scout Dike Res. on 10th October 1982 was controlled at Worsbrough Res., Barnsley (S. Yorkshire) on 20th August 1983, having travelled 12 Kms E.

Evidence of immigration came when a bird which had been ringed at Worsbrough Res. on 1st May 1977 was controlled at Edgerton on 16th October of that year, a distance of 25 Kms WNW.

### **Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

This species is of a very sedentary nature, so much so, that in the BTO's Reports on Bird Ringing a full recovery has appeared on but a single occasion during the last 40 years; the longest recovery ever reported being 44 Kms. There have been no recoveries of Huddersfield ringed birds. Proof of immigration, however, came when a juvenile ringed at Melton Woods, Doncaster (S. Yorkshire) on 6th July 1971 was controlled at Thurgoland, near Pemstone on 30th October of that year, having travelled 23 Kms W.

### **Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

This species is very sedentary, indeed, within the BTO ringing scheme there are very few movements in excess of 50 Kms. There have been no recoveries of more than 5 Kms stemming from birds ringed in the Huddersfield area. Evidence of immigration, however, came when a bird ringed at Fairfield, Stockton (Cleveland) on 25th October 1985 was found dead at Almondbury on 30th April 1986, having travelled the incredible distance of 107 Kms in a SSW direction. Exceptionally, there were a further three movements in excess of 100 Kms reported during the course of the year, the longest being 136 Kms (Mead and Clark, 1987).

### **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

This is a very sedentary species, although recoveries in excess of 100 Kms are reported annually within the national ringing scheme. Recoveries of Huddersfield ringed birds have shown how sedentary this species is, the only birds which have moved more than 10 Kms being as follows: a first-year bird ringed at Bretton Park on 19th December 1970 was found at Ecclesall, Sheffield (S. Yorkshire) on 26th December 1971 (28 Kms S); a nestling ringed at Bretton Park on 8th June 1971 was found at Chapelton, Sheffield (S. Yorkshire) on 10th February 1974 (19 Kms SE); a first-year bird ringed at

Blackmoorfoot Res. on 3rd March 1978 was controlled at Claborough, Retford (Nottinghamshire) on 30th September of that year (68 Kms SE), a first-year, again ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res., this time on 8th October 1986, was killed by a cat at Rastrick, Brighouse on 25th July 1987 (11 Kms NNE) and a nestling ringed at Gunthwaite on 7th June 1987 was found dead at Staincliffe Hospital, Dewsbury (W. Yorkshire) on 19th July of that year (17 Kms N).

The only evidence of immigration came when an adult ringed at Stockbridge, near Sheffield (S. Yorkshire) on 20th March 1979 was found dead at Meltham Mills on 4th August 1980 (20 Kms NW) and a first-winter ringed at Carlton Marsh, Barnsley (S. Yorkshire) on 15th October 1988 was found dead at Stainland on 9th February 1989, having travelled 31 Kms WNW.

### **Maggie *Pica pica***

With the exception of a nestling (from a brood of 3) which moved from Lindley (ringed on 6th June 1972) to Slaithwaite (shot on 24th March 1974), a total of 5 Kms SW, all other recoveries have simply reflected the extremely sedentary nature of the species. Interestingly, with the exception of two recoveries of nestling Swallows, this is the only recovery to have emanated from passerine nestlings ringed by Club members.

### **Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

Large numbers of this species migrate across the North Sea from eastern Europe, Scandinavia and Russia to augment the British breeding population during the winter months. The only foreign birds that have been found in the area were wearing rings attached in Finland and Lithuania. The bird from Finland, ringed as a first-year at Suomenoja, Espoo (Uusimaa) on 2nd August 1970 was found long dead at Bretton Park on 27th July 1971, having travelled 1810 Kms SW. The Lithuanian bird, ringed as a first-year female at Ventes Ragas, Silute on 14th July 1985, had travelled 1495 Kms W when it was controlled in a garden at Almondbury on 25th March 1986. The only other evidence of immigration concerns a female ringed at Spurn (E. Yorkshire) on 21st November 1964 which was found dead in Huddersfield on 4th January 1965 (120 Kms E) and a bird ringed at Poole in Wharfedale, Otley (W. Yorkshire) on 19th February 1982 was found dead at Marsh on 15th December 1983 (30 Kms SSW).

Wintering birds ringed in the area have subsequently been found in Denmark (2), Sweden (1), Germany (2), Finland (2) and Estonia (1). The furthest travelled birds, both of which had moved ca. 1960 Kms to the NE, were an

adult female ringed at Bretton Park on 14th February 1970 which was found at Karsamaki (Turku and Pori) Finland on 7th August 1973 and a female ringed in a garden at Crosland Moor on 19th March 1976 was found dead at Suvela, Espoo (Uusimaa) Finland on 26th May 1977. Other birds ringed in the area have shown no seasonality or pattern to the directions travelled, but some juveniles have indicated distant post-juvenile movements, the most interesting of these being two birds from Ossett: a bird ringed on 18th June 1961 was found at Clifton, Bristol (Avon) on 20th January 1963 (256 Kms SSW) and a bird ringed on 2nd June 1962 was found at Canonbie (Dumfries and Galloway) on 28th February 1963 (176 Kms NNW).

The table below gives the calendar month of recovery along with the number of individuals involved.

#### RECOVERY AREA

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
DENMARK						1				1			2
SWEDEN							1						1
FINLAND					1			1					2
GERMANY				1	1								2
ESTONIA													only year indicated by finder

#### **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

British-bred birds are not known to emigrate and Huddersfield birds ringed during the breeding season reflect this sedentary nature. Six winter ringed birds have, however, shown movements, two of these to the Continent: a first-year female ringed at Flockton on 20th October 1968 was found in Amsterdam, Netherlands on 7th April 1970 (ca. 470 Kms SE) and an adult male ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 29th October 1979 hit a window and died in Veggla, Roilag (Buskerud) Norway on 4th April 1982 (978 Kms NE). The other four recoveries were of an adult male ringed at Ossett Spa S.F. on 30th January 1960 which was found dead at Morpeth (Northumberland) on 23rd June of that year (176 Kms N), a first-year male ringed at Bretton Park on 3rd October 1970 which was found at Colburn, Catterick (N. Yorkshire) on 9th May 1974 (80 Kms N); a first-year male ringed at Cubley on 17th January 1979 which was trapped in a greenhouse at Medomsley, Consett (Durham) on 9th March of that year (145 Kms N) and an adult male ringed at Upper Denby on 13th January 1990 which was found freshly dead at Higher Kimmerton, near Chester (Clwyd) on 19th January 1991, having travelled 102 Kms WSW.

Four birds have indicated the origins of birds wintering in the area: a male ringed on 12th September 1967 at Sappi, Finya (Turku and Pori) Finland was controlled at Edgerton on 14th January 1968 (1700 Kms SW), an adult female ringed at Himley, Wolverhampton (Staffordshire) on 15th November 1976 was controlled at Edgerton on 29th January 1977 (130 Kms NNE), an adult male ringed at Willenskool, Terschellin, Netherlands on 9th October 1977 was controlled at Edgerton on 16th February 1980 (477 Kms NW) and a first-year male ringed at Hopwas Wood, Tamworth (Staffordshire) on 31st December 1986 was controlled in a garden at Upper Denby on 6th February 1988, having travelled 102 Kms N. It has long been known that Scandinavian birds, instead of migrating directly across the North Sea, move south through Denmark into the Netherlands, Belgium and France, so as to make a shorter, less hazardous, sea crossing (Newton, 1972).

### **Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

This winter visitor from Scandinavia is known to take the same coastal route through the Low Countries as do Chaffinches. This tendency is less marked, however, and at both seasons many Bramblings cross the North Sea direct (Newton, 1972). There are no recoveries of birds ringed in the area, but evidence of immigration came when an adult male ringed at Mintlyn, near Kings Lynn (Norfolk) on 24th January 1971 was controlled at Bretton Park on 28th February of that year (154 Kms NW).

### **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Within the British Isles the Greenfinch is a partial migrant, undertaking south-westerly movements in the autumn and winter, returning the following spring (Boddy, 1986). Some birds, mainly from south-east England, may also winter in France and the Low Countries. A few Scandinavian, German and Dutch breeding birds may also winter in (or pass through) the British Isles, but none of these have been reported in the Huddersfield area. Long-distance east to west movements within southern England are reported annually, but birds from further north generally undertake shorter movements.

The actual migratory movements of this species are very complex (Boddy and Sellers, 1983), but an analysis of the 30 winter recoveries (October - March) of birds which have moved over 20 Kms parallel their findings; 18 (60%) have moved between south and west, 10 (33.3%) between south and east, whilst the other 2 (6.6%) have moved to the northeast. Similarly, when looking at the five summer controls (April - September), all have moved into the area from between the south and west. Working on this basis, it would be expected that a high proportion of the 19 winter controls would originate from between north and east. This is not the case, however, as only one

(5.3%) has moved into the area from this quadrant, 14 (73.7%) have entered from between south and east and 4 (21%) from between south and west. The reasons for this anomaly are unknown. All Huddersfield recoveries and controls over 20 Kms are shown in the following tables.

The only Huddersfield bird known to have undertaken a migration in both directions was a first-year female ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th September 1976 which was controlled at Walcot, Wellington (Salop) on 26th February 1978 (115 Kms SSW), by 28th April of the same year the bird had returned to Blackmoorfoot Res. Of the 47 recoveries in excess of 20 Kms, 14 (29.8%) had travelled more than 100 Kms, the most interesting of these (apart from the one mentioned above) being a first-year male ringed at Bretton Park on 17th November 1968 which was found in Stroud (Gloucestershire) on 25th March 1969 (216 Kms SSW); an adult female ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. 26th February 1977 was controlled at Ewhurst (Surrey) on 2nd February 1979 (290 Kms SSE) and a first-year male ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 14th December 1986 was controlled at Ormesby St Margaret (Norfolk) on 11th June 1987 (260 Kms ESE).

Similarly, with the 23 controls, 7 (30.4%) had moved over 100 Kms, the most noteworthy being an adult male ringed at Upminster (Gt. London) on 5th April 1970 which was controlled at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd January 1972 (270 Kms NNW) and a juvenile male ringed at Burwell (Cambridgeshire) on 25th September 1971 was controlled at Bretton Park on 30th January 1972 (202 Kms NW)

The following tables show the Recovery Control date relationship with original capture dates (only birds which have moved over 20 Kms are included)

#### RECOVERIES

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

## CONTROLS

Ringed	Oct-Nov	Dec-Jan	Feb-Mar	Apr-May	Jun-Jul	Aug-Sep
Controlled						
Oct-Nov						1
Dec-Jan	1	7	1	1		2
Feb-Mar		3	1			2
Apr-May		1	3			
Jun-Jul				1		
Aug-Sep						

### Linnets *Carduelis cannabina*

A proportion of the British and Irish breeding population migrate to winter in western France and Iberia (Newton, 1972). Many foreign recoveries, mainly stemming from birds ringed by the late Arthur Frudd in the Ossett area during the 1960s, confirm these movements. The following countries have yielded late autumn / early winter recoveries: France (16), Spain (3) and the Netherlands (1). The Dutch bird, ringed at Ossett Spa S F on 9th September 1967, was controlled at Kennemerduinen, Noord Holland on 27th October 1969 and was only the third recovery of a British ringed Linnets in the Netherlands (there have only been a further five since this time). The other recoveries (3) are from within the British Isles and all stem from ringing at Ossett Spa S F: an adult female ringed on 10th September 1960 was found 53 Kms WSW at Dunham Massey, near Altrincham (Gt Manchester) on 4th June 1961; a juvenile ringed on 10th August 1961 was found at Holycross, Wallsend on Tyne (Northumberland) in July 1962, some 141 Kms N and a nestling ringed on 18th May 1965 was found dead at Northleach (Gloucestershire), having travelled 208 Kms S.

The only evidence of return migration came when an adult male ringed at Portland Bill (Dorset) on 13th October 1961 was controlled at Ossett Spa S F on 17th April 1962, having travelled 352 Kms to the NNE.

The following table gives the calendar month of recovery along with the number of individuals involved.



## RECOVERY AREA

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
FRANCE			1							12	2	1	16
SPAIN		1									1	1	3
NETHERLANDS										1			1

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

The ringing of Twite in the area has added considerably to our knowledge of the species. Newton (1972) gives only four foreign recoveries; one each on the coasts of Belgium, France and the Netherlands and a single inland in northern Italy. None of these birds originated from the Huddersfield area. Five foreign recoveries, however, have stemmed from birds ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. at the end of July 1976, three in Belgium (all in November) and two in the Netherlands (February and October). With the exception of an adult female (in the Netherlands during October), the others were ringed during their first year of life. A first-year, again from Blackmoorfoot Res. in July 1976, has shown interesting site fidelity to its wintering grounds, being controlled at Hythe, Colchester (Essex) (265 Kms SE) in February 1979 and January 1980. The bird, sexed as a male in Essex, had presumably been on the Pennine breeding grounds during the summer period.

The four birds found within the area are of interest as they relate to birds ringed on their wintering grounds. A full-grown male ringed at Oye-Plage (Pas de Calais) France in October 1970 was found dead at Holmbridge on 19th May 1971 (410 Kms NW). The other three all relate to birds ringed at Butterwick Marsh, near Boston (Lincolnshire): a first-year ringed on 13th November 1979 was found dead near Huddersfield (exact location unknown) on 28th June 1980, ca. 140 Kms to the WNW; an adult colour-ringed in the winter of 1986/87 (between 18th October 1986 and 14th February 1987) was seen at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31st March 1990, having travelled 157 Kms NW and another adult, colour-ringed between 30th November and 13th December 1987, was seen on four occasions between 25th May and 21st June 1989 on Rishworth Moor, some 166 Kms to the NW.

The ringing of this species in the Huddersfield area has, therefore, indicated that the species winters in south-eastern England or further afield, across the Channel.

### **Redpoll** *Carduelis flammica*

Even though some Redpolls do winter in northern Britain, most move into southern Britain in autumn, with some crossing into the Netherlands, Belgium, France and western Germany (Newton, 1972). With the exception of a local movement of 8 Kms, the only other recovery of a Huddersfield ringed bird concerns an adult male from Horbury S.I., ringed on 20th September 1970, the bird had moved 57 Kms SSE when it was found at Birkland, near Warsop (Nottinghamshire) on 29th April 1971.

### **Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

The remarkably sedentary nature of this species is reflected in the ringing recoveries, with no movements of Huddersfield ringed birds being greater than 6 Kms. As with other British ringed birds there is no seasonality behind these movements and no set pattern to the directions moved, the movements simply being non-directional wanderings. However, a first-year male ringed at Newmillerdam, near Wakefield (W. Yorkshire) on 22nd September 1962 was found in a weak condition at Golcar about the 15th July 1964 (23 Kms W) and a juvenile ringed at Worsbrough Res., Barnsley (S. Yorkshire) on 23rd July 1978 was controlled at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 29th October of that year, a distance of 26 Kms to the WNW. The last mentioned bird was sexed as a female when caught at Blackmoorfoot, juveniles, until they start their body moult, being unsexable.

### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Movements of any distance are unusual for this species but, a female ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th October 1972 had moved to Broadbottom, Hyde (Gt. Manchester) by 12th July 1975, a distance of 22 Kms SW; a first-year female, again ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res., this time on 20th August 1974, was found long dead in November 1975 in the Rochdale area (Gt. Manchester), having travelled ca. 25 Kms W and a first-year male ringed at Scout Dike Res. on 2nd September 1989



was controlled at Chelmarsh Res., near Bridgenorth (Shropshire) on 15th October of that year (127 Kms SSW).

The only evidence of immigration came when an adult male ringed at Worsbrough Res., Barnsley (S. Yorkshire) on 20th January 1984 was killed by a cat at Denby Dale some 11 days later, having travelled 12 Kms WNW.

## LONGEVITY

It is a fairly common misconception that the birds in ones garden are the same individuals from year to year. Generally speaking this is not the case, if all the birds that fledged were to survive to breeding then the world would soon be overrun with that particular species. As long as an adult replaces itself, then the population remains stable. It has been calculated that for many small passerines in the northern temperate regions, 90% or more of all eggs laid will fail to produce young that attain adulthood (Mead, 1985). Some individuals are more fortunate than others, however, and may survive to 'old age'. The following table gives, in years and months, the age of the oldest known bird in the Huddersfield area along with the oldest known British individual (various BTO Ringing Reports). The figures simply indicate the approximate period which had elapsed since ringing and do not take into account the age of the bird when ringed. Species for which no record exceeds 12-months are omitted.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Oldest known local</u>	<u>Oldest known British</u>
Storm Petrel	11.0	25.1
Grey Heron	3.2	21.5
Mute Swan	9.11	24.7
Canada Goose	9.0	20.2
Mallard	1.3	25.4
Goshawk	2.10	8.10
Sparrowhawk	5.2	13.9
Kestrel	3.2	23.10
Lapwing	5.3	16.8
Snipe	5.11	12.4
Redshank	6.11	19.10
Black-headed Gull	10.4	25.6
Lesser Black-backed Gull	11.4	31.10
Herring Gull	5.3	27.9
Woodpigeon	2.3	15.11
Long-eared Owl	2.1	12.1
Swift	11.10	16.0
Great Spotted Woodpecker	5.1	10.9
Swallow	2.1	9.7 *

<u>Species</u>	<u>Oldest known local</u>	<u>Oldest known British</u>
House Martin	2.11	7.0
Pied Wagtail	4.1	9.11
Grey Wagtail	1.0	7.0
Wren	2.1	5.11
Dipper	3.5	6.0
Dunnock	5.11	9.3
Robin	8.1	8.6
Blackbird	8.10	12.1
Song Thrush	7.2	10.5
Redwing	1.1	7.2
Mistle Thrush	4.2	11.5
Garden Warbler	1.1	7.10
Blackcap	1.1	10.8
Willow Warbler	4.11	9.10
Willow Tit	3.1	10.5
Coal Tit	3.0	8.10
Blue Tit	7.3	12.4
Great Tit	6.6	13.11
Jay	4.11	16.10
Magpie	9.0	15.1
Rook	7.0	19.8
Starling	10.11	22.1
House Sparrow	6.5	10.6
Tree Sparrow	4.2	6.7
Chaffinch	6.1	11.8
Greenfinch	9.3	11.0
Linnet	2.8	8.1
Twite	3.2	6.1
Bullfinch	2.3	8.2
Reed Bunting	5.7	10.1

\* A prewar Swallow recorded as being 16 years old is on the files of the BTO but is suspect (Mead and Clark, 1989)

## COORDINATES OF LOCALITIES MENTIONED IN THE TEXT

All place names mentioned in the text are listed below along with their respective coordinates. All British localities have their county appended with the exception of those which fall within the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club recording area.

Ables, Oviedo, Spain	42 30'N 5 50'W
Adwick-le-Street, Doncaster, S. Yorkshire	53 34'N 1 11'W
Allestree, Derbyshire	52 57'N 1 29'W
Almondbury	53 38'N 1 46'W
Amsterdam, Netherlands	52 22'N 4 54'E
Ancaster, Grantham, Lincolnshire	52 59'N 0 32'W
Ardilly, Charante Maritime, France	45 50'N 1 00'W
Bailleul-les-Pernes, Pas de Calais, France	50 31'N 2 23'E
Barlov, near Helsingborg, Malmöhus, Sweden	56 00'N 12 49'E
Bass Rock, Firth of Forth, Lothian	56 10'N 2 40'W
Beaully Firth, Inverness, Highland	57 30'N 4 20'W
Benassey, Vienne, France	46 34'N 0 03'E
Birds Edge	53 33'N 1 42'W
Birkland, near Warsop, Nottinghamshire	53 12'N 1 05'W
Bishopbrigg, Glasgow, Stathclyde	55 54'N 4 14'W
Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Linthwaite	53 37'N 1 52'W
Black Moss, near Marsden	53 34'N 1 56'W
Blackrock, Dublin, Ireland	53 18'N 6 10'W
Booth Wood Dam, near Ripponden	53 38'N 1 26'W
Bosley, Congleton, Cheshire	53 11'N 2 08'W
Bretton Park, near Wakefield	53 37'N 1 34'W
Brighouse	53 42'N 1 48'W
Bristol, Avon	51 27'N 2 35'W
Broadbottom, Hyde, Gt. Manchester	53 26'N 1 53'W
Brockholes, Honley	53 36'N 1 46'W
Burwell, Cambridgeshire	52 16'N 0 20'E
Butterwick Marsh, near Boston, Lincolnshire	53 58'N 0 06'E
Campos, Mallorca, Spain	39 25'N 3 05'E
Canonbie, Dumfries and Galloway	54 05'N 2 58'W

Carlton Marsh, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire	53 35'N 1 26'W
Cattal, near York, N. Yorkshire	53 59'N 1 19'W
Cawood, Selby, N. Yorkshire	53 50'N 1 07'W
Cawthorne, near Barnsley	53 34'N 1 35'W
Chapelton, Sheffield, S. Yorkshire	53 28'N 1 27'W
Chelmarsh Reservoir, near Bridgenorth, Shropshire	52 29'N 2 24'W
Churwell, Morley, W. Yorkshire	53 45'N 1 35'W
Clarborough, Retford, Nottinghamshire	53 20'N 0 53'W
Clayton West, near Denby Dale	53 36'N 1 37'W
Clifton, Bristol, Avon	51 27'N 2 38'W
Clumber Park, Worksop, Nottinghamshire	53 16'N 1 04'W
Clwyd, north Wales	53 15'N 3 07'W
Cockerham, Lancashire	53 57'N 2 49'W
Coed Bryn Meurig, Bethesda, Gwynedd	53 11'N 4 04'W
Colburn, Catterick, N. Yorkshire	54 23'N 1 42'W
Cranberry, near Penistone	53 40'N 1 37'W
Coxhoe, Durham	54 42'N 1 29'W
Cracoe, near Skipton, N. Yorkshire	54 02'N 2 00'W
Crosland Moor	53 38'N 1 50'W
Cubley, near Penistone	53 31'N 1 38'W
Cuerden Park, Preston, Lancashire	53 43'N 2 40'W
Deer Hill, near Marsden	53 36'N 1 54'W
Denby Dale	53 34'N 1 39'W
Denholme, Bradford, W. Yorkshire	53 38'N 1 54'W
Djura, Dalarna, Sweden	60 37'N 15 00'E
Dodworth, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire	53 32'N 1 31'W
Driffield, E. Yorkshire	54 01'N 0 26'W
Droylsden, Cit. Manchester	53 29'N 2 09'W
Dunford Bridge, near Holmfirth	53 31'N 1 46'W
Dungeness, Kent	50 55'N 0 57'E
Dunham Massey, near Altrincham, Cit. Manchester	53 24'N 2 24'W
Dunshelt, Auchtarmuchty, Fife	56 17'N 3 13'W
Eaglesfield, Cockermouth, Cumbria	54 39'N 3 24'E
East Hyde, Bedfordshire	51 51'N 0 21'W
Ecclesall, Sheffield, S. Yorkshire	53 21'N 1 31'W
Eddleston, Borders	55 43'N 3 13'W
Edgerton	53 40'N 1 48'W
Elland	53 23'N 4 28'W
Elland Gravel Pit	53 41'N 1 50'W
Ewhurst, Surrey	51 09'N 0 26'W

Fairfield, Stockton, Cleveland	53 34'N 1 21'W
Fishlake, near Thorne, E. Yorkshire	53 36'N 1 00'W
Fleetwood Power Station, Lancashire	53 54'N 3 02'W
Flockton	53 37'N 1 39'W
Frechas, Tras os Montes, Portugal	41 14'N 7 10'W
Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire	53 06'N 0 20'E
Glenties, Co. Donegal, Ireland	54 26'N 3 27'W
Glossop, Derbyshire	53 27'N 1 57'W
Golear	53 37'N 1 51'W
Goulien, Finistere, France	48 03'N 4 36'W
Grassington, Skipton, N. Yorkshire	54 04'N 1 59'W
Greenfield, Saddleworth, Gt. Manchester	53 32'N 2 00'W
Grimstad, Harjed, More-o-Romsdal, Norway	62 24'N 6 00'E
Guildfield, Welshpool, Powys	53 42'N 3 09'W
Gunthwaite, near Penistone	53 33'N 1 39'W
Gythion, Peloponnisos, Greece	36 46'N 22 34'E
Hall Wood, Fairseat, Kent	51 20'N 0 20'E
Hamsterley, Durham	54 51'N 1 41'W
Harewood Park, near Leeds, W. Yorkshire	53 54'N 1 31'W
Haw Park, near Wakefield, W. Yorkshire	53 38'N 1 27'W
Hazel Grove, Gt. Manchester	53 32'N 2 05'W
Hazelhead, Sheffield, S. Yorkshire	53 31'N 1 42'W
Headingley, Leeds, W. Yorkshire	53 49'N 1 35'W
Helensburgh, near Glasgow, Strathclyde	56 01'N 4 44'W
Higham, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire	53 34'N 1 32'W
Higher Kinnerton, near Chester, Clwyd	53 08'N 3 00'W
High Hoyland	53 35'N 1 34'W
Hightown, Formby, Merseyside	53 31'N 3 04'W
Himley, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire	52 31'N 2 10'W
Hinckley, Leicestershire	53 32'N 1 25'W
Holmbridge	53 34'N 1 49'W
Holme Wood, Loweswater, Cumbria	54 34'N 3 22'W
Holmfirth	53 34'N 1 47'W
Holycross, Wallsend on Tyne, Northumberland	54 59'N 1 33'W
Hopwas Wood, Tamworth, Staffordshire	52 39'N 1 44'W
Horbury Sewage Farm	53 40'N 1 33'W
Hythe, Colchester, Essex	51 52'N 0 56'E
Icklesham, Sussex	50 55'N 0 41'E
Ingbirchworth, near Penistone	53 33'N 1 40'W



Ingbirchworth Reservoir, near Penistone	53 33'N 1 41'W
Irwell Valley, near Swinton, Gt. Manchester	53 32'N 2 20'W
Jerez de la Frontera, Cadiz, Spain	36 41'N 6 08'W
Karsamaki, Turku and Pori, Finland	63 58'N 24 46'E
Kenitra, Morocco	34 30'N 6 45'W
Kennermerduinen, Noord Holland, Netherlands	52 25'N 4 34'E
Khios, Khios, Greece	ca. 38 20'N 26 05'E
Kildare, Kildare, Ireland	53 10'N 6 55'W
Kirkburton	53 36'N 1 43'W
Kirkburton Sewage Farm	53 37'N 1 43'W
Langsett Banks	53 30'N 1 41'W
Leeds, W. Yorkshire	53 51'N 1 21'W
Leek, Staffordshire	53 06'N 2 01'W
Lepton	53 38'N 1 41'W
Lindley	53 40'N 1 50'W
Llanybyther, Dyfed	52 04'N 4 09'W
Lopham Fen, South Lopham, near Diss, Norfolk	52 23'N 1 00'E
Lower Common, Hepworth	53 33'N 1 42'W
Loweswater, Cumbria	54 35'N 3 21'W
Low Bauxley, Northumberland	55 19'N 1 33'W
Manor Sewage Farm, Reading, Berkshire	51 26'N 0 59'W
Marsh	53 39'N 1 48'W
Martin Mere, Lancashire	53 37'N 2 52'W
Matozinhos, Douro-Litoral, Portugal	41 11'N 8 42'W
Medomsley Edge, Consett, Durham	53 53'N 1 48'W
Melham Mills	53 35'N 1 49'W
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire	52 46'N 0 53'W
Melton Woods, Doncaster, S. Yorkshire	53 31'N 1 14'W
Mexilhoeira, Algarve, Portugal	37 09'N 8 37'W
Middlesborough, Cleveland	54 35'N 1 14'W
Middlestown, near Horbury	53 39'N 1 36'W
Middleton, Manchester, Gt. Manchester	53 33'N 2 11'W
Mikoszewa, Elblag, Poland	54 21'N 18 57'E
Miltown Pass, Co. Westmeath, Ireland	53 32'N 7 10'W
Mine de Salau, near Seix, Ariège, France	42 40'N 1 08'E
Mintlyn, near Kings Lynn, Norfolk	52 45'N 0 27'E
Morpeth, Northumberland	55 10'N 1 40'W
Mortemolin, Badajoz, Spain	38 10'N 6 13'W

Moss Side, Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire	53 46'N 2 56'W
Naburn, N. Yorkshire	53 54'N 1 05'W
Naseby, Northamptonshire	52 24'N 1 01'W
Netherhouses, Armadale, Highland	55 53'N 3 43'W
Newcastle Railway Station, Tyne and Wear	55 00'N 1 35'W
New Mill	53 34'N 1 45'W
Newmillerdam, near Wakefield, W. Yorkshire	53 38'N 1 30'W
Newsome	53 38'N 1 46'W
Newton Burgoland, Leicestershire	53 41'N 1 28'W
Northleach, Gloucestershire	51 50'N 1 50'W
Nurst, Voru, Estonia	57 50'N 26 48'E
Odense Fjord, Fyn, Denmark	55 30'N 10 34'E
Ormesby St. Margaret, Norfolk	52 40'N 1 42'E
Osney, Oxford, Oxfordshire	51 45'N 1 16'W
Ossett	53 41'N 1 34'W
Ossett Spa Sewage Farm	53 40'N 1 36'W
Oye-Plage, Pas-de-Calais, France	50 59'N 2 03'E
Penistone	53 32'N 1 37'W
Penny Hill, Barkisland	53 40'N 1 54'W
Penzance, Cornwall	50 07'N 5 33'W
Plank Lane Tip, Leigh, Gt. Manchester	53 30'N 2 34'W
Pontefract, W. Yorkshire	53 41'N 1 19'W
Poole in Wharfedale, Otley, W. Yorkshire	53 54'N 1 38'W
Pori, Turku and Pori, Finland	61 30'N 21 45'E
Portland Bill, Dorset	50 31'N 2 27'N
Port Louis, Lorient, France	47 50'N 3 40'W
Potteric Carr, Doncaster, S. Yorkshire	53 30'N 1 06'W
Rastrick, Brighouse	53 42'N 1 47'W
Reenascreena, Clonakilty, Cork, Ireland	51 37'N 8 54'W
Ringstead Gravel Pit, Kettering, Northamptonshire	52 22'N 0 34'W
Rio Major, Ribatejo, Portugal	39 12'N 8 43'W
Ripley, Harrogate, N. Yorkshire	54 02'N 1 34'W
Rishworth Moor, near Ripponden	53 39'N 1 59'W
Rochdale area, Gt. Manchester	ca. 53 38'N 2 10'W
Rostherne, Knutsford, Cheshire	53 21'N 2 24'W
Rothwell, Leeds, W. Yorkshire	53 45'N 1 29'W
R. A. F. Innsworth, Gloucestershire	51 54'N 2 12'W
Royd Moor Reservoir, Penistone	53 31'N 1 39'W

Ruddington, Nottinghamshire	52 54'N 1 09'W
Ryhill, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire	53 37'N 1 25'W
St Abbs Head, Borders	55 50'N 2 10'W
St. Albans Head, Purbeck, Dorset	50 35'N 2 03'W
St. Annes, Lancashire	53 45'N 3 00'W
between St. Bees and Netherton, Cumbria	54 28'N 3 35'W
St. Valery-en-Caux, Seine Maritime, France	49 52'N 0 43'E
Sappi, Luvia, Turku and Pori, Finland	61 29'N 21 21'E
Scissett	53 37'N 1 35'W
Scotsmans Flash, Wigan, Gt. Manchester	53 32'N 2 38'W
Scout Dike Reservoir, Penistone	53 32'N 1 39'W
Sheffield, S. Yorkshire	53 22'N 1 24'W
Shepley	53 35'N 1 42'W
Shiregreen, Sheffield, S. Yorkshire	53 26'N 1 29'W
Shoreham-by-sea, Sussex	50 51'N 0 17'W
Silsden, near Keighley, W. Yorkshire	53 55'N 1 56'W
Silverdale, Camforth, Lancashire	54 10'N 2 49'W
Skallingen, Jutland, Denmark	55 30'N 8 17'E
Skokholm, Dyfed	51 42'N 5 16'W
Slathwaite	53 37'N 1 53'W
Soria, Soria, Spain	41 46'N 2 28'W
Southport, Lancashire	53 39'N 3 01'W
Sprotbrough Flash, Doncaster, S. Yorkshire	53 33'N 1 39'W
Spurn, E. Yorkshire	53 35'N 0 06'E
Stafford, Staffordshire	ca 52 50'N 2 10'W
Stanchfle Hospital, Dewsbury, W. Yorkshire	53 42'N 1 37'W
Stainland	53 40'N 1 53'W
Stanton Harold, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire	52 48'N 1 28'W
Stalybridge, Gt. Manchester	53 29'N 2 04'W
Stocksbridge, near Sheffield, S. Yorkshire	53 28'N 1 35'W
Strone, Katrine, Central	56 16'N 4 33'W
Stroud, Gloucestershire	51 45'N 2 12'W
Sturminster Newton, Dorset	50 56'N 2 19'W
Suomenoja, Espoo, Uusimaa, Finland	60 09'N 24 44'E
Suvela, Espoo, Uusimaa, Finland	60 15'N 24 40'E
Svenner, Vestfold, Norway	58 58'N 10 08'E
between Swinefleet and Eastoft, E. Yorkshire	53 40'N 0 48'W
Tadcaster, N. Yorkshire	53 52'N 1 15'W
Tarifa, Cadiz, Spain	36 01'N 5 36'W
Thursk, N. Yorkshire	54 14'N 1 20'W

Thongsbridge, Holmfirth	53 35'N 1 46'W
Thoresby Park, Ollerton, Nottinghamshire	53 14'N 1 04'W
Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury	53 40'N 1 52'W
Thrapston Gravel Pit, Kettering, Northamptonshire	52 24'N 0 32'W
Throckmorton Tip, Hereford and Worcester	52 09'N 2 02'W
Thunderbridge	53 43'N 1 36'W
Thurgoland, near Penistone	53 30'N 1 34'W
Thurlstone, near Penistone	53 32'N 1 39'W
Tittesworth Reservoir, Leek, Staffordshire	53 08'N 2 01'W
Toothill, Brighouse	53 41'N 1 43'W
Troon, Camborne, Cornwall	50 12'N 5 16'W
Turnhouse Airport, Lothian	55 56'N 3 24'W
Upper Denby	53 33'N 1 40'W
Upminster, Gt. London	51 34'N 0 15'E
Utterslev Mose, Kobenhaven, Denmark	55 43'N 12 29'E
Veggi, Rollag, Buskenad, Norway	60 03'N 9 09'E
Ventes Ragas, Silute, Lithuania	55 21'N 21 13'E
Walcot, Wellington, Salop	52 42'N 2 35'W
Walney Island, Cumbria	54 05'N 3 15'W
Washington, Tyne and Wear	54 54'N 1 29'W
Wessenden Head Moor, Meltham	53 33'N 1 55'W
West Mainland, Shetland	60 15'N 1 30'W
Wetherby, W. Yorkshire	53 56'N 1 23'W
Wharmcliffe Wood, Sheffield, S. Yorkshire	53 27'N 1 32'W
Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire	52 18'N 0 17'E
Willenskooi, Terschellin, Netherlands	53 24'N 5 25'E
Wilton, Redcar, Cleveland	53 34'N 1 05'W
Winterset Reservoir, near Wakefield, W. Yorkshire	53 38'N 1 26'W
Wombwell Ings, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire	53 31'N 1 23'W
Wood Nook, near Meltham	53 35'N 1 48'W
Worsbrough Dale Sewage Farm, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire	53 31'N 1 26'W
Worsbrough Reservoir, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire	53 31'N 1 29'W

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