

**Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

# **Birds in Huddersfield 1991**



**ANNUAL REPORT**



## ADDITIONS TO 1990 REPORT

- GARGANEY**     *Anas querquedula*  
Blackmoorfoot Res.                      A pair were present on 30th March. (MLD et al)
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**     *Mergus serrator*  
Ringstone Edge Res.                      2 on 21st October (NC)
- RUDDY DUCK**     *Oxyura jamaicensis*  
Blackmoorfoot Res.                      4 males and 3 females on 30th April (MLD)
- MERLIN**     *Falco columbarius*  
Blackmoorfoot Res.                      1 on 30th July and 13th August.
- KNOT**     *Calidris canutus*  
Blackmoorfoot Res.                      1 in summer plumage on 19th July (MLD et al).
- GLAUCOUS GULL**     *Larus hyperboreus*  
Blackmoorfoot Res.                      1 adult on 4th March (MLD, JMP, JP).
- KITTIWAKE**     *Rissa tridactyla*  
Blackmoorfoot Res.                      1 immature on 14th March and an adult on 23rd April.

The revised total for species seen in the area in 1990 is 172.

# **BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1991**

## **Report of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

### **CONTENTS**

Inside front cover	Map of the Club area
Page 2	President's report for 1991
3	Introduction to the classified list
4	Notes on the classified list
5	<b>THE CLASSIFIED LIST</b>
46	List of Contributors
47	Field Trips in 1991
58	Ringing Report
60	Local Re-traps and Recoveries
61	Early and Late Dates for Summer Migrants
62	Club Officials for 1992

### **ILLUSTRATION**

Front Cover

Waxwing - Stuart Brocklehurst

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Club members enjoyed another excellent series of evening meetings commencing with a diversion into the world of Lepidoptera with Dr Steven Sutton, President of the Yorkshire Naturalist's Union for 1990, talking on the 'Butterflies and Moths of Yorkshire' being the title of the book published in 1989 of which he was the joint editor. Dr Jones of Hull University gave us an insight — if that's the word! — into the invertebrate life of the 'Mud, Glorious Mud' of the Humber Estuary, in particular describing the feeding strategies employed by the bird species exploiting this food source.

Amongst hardy annuals, and other returning speakers, we had Martin Withers showing us the variety of Tanzanian wildlife; Gordon Langsbury with more superb examples of his work in 'European Birdwatch'; Derrick Scott with a somewhat brief talk on 'Wild Sweden' and some of its owl species; and Dr Janet Kear of Martin Mere fame and now Director of Centres for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, gave an illuminating talk based on her book 'Man and Wildfowl'. Fellow Yorkshire birdwatchers John Hewitt and George Bennett also made return visits showing us something of the desert habitats and bird species of Morocco and the Middle East respectively.

Dr David Parker gave much food for thought in 'Trees and Birds, a biologist's view', and in complete contrast Richard Margochis kept some of us puzzling and all of us enjoying, bird song (on a rough November evening) with sound recording entitled 'Nature through a microphone'.

Last but not least, two of our members stepped in at short notice in the absence of invited speakers during October, to keep things going in a more than adequate fashion. John Cudworth talked on Ethiopia where he made a return visit some three years ago, and Michael Dale gave a further update of his experiences in the New World this time on visits to Venezuela and Ecuador.

An innovation in 1991 was the establishment of our local grapevine (birdline!) in which some 20 members keep each other informed of sightings of interest within the club area. Possibly only partially successful I can only urge those concerned to make use of the scheme whenever possible. Walter Slater, our Honorary Secretary for five years during the 1970's, and a regular supporter of the Club's activities died during the latter half of the year. A conscientious and caring official, he always had a welcome for members, new or well-established.

Mike Denton and myself again represented the Club on the Kirklees Wildlife and Landscape Forum and during the year were responsible, along with three other experienced local naturalists, Michael Brook, and Jill and Brian Lucas, for compiling a list of proposed sites within Kirklees to be designated as 'Sites of Scientific Interest'. These were submitted to the West Yorkshire Ecological Advisory Service along with details of species occurring for assessment. Although not all sites were re-designated, some twelve out of about twenty proposed, were accepted as SSIs.

After serving on the Club Committee in varying capacities since its formation in 1966, I am very pleased to hand over the Presidency to Malcom Chamock, and wish him, and the Committee, which I thank for their hard work and support during 1991, the very best and hope that they enjoy serving the Club as I have done.

J E Dale June 1992

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST

After a generally mild January, February was the coldest month for four years with widespread snow and frozen reservoirs from the end of the first week. March was mild to start with and particularly warm mid-month allowing several early migrants into the country (along with our earliest ever Ring Ouzel). Colder northerly winds dominated for large parts of April, May and June before a warm, dry period leading to the warmest September for 30 years. November started mild but a cold snap of North-easterlies from mid-month led to the reappearance of Waxwings into the country as a whole. The year finished generally settled and mild, with a high pressure area in mid-December causing some sharp frosts.

A good year for number of species recorded in the area, with 177 the total. The only new species for the club was an elusive Nutcracker seen in the Fixby/Fell Greave Wood area in early November. Other birds rare to our area and seen this year included Great Northern Diver, Red-Necked Grebe, Shag, Bittern, Dotterel and Buff-Breasted Sandpiper. A Hoopoe was in an Emley garden from 16th to 23rd May — WHEN will a birdwatcher find one in Huddersfield?

Low rainfall and another reasonable summer led to low water levels spring and autumn which brought good showings for many waders including Bar-Tailed Godwit, Grey Plover, Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Knot and one of the best Ruff years for the club area. Birds of prey were well represented with Honey Buzzard (2 records), Rough-Legged Buzzard and Hobby putting in appearances and records of Buzzard and Osprey were above normal. Crossbills stayed over from last year's winter to breed in several areas and Waxwings were present in excellent numbers from January till April and again from late November to the year end.

Records from Bretton Park are down this year, due mainly to the extensive work carried out by the lower lake, but increased coverage of the Ingbirchworth area in general was well rewarded. Thanks to everyone who submitted records, however small the contribution and special thanks to Mike Denton for summarising reports at Blackmoorfoot; RSPB staff at Booth Dam Quarry for their summary of sightings; Wakefield, Halifax and Barnsley recorders for exchange of records; my wife Fiona, for typing this report and finally John Dale for invaluable help and support.

Stephen Hey June 1992

## NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

The area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, along with those parts of SE02 and SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder.

The status of each species occurring within the area has been indicated by one of the following classifications:-

Resident Breeder	Migrant Breeder
Partial Migrant	Winter visitor
Passage Visitor	

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

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

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

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

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

## THE CLASSIFIED LIST

This list follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of Professor Dr K H Voous (1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species).

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER**      *Gavia immer*  
Rare Visitor

A bird flew north over Whitley Common on 11th December. It headed in the direction of Broadstones but later flew back towards Ingbirchworth where it almost landed. It left to the north-east. (JIM, JF, AF).

**LITTLE GREBE**      *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
Resident breeder (1)

Scout Dike Reservoir was the best breeding site with three pairs, two of which successfully reared at least 3 young. A maximum of 14 was seen here on 22nd September.

As last year, birds were recorded in all months at Ingbirchworth although the only breeding pair was unsuccessful.

Single pairs also bred at Royd Moor Reservoir (1 young), Gunthwaite Dam (2 young), Coxley Dam and probably Boshaw Whams. Bretton Park held one to four birds between March and November, but there was no evidence of breeding.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had one to three birds in spring and autumn, three birds present between 17th August and 2nd September.

One to five birds on various dates at Cannon Hall, Winscar Reservoir, Ringstone Edge Reservoir and Elland Gravel Pits.



**GREAT CRESTED GREBE**      *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1)

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Present in all months but February. One nest with three eggs was left high and dry by 26th April. Numbers built up steadily from 1st March, with one to eight birds till the end of May. The exception was 12 on 26th May. June to September saw high numbers with the maximum, between 24th July and 9th August, of 17 birds. Numbers fell during October to two birds and one to two remained to the year end.

Bretton Park Lower numbers than recent years with resulting lower breeding success. Three on 30th January building to a spring maximum of 17 on 17th March. Generally numbers were 10 or less during the summer with 6 birds remaining into November. Two pairs bred, one successfully, raising one young.

Scout Dike Reservoir Present in January and March till October. Spring maximum was eight on 24th March. In autumn 16 was the maximum on 22nd August. Three pairs bred with at least two young reared. The last record was one on 23rd October.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir held only one to three birds between January and October. One pair bred but failed. A pair also failed at Royd Moor Reservoir. At Boshaw Whams a pair raised one chick. Brookfoot Lake had several birds between January and November with five on 27th July the maximum. Two pairs bred, one raising two young. Other locations for records were Booth Wood Reservoir, one on 31st March.

Ringstone Edge Reservoir, one to two on three dates; and eight dates at Scammonden Dam between January and March with four on 16th March.

**RED NECKED GREBE**      *Podiceps grisegena*

Rare visitor

One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 21st January (MCW).

**CORMORANT**      *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

A good year for this species. Elland Gravel Pits had single birds on 11th February, 13th and 25th April and 27th May. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir one flew west on 6th April, one on 25th April, three on 19th May, one west on 6th September, four west on 19th September, one immature on 5th October, one on 5th November and one adult and two immatures on 28th December.

Ingbirchworth had two on 11th April, four north on 21st April, one on 29th April and five on 14th September. Single birds were over Booth Dam Quarry on 6th and 14th May.

Two flew south over Hinchliffe Mill on 18th May and singles were at Yateholme on 29th March, Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 30th June and 21st September, Bretton Park on 13th October, Scout Dike Reservoir on 6th September and over Linthwaite on 4th November.

**SHAG**      *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Rare visitor

Three immatures at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd October, stayed for five minutes before departing west (MLD). Seventh record for the area and the first for Blackmoorfoot.

**BITTERN**      *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare visitor

One frequented the reed fringes of Brookfoot Lake and occasionally nearby areas of Elland Gravel Pits from 17th December to the year end (EMS et al).

There were reported sightings by fishermen a few weeks earlier than the 17th December (per HSS). The fifth record for the area.

**GREY HERON**      *Ardea cinerea*

Resident breeder (2).

Bretton Park The Barnsley Ringing Group again carried out work on the colony. 24 pairs bred with at least 26 clutches of eggs. A minimum of 68 eggs were laid and at least 48 young birds reached flying stage. Incubation started on 8th March and there was still a nest with eggs and one with large young on 23rd June. This year's colour ring combination was red above white on the right leg. 33 birds were colour ringed and a further 2 with BTO rings only.

Previous colour ringed birds were breeding in the colony, with a 1988 bird rearing 3 young; 1989 bird - 3 young and two 1990 birds, one unsuccessful and one incubating eggs. 23rd June outcome unknown.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had birds on 53 dates between March and June with a maximum of five from 28th to 30th June. In the second part of the year, there were 119 bird days with the highest count of seven on 18th and 19th July. A few singles were seen in November and December. In the winter months, 5 or 6 birds were in field at Berry Brow and Scout Dike Reservoir had one to eight birds during the year. One to two birds were seen at a further 21 localities.

**MUTE SWAN**      *Cygnus olor*

Resident, occasional breeder (1)

An immature bird at Elland Gravel Pits from 5th to 22nd January. A ringed bird was seen in the New Mill area on many dates between 16th June and the year end. One male was at Cannon Hall in the early part of the year and singles were at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 24th and 28th October, Nortonthorpe mill dam on 26th May and Broadstones Reservoir on 15th April.

**BEWICK'S SWAN**      *Cygnus columbianus*  
Scarce winter visitor

A good-sized party of 43 birds were at Langsett Reservoir on 12th and 13th March (BP, JL), and a single adult was at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd November (PB).

**WHOOPEE SWAN**      *Cygnus cygnus*  
Scarce winter visitor

Ringstone Edge Reservoir had four birds on 24th March (TP) and 20th November (HBC) and two on 7th November (JED). Possibly the same two were present at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 8 November (MLD, PB) and also at this site three adults flew west on 18th November (MLD, AJW).

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE**      *Anser brachyrhynchus*  
Uncommon to common passage visitor.

One of Elland Gravel Pits on 1st January after which a large movement of birds took place on 3rd and 4th January. On the 3rd, three skeins totalling just under 200 flew west over Lindley Moor and about 100 'grey' geese flew north-west over Penistone. On the 4th, 201 flew west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, approximately 150 flew west over Penistone, two birds were at Casde Dam, Penistone, 200 flew north over Hoyland and 93 west over Elland Gravel Pits. Single birds in the early part of the year were at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 12th January. Scammonden Dam on eight dates between 16th February and 21st March, flying over Crosland Moor on 25th March and 13th April and Bretton Park on 22nd May. Seven birds flew west over Booth Dam Quarry on 8th April. 120 'grey' geese flew north-west over Bretton on 25th February.

In the autumn, 10 early birds were at Blackmoorfoot on 19th September and at the same site 20 'grey' geese flew north-east on 22nd September, 51 flew west on 18th October and one was present on 14th December. At Royd Moor at least 200 flew north-west on 12th October and possibly the same birds were at Broadstones Reservoir on 13th October. Scout Dike Reservoir had a single from 11th to 20th October and 17 flew east here on 22nd October. A single at Millhouse in autumn could refer to the Scout Dike bird, Scammonden Dam had one on 23rd December and birds of dubious origin were at Cannon Hall during the year. At Elland Gravel Pits, 50 flew west on 24th December.

**GREYLAG GOOSE**      *Anser anser*  
Uncommon passage visitor.

On the evening of 25th December, approximately 25 flew west, very low and calling, just above street lights in Meltham. Blackmoorfoot had two on 17th March, one to three were with Canada Geese at Bretton Park on several dates and Cannon Hall saw a maximum of five on 19th January. A feral bird at Elland Gravel Pits from 2nd to 8th June.

**CANADA GOOSE**      *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (2).

This species continues to spread rapidly in Huddersfield, as in other areas and can now be found breeding on most moorland reservoirs and many low-lying areas too. At Bretton Park high counts were approximately 300 on 20th February, 272 on 27th June and around 250 on 10th November. At least 25 young raised here despite population control. Other breeding sites were Winscar Reservoir (6 pairs, 23 young), Deanhead Reservoir (1 pair, 2 young), Coxley Dam (1 pair), Booth Dam (1 pair, unsuccessful), March Haigh Reservoir (1 pair, 3 young), Butterley Reservoir (1 pair), Swellands Reservoir (1 pair), Black Moss Reservoir (4 pairs, 9 young), Wessenden Head Reservoir (2 pairs), Riding Wood Reservoir (1 pair, 2 young), Lower Windleden Reservoir (2 pairs), Harden Reservoir (2 pairs, 2 young), Horbury Wyke (1 pair), Horbury Strands (1 pair) and a few records of smaller numbers at other possible breeding sites.

Autumn numbers at several waters reflected the birds breeding success. Maximum counts were 89 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 20th October, 36 at Gunthwaite on 9th November, 72 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 31st August, 62 at Langsett Reservoir on 11th July, 223 at Cannon Hall on 3rd November, 39 at Scammonden Dam on 24th October and finally, 39 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th September.

**BARNACLE GOOSE**      *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor. Feral birds breeding.

A pair again bred at Bretton Park, rearing two young. One to five birds were present here for most of the year. One bird at Scammonden Dam on four dates between 3rd January and 12th January. Four birds were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th September, two of which had colour rings. Cannon Hall had four birds at various times and is possibly the source of any feral birds, one of which occurred at Elland Gravel Pits on 8th June.

**EGYPTIAN GOOSE**      *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Rare feral visitor

Last year's tame bird re-appeared at Brookfoot Lake on 12th April and from 14th to 19th May. One was seen also at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 16th June.

**SHELDUCK**      *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had a good year with records in January, one on 13th and 17th; March, one on 20th and 21st; May, two on 15th and 23rd; August, two on 27th; September, four on 4th, two on 5th to 7th; October, 17 on 7th, 28 departed west on 8th, four on 11th, three on 12th and 14th, two on 19th; December, three on 3rd, four on 4th, one on 25th and finally three on 29th.

Singles at Elland Gravel Pit on 12th May, Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 30th and 31st October, then three at Langsett on 16th November with singles there on 3rd and 24th December. Other solitary birds at Winscar Reservoir on 3rd and Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 29th December.

**MANDARIN DUCK**      *Aix galericulata*

Rare feral visitor

A female feeding with Mallards on the river near Holmfirth centre on 2nd March and 31st October.

**WIGEON**      *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir One on 7th January, three on 24th February, one on 26th February, three on 30th March and two on 14th April. One summer bird on 13th June. An excellent autumn and winter with one on 29th and 31st August. September had birds on 22 dates with a maximum of 26 on 12th; October had birds on 30 dates with 43 on 7th; November had birds on 27 dates with 16 on 17th; December had birds on 23 dates with a maximum of 8 on 1st.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Four on a February date was the only early record. September and October were the best autumn months with a maximum of 16 in September and 14 on 3rd October. Generally low numbers in late October and November with one on 8th December and 10 on 15th.

One to seven at six other waters with 12 at Deerhill Reservoir on 16th November and at Ringstone Edge Reservoir 48 on 21st September and 25 on 17th November.

**GADWALL**      *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

A male was on Castle Dam, Penistone, on 4th January. A pair in eclipse were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 7th July and the same, or another pair on 16th July. Also at this site, one female type on 16th August and a male on 30th October. Four were at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 14th September with one bird remaining to 21st September.

**TEAL**      *Anas crecca*

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

Generally low numbers in the early part of the year with one to eight birds at ten locations. Exceptions were 14 at Scammonden Dam on 5th January, Bretton Park had 12 on 17th February and 22 on 19th. Scout Dike Reservoir held 35 on 13th January but Royd Moor Reservoir was the best site with 52 on 13th January and 53 on 26th.

Up to nine pairs probably bred at various waters, no information was received on young raised. Numbers were high in autumn and winter especially at the favoured sites. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had birds almost daily from mid-August to the year end with maximum counts of 61 on 8th September, 66 on 5th October and 51 on 11th November. Other high counts were 22 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 23rd October, 37 at Bretton Park on 13th October, 44 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 5th November, 27 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 27th December and 35 at Deerhill Reservoir on 16th November. Also recorded from four other localities.

**MALLARD**     *Anas platyrhynchos*  
Resident breeder (3) Common winter visitor

The highest counts in the early months were at Bretton Park with 83 on 30th January, 194 on 17th February and 186 on 19th February. Other good numbers were 74 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 13th January and 62 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 3rd February.

In autumn, numbers were not high. The maximum at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir was only 52 on 5th September. Bretton Park had a high of 159 on 15th December; 91 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 16th September; 86 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 15th December; at least 140 at Cannon Hall on 3rd November and 73 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 29th November. Small numbers below 30 at several other waters.

**PINTAIL**     *Anas acuta*  
Uncommon passage and winter visitor

A better than average year started off with a male present in the Ingbirchworth area from 1st January to 13th February and a male and female at Royd Moor Reservoir on 19th January. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had a single bird on 24th February.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir saw good autumn numbers starting with one on 7th and 8th July, five on 9th September, three on 13th September, a flock of 42 flew west on 21st September (a record for the club area), seventeen on 22nd September, three on 7th October, one on 24th November and three on 31st December. Three were at Deerhill Reservoir on 12th October and elsewhere singles at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 26th August, Broadstones Reservoir on 15th September and Digley Reservoir on 17th November. Ingbirchworth Reservoir held one to two birds between 13th September and the year end with the exception of four on 21st September. Five were at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 30th October.

**SHOVELER**     *Anas clypeata*  
Uncommon passage and winter visitor

The only record in the early months was two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th March. In what was a poor year for this species Blackmoorfoot Reservoir saw two on 26th August, one on 11th October and four on 26th October. One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 21st September and a pair at Digley Reservoir on 17th November were the only other records.

**POCHARD**     *Aythya ferina*  
Common passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Two to ten birds on fifteen dates in January, one on 23rd February, 21 on 28th February decreasing to two by 3rd March. Low numbers of one to eight birds on 22 dates between 5th August and 23rd November. Things slightly improved with up to 21 birds, on 27th November and 2nd December, up to the year end.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Only reported on five dates in the early months, one to five birds except for 16 on 26th January. Scattered records from September to December with low numbers peaking at only 13 on 15th December.

Bretton Park As with other locations numbers are decreasing. Singles only reported in spring except for 13 on 17th March. Autumn was just as poor with one to seven birds on six dates to the year end.

Scout Dike Reservoir saw records in January, October and November with a maximum of eleven on 27th November. Small numbers, up to six birds, were also reported on occasional dates from Cannon Hall, Boshaw Whams, Scammonden Dam, Hill Top Reservoir, Royd Moor Reservoir and Elland Gravel Pits. Two flew over Crosland Moor on 26th September.

**TUFTED DUCK**     *Aythya fuligula*  
Resident breeder (1) Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Seen daily in every month but February, when present on seven dates. Early maxima of 11 on 13th January and 17 on 2nd March, then usually single figures till late June. No large counts in the second part of the year. 19 on 29th July, 23 on 4th and 12th August and 22 on 14th September were the best.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Present in most months and one pair bred. Highest numbers were 16 on 28th March, 23 on 9th May, 36 on 15th July, 68 on 7th August and 20 on 4th September.

Scout Dike Reservoir Present throughout the year with three pairs breeding. Generally low numbers but 16 on 6th January, 22 plus five young on 1st August and 12 on 15th September.

Bred at Royd Moor Reservoir (one pair), Digley Reservoir (one pair), Coxley Dam (one pair), and possibly four other locations. Recorded at 13 other waters in smaller numbers.

**SCAUP**     *Aythya marila*  
Scarce passage and winter visitor

The first of the year was in the Elland Gravel Pits area from 2nd February to 10th March and two males and a female there on 7th May. A female was also at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd February. A male was at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on most dates between 2nd and 9th May and the same site had a female on 7th July. A female was at Scout Dike Reservoir from 1st to 6th October, a male at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 20th October and a female at Broadstones Reservoir on three dates between 11th and 23rd November was possibly present throughout.

**COMMON SCOTER**     *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, as is often the case with this species, was the best location with a male on 11th June, a pair on 17th and 25th July, a male on 28th August, a female on 22nd and 23rd October, seven on 26th October and a male from 28th to 31st October. The only other record was a male at Broadstones Reservoir on 13th September.

**GOLDENEYE**     *Bucephala clangula*

Regular but uncommon winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir One to four birds on eight dates between 26th January and 3rd March, the maximum being four on 3rd February. The only other spring record was one on 10th May. Recorded on 20 dates from 19th October to year end with a maximum of 12 on 21st October, but normally one to five birds.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Reported January to March and October to December with low numbers except for five on one December date.

Scout Dike Reservoir had similar numbers to Ingbirchworth, with one to five birds between 6th January and 7th May, the maximum of five on the last date. In autumn, one on 23rd October. One to three birds at Ringstone Edge Reservoir up to 20th April and one on 27th October. Birds occasionally at ten other waters, usually one or two only.

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

Rare visitor

A pair at Boshaw Whams on 25th May (JMP), a female on the mill pond at Hinchliffe Mill on 19th July (HQ), a female at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd November (AD) and a female at Langsett Reservoir on 30th December (BBSG).

**GOOSANDER**     *Mergus merganser*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

Elland Gravel Pits Almost daily in January with a maximum of 11 on the 21st, then up to five present till the end of February. Three on 9th November and then regularly to the year end.

Bretton Park Three on 2nd January, two on 3rd January, five redheads on 24th and 25th February and one on 22nd December.

Elsewhere, two at Scammonden Dam on 3rd January; one at Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th January, 2nd November and two on 29th December; two at Langsett Reservoir on 10th March and one on 16th November; one at Cannon Hall on 15th November, one flew west over Booth Wood Reservoir on 28th December and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, four on 29th March, two north-west on 15th October and one on 2nd and 8th December.



**RUDDY DUCK**      *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce visitor

Bretton Park by far the best location with four on 14th April, one on 20th April, a record for the club area of twelve on 30th April, five on 8th May, one on 22nd May, three on 1st July, one on 15th August and one on 15th September. Records scarcer at other waters with Ingbirchworth Reservoir having a male on 21st January and 21st April and a female at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 3rd and 4th March.

**HONEY BUZZARD**      *Fernis apivorus*

Rare visitor

Two records in one year was exceptional for this rare bird of prey. There is a possibility, however, that the same bird was responsible for both records. The first was observed intermittently for 15 minutes between Longley Golf Course and last seen over Fartown on 28th May (TM). A dark phase bird flew north over Elland Gravel Pits on 8th June (NCD, AZ, DP). Fourth and fifth records for the area.

**GOSHAWK**      *Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder and rare visitor

A male at Millhouse Green on 30th December (BBSG) and occasional records from two locations in spring.

**SPARROWHAWK**      *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2)

Recorded in at least 50 areas, probably breeding in 11 of these. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir saw birds on 60 dates in all months but February. One at Crimble Clough on 12th January scattered a group of Waxwings, *Bombycilla garrula*.

**BUZZARD**      *Buteo buteo*

Rare visitor

More records than normal this year with one at Bretton Park on 31st March (BBSG), one east over Kirkheaton on 22nd June (per DH), two west over Elland Gravel Pits on 31st August (NCD, DP) and two drifting east over Hinchliffe Mill, Holmfirth on 6th September (HQ). Single birds reported as 'probably' Buzzard at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 1st September, Denby Dale on 24th September and Dalton Bank on 9th November.

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD**     *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor

A well marked juvenile was seen at Winscar Reservoir on 2nd November (DJS). Eighth record for the area.

**OSPREY**     *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor

An increase in sightings and hopefully a pointer to the future. One low over Cromwell Lake at Elland Gravel Pits on 23rd April (APJ), one flew west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 29th May (TD, CH), one at Langsett Reservoir on 16th June (JW), possibly the same at Yateholme on 18th June (BA, JMD, GBS), one at Inghirchworth Reservoir on 9th July (BP) and finally one drifting south over Hade Edge on 24th August (DH).

**KESTREL**     *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2)

Almost certainly under-recorded with 20 fewer localities than last year reported. Birds were at 52 sites with confirmed breeding of eight pairs and a further eight probably breeding. One of the breeding pairs was at Blackmoorfoot where one to three were seen on 132 dates. Three young were raised here.

**MERLIN**     *Falco columbarius*

Resident breeder (1) and scarce visitor

Birds were seen at four possible breeding locations in early spring and summer but no proof of breeding from any of the sites. One at Broadstones Reservoir on 16th January and 20th September, at Inghirchworth Reservoir one on 10th March, 5th May and 30th May, one at Scout Dike Reservoir on 1st August, one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th August and 5th October, one at nearby Wills O'Nats on 23rd March and 24th October and finally one between Digley Reservoir and Holme on 6th September and 9th November.

**HOBBY**     *Falco subbuteo*

Rare visitor

One at Broadstones Reservoir on 12th September and one at Inghirchworth Reservoir on 19th and 21st September suggests the same bird was in the area for all the sightings (BP, JIM).

**PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus*

Resident breeder (1)

The pair at Booth Dam Quarry, back for the sixth year, raised one female which fledged on 15th June. The RSPB was again present 24 hours during the breeding season, with the site open to the public. Pairs present at two other sites, one of which probably succeeded in raising young. A pair was seen above Hinchliffe Mill on 25th August, one at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 24th and 28th August and a juvenile female (probably from Booth Dam) on 29th September, two in the Langsett/Little Don Valley area between 19th October and 5th November, one at Inghirchworth Reservoir on 11th December and at Broadstones Reservoir a male was seen on 22nd September, 15th October and 27th November.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th October, a female hit a Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*, which fell into the water. The bird flew over the corpse and fished it out. There was also an adult male here on 3rd November.

**RED GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3)

Generally low numbers reported, this being the reason for only two days shooting in the Little Don Valley (BBSG). At this site, two landed approximately 15m up in an old pine tree at the edge of the moor on 19th May and even more unusual was an immature bird at Scout Dike Reservoir from 5th to 9th August (BBSG)

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

Resident breeder (1)

Very few reported this year with one at Almondsbury on 4th January and two there on 5th April, and two at Digley Reservoir on 15th April.

**GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2)

Bred at Thurstonland and Meltham Cop (13 young) and other possible breeding sites with records were Elland Gravel Pits, West Bretton, Norcroft, Scammonden, Lindley Moor, Broadstones, Inghirchworth and Highburton where nine were present on 12th January. One found dead on a pavement at Westbourne Road, Marsh on 21st February was at least one day dead.

**QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce summer visitor Occasional breeder

A quiet year for this species with one at Boshaw Whams on 13th July being the only record (JMP).

**PHEASANT**     *Phasianus colchicus*  
Resident breeder (2-3)

No records of any significance received.

**WATER RAIL**     *Rallus aquaticus*  
Scarce winter visitor

At Elland Gravel Pits, one throughout January and again on 10th February and only one reported from Bretton Park on 23rd November.

**MOORHEN**     *Gallinula chloropus*  
Resident breeder (2-3)

Bred at Thunderbridge, Almondbury, and Bretton Park (at least 6 pairs) and no doubt many other sites. 30 were at Cannon Hall on 10th January.

**COOT**     *Fulica atra*  
Resident breeder (2)

Bretton Park Low numbers in the early part with maximum of 18 on 19th February. 42 on 15th September, 46 on 13th October and at least 55 on 3rd November. At least five pairs bred.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir The maximum for the year only reached 24 during January with only one bird seen during August, October and December due to the very low water levels. Breeding attempts failed.

Bred at Cannon Hall (eight young), Gunthwaite (four young), Royd Moor Reservoir (two young), Scout Dike Reservoir, Coxley Dam, Horbury Wyke, Horbury Strands, Elland Gravel Pits (four young) and at least two pairs at Slate Pits Wood Dam.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had one to four birds on 75 dates between January and October.

**OYSTERCATCHER**     *Haematopus ostralegus*  
Uncommon passage visitor.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir one on 24th March, 17th April, 21st June, 21st July and 12th August with a flock of 13 on 25th July. A single at Broadstones Reservoir on many dates between 11th April and 21st May with two on 1st May. The same, or different birds, at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 6th and 30th May. One at Scout Dike Reservoir on 14th, 16th and 17th August. At Ringstone Edge Reservoir one on 6th May and five on 12th August. Singles, flying over the area at Meltham on 8th, 14th and 27th August; Crosland Moor on 14th August; Booth Dam Quarry on 23rd April, with two west here on 23rd June, and Elland Gravel Pits on 11th May.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**      *Charadrius dubius*

Occasional breeder and scarce summer visitor

After one on 6th May, one to two were present at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir until 28th June. Birds were seen displaying, scrape building and copulating but no eggs were laid. One to two birds were seen at both Ingbirchworth Reservoir and Broadstones Reservoir from 21st and 24th April respectively. Three were at Broadstones Reservoir on 8th May and a pair could have nested in this area. One at Ingbirchworth on 26th July was the last record. A pair nested near Ossett, no details of young, and other birds occurred at Winscar Reservoir on 27th April and two on 12th May, one at Booth Wood Reservoir on 29th May and one at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 17th June.

**RINGED PLOVER**      *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor

At Ingbirchworth Reservoir on unseasonal record, for our area, of one on 22nd February possibly due to cold weather around that time. Singles at the same site on 15th May, 11th and 26th August with two on 13th July. A single at Broadstones Reservoir on 26th and 27th April, three at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 11th August, one at Scout Dike Reservoir on 1st and 12th to 17th August but 10 on 10th August and 9 on 11th August. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir saw birds on 20th May (1), 6th August (2), 11th August (5), 19th August (2) and 20th September (2). An obvious movement of birds occurred on 10th and 11th August, with many also in the Barnsley area at the same time (BBSG).

**DOTTEREL**      *Charadrius morinellus*

Scarce passage visitor

Two at Broadstones road in ploughed fields on 6th and 7th May (MCW et al).

**GOLDEN PLOVER**      *Pluvialis apricaria*

Migrant breeder (2) Common passage and winter visitor

A few January records from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with 120 on 26th, Ringstone Edge Reservoir with 108 on 12th, five flew west Lindley Moor on 7th and about 40 roosting on Meltham Moor on 29th. The only February records were small numbers at Ringstone Edge.

The usual build-up during March led to some good numbers at a few sites in April. At Ringstone Edge, 250+ on 30th March peaking at 495+ on 2nd April; Flouch Inn, Langsett, 120 on 4th March built up to approximately 600 on 29th April (the vast majority 'Northern'); Broadstones Reservoir, 242 on 16th April falling to 43 by 27th April; Wills O'Nats, 160 on 11th April; Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had a disappointing high of about 110 in late March falling to 60 on 11th April.

Autumn numbers were poor, listed are the popular locations and their maximum numbers. Blackmoorfoot, 216 on 27th October; Ringstone Edge Reservoir, 50 on 7th October; Broadstones, 123 on 13th July and Ingbirchworth, 102 on 21st July. Birds remained at Blackmoorfoot and Ringstone Edge in November and December, at Blackmoorfoot there was 186 on 3rd November falling off by mid-month and 25-30 on two dates in December. Ringstone Edge had a maximum of 25 on 27th December.

**GREY PLOVER**      *Piuvialis squatarola*

Rare passage visitor

An excellent year for this species with one at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 2nd March (KP, HSS) and 21st September (PG, HSS), one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 23rd September (BP) and 23rd October (JED) with three there on 8th October (BP). Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had a single on 22nd and 23rd September which increased to three from 24th to 27th. (TP, MLD et al).

**LAPWING**      *Vanellus vanellus*

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

Birds well scattered in the area in January with fairly low maxima of 150 at Ingbirchworth, 220 on 3rd at Ringstone Edge Reservoir and 260 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st. Lower numbers were present in February and the highest March count was 100 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on the 12th. Numbers rapidly fell and many pairs were in territory at various locations from about 21st March. 50 to 60 pairs bred around the Ingbirchworth group of Reservoirs giving an idea of densities in suitable locations.

The usual build-up began from mid-June leading to high counts for Ringstone Edge Reservoir and the Broadstones area but numbers down slightly from last year for Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. At Ringstone Edge Reservoir, around 600 on 26th July and 639 on 4th August. Broadstones built up from 446 on 8th July to approximately 2500 on 27th July and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir the high numbers were 600 on 20th July, 850 on 26th August, 797 on 26th September, 327 on 3rd October, 297 on 2nd November and 210 on 24th December.

**KNOT**      *Calidris canutus*

Rare passage visitor

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th September (MLD, DMO).

**SANDERLING**      *Calidris alba*

Rare passage visitor

Three at Scout Dike Reservoir on 10th August. (JIM, BBSG).

**CURLEW SANDPIPER**      *Calidris ferruginea*

Rare passage visitor

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 10th September (MLD et al).

**PURPLE SANDPIPER**      *Calidris maritima*

Rare passage visitor

One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 14th October (BP). Sixth record for the area.

**DUNLIN**      *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1-2) Uncommon passage visitor

The first bird was at Ingbirchworth Reservoir from 25th to 27th April, with singles on two other May dates. Present on 11 dates between 28th September and 3rd November at the same site, with ten birds on 28th September and 1st October and 12 present on 2nd October. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir seen on many dates from 5th May to 3rd November with reasonably high October maxima of 10 on 3rd, 18 on 27th and 11 on 29th. Birds also flew west on 18th November (18) and 25th December (1). A good autumn passage at Scout Dike Reservoir between 14th July and 23rd October, mainly 1-7 birds, but eight on 30th September and twelve on 2nd October.

No reports were received from breeding areas except for song heard at Ringstone Edge Reservoir, where singles were present from 18th May. One at Royd Moor Reservoir on 1st November.

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**      *Tryngites subruficollis*

Rare visitor

One was on the North shore of Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 18th September. It was lost after only five minutes when flushed by a Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone*, and never relocated. (J.E.D.). The fourth record for the area. Accepted by YNU.

**RUFF**      *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor

An exceptional year, with the highest number of bird days ever. In the spring, one at Broadstones Reservoir on 15th April and at Whitley Common on 18th April. In the autumn, one at Broadstones on 1st August, one at Ringstone Edge Reservoir from 8th to 11th August, one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 25th August and 15th October and one at Royd Moor Reservoir on 28th September. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir one on 7th August and then 1-4 almost daily from 18th August to 17th September. Finally, two at Scout Dike Reservoir from 4th to 25th September with three present on the 10th and 17th.

**JACK SNIFE**      *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

One at Deer Hill on 4th January (TD) and singles at Elland Gravel Pits on 14th and 19th January, 2nd and 3rd February and 23rd and 31st December (HBC).

**SNIPE**      *Gallinago gallinago*  
Resident breeder (1-2) Common passage and winter visitor

In January, three at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on the 12th and one at Scapegoat Hill on the 15th. Frozen conditions in early and mid-February led to records at Hinchliffe Mill on 8th (1), the River Don at Penistone on 10th (6), Scapegoat Hill on 10th (4) and two flushed from a roadside gutter in Meltham on 11th

Displaying birds at Wessenden Head, Whitley Common, Langsett, Digley and near Scammonden. In autumn, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had birds daily from mid-August to end of November with maximum counts of 47 on 30th October and 44 on 3rd November. Maximum elsewhere of 22 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 5th September, 14 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 30th August, and 21 at Elland Gravel Pits on 14th September.

**WOODCOCK**      *Scolopax rusticola*  
Resident breeder (2) Uncommon winter visitor

Early reports of singles in January from Elland Gravel Pits on 1st and Deer Hill on 4th and 8th. In March singles at Oxygrains Beck on 16th and Digley on 31st. Roding birds in the summer months were at Yateholme (1+), Stocksmoor Common (1) and Deffer Wood (4).

A probable migrant, associated with large thrush movements over Huddersfield, tried to land at a garden pond on Scapegoat Hill on 23rd October. Other records to the year end were singles at Lower Fell Greave Wood on 9th November, Beestones Wood on 22nd December and Elland Gravel Pits on 23rd December.

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT**      *Limosa lapponica*  
Scarce passage visitor

One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 22nd February (BP), 29th and 30th September (SP, JJ et al) and 5th October (RD and SEH). Five flew west at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th July (MLD).

**WHIMBREL**      *Numenius phaseopus*  
Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

The only spring records were singles, possibly the same, at Broadstones Reservoir on 7th and 9th May. The first of the autumn was one at Scout Dike Reservoir on 22nd July followed by one at Ingbirchworth on 28th July (with five juvenile Curlews, *Numenius arquata*) and 10 flew South-west over Meltham on 28th August.



**CURLEW**      *Numerius arquata*  
Migrant breeder (2) Common passage visitor

The first birds appeared on 9th March with two at Tinker Hill, and one at Broadstones Reservoir with another nine sites having birds by the end of the month. Scammonden had the maximum, one bird less than last year's pre-breeding flock, of 41 on 21st March. A pale, possibly leucistic bird was at Ingbirchworth and Broadstones on 23rd April.

Breeding probably took place in at least 16 areas, several with three pairs or more. Five juveniles were at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 28th July, five flew south at Scout Dike Reservoir on 21st September and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir one to five on many dates with seven West on 21st August the maximum. A late record here of one on 8th October and at Langsett one flew west on 11th December.

**SPOTTED REDSHANK**      *Tringa erythropus*  
Rare to scarce passage visitor

One at Scout Dike Reservoir on 22nd August (NP) and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th August (MLD, AJW).

**REDSHANK**      *Tringa totanus*  
Migrant breeder (1) Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had the first of the spring on 10th March and another single on 16th. Only seven singles here between 18th July and 27th October. Bred at Broadstones Reservoir, Winscar Reservoir (two pairs) and possibly three other locations.

One at Scout Dike Reservoir on 12th August and then a series of records from here, Broadstones Reservoir and Ingbirchworth Reservoir of one to three birds between 15th October and 25th December, with the maximum of three at Scout Dike on 24th December. Bretton Park also had December singles on 2nd and 6th.

**GREENSHANK**      *Tringa nebularia*  
Uncommon passage visitor

At Broadstones Reservoir, an early single on 29th June with another on 1st August. Scout Dike Reservoir had one on 27th July and then one or two between 7th and 23rd August. Singles at Ringstone Edge Reservoir, in August, on 14th, 20th and 27th. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir one on 31st July, one on 19th, 24th and 28th August and from 30th August till 4th September, two on 29th August and a maximum of three on 27th August. The only other record was two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 11th August.

**GREEN SANDPIPER**      *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

An excellent year for this species started with spring singles at Gunthwaite Dam on 17th March, Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 25th and 26th April and Elland Gravel Pits on 3rd May. Scout Dike Reservoir was by far the best site in autumn with one from 14th to 28th July, one to three from 7th to 23rd August, two on 4th September and one from 21st September to 4th November. There were one or two records from Royd Moor Reservoir and Broadstones during the autumn which were most probably Scout Dike birds. The last Scout Dike bird could well have been the one seen at Gunthwaite Dam on several dates from 23rd November to the year end. Other records were singles at Bretton Park on 1st September and Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 11th and 30th August.

**WOOD SANDPIPER**      *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage visitor

One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 1st June (JMP) and one at Scout Dike Reservoir on 18th September (NP).

**COMMON SANDPIPER**      *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first were three at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 24th April and one at Booth Wood Dam on 26th April. Brod at Broadstones Reservoir, Winscar Reservoir (3 pairs), Lower Windleden Reservoir (2 pairs), Harden Reservoir, Langsett Reservoir (2 pairs), Snailsden Reservoir, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and probably bred at Ingbirchworth Reservoir, Ringstone Edge Reservoir, Cupworth Reservoir, Deer Hill Reservoir and possibly at nine other sites. Maximum counts were seven at Booth Wood Dam on 5th May, five at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 29th June and seven at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 14th August. The last was at Scout Dike Reservoir on 14th September.

**TURNSTONE**      *Arenaria interpres*

Scarce passage visitor

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th August departed north (TC, PB).

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL**      *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

A first-winter bird at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 4th January (JMP) and an adult there from 9th to 11th March (MLD, JMP). A second-winter was at Scout Dike Reservoir on 1st October (NP).

**LITTLE GULL**     *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor

One coming out of first winter plumage at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 7th May (JED, NP, BP) and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir an adult on 24th July (MLD, DMO) and another on 29th October (MLD).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL**     *Larus ridibundus*

Resident breeder (1) Numerous passage and winter visitor.

With no early counts at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir the maximum in the early months were 1600+ roosting at Langsett Reservoir on 19th January, 300 at Broadstones Reservoir on 10th March and 330 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on the same date. A pair nested at Horbury Wyke, but not successfully and four adults showing territorial behaviour were at Little Black Moss in the summer.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir numbers built up from 41 on 30th June to 4300 on 24th November. High counts for other waters were 427 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 27th July, 242 at Broadstones Reservoir on 1st August, 350+ at Ingbirchworth Reservoir during November and 550 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 9th December. During mild weather on 25th November, a first winter bird was feeding on scraps at the front of the Railway Station in the Town Centre at 0710 hours, long before any sign of light.

**RING-BILLED GULL**     *Larus delawarensis*

Rare visitor

An adult bird was observed for 10 minutes at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on the evening of 24th April. It was in the company of two Common Gulls, *L. canus*. (NP). Third record for the area. Accepted by YNU.

**COMMON GULL**     *Larus canus*

Common winter and passage visitor

No specific counts at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir till the latter half of the year when the maximum was a fairly low 380 on 24th November. Also roosting at Langsett Reservoir with around 200 there on 19th January. The only other record of note was 215 at Scammonden Dam during late morning at 20th November.

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

Common passage and winter visitor

Exceptionally high numbers noted at several sites in the autumn led to near record numbers. Up to mid-June no location exceeded twenty birds.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir saw monthly maxima of 46 on 25th July, 154 on 29th August, 422 on 20th September, at least 930 on 22nd October falling sharply to 127 on 17th November and 11 on 8th December. At Broadstones Reservoir numbers rose sharply in August with approximately 300 on the 14th, numbers continued to rise and there was possibly over 1,000 present on 12th September, with 400 on 22nd October. At Langsen Reservoir there were 200 on 18th June and 18th August, 300 on 1st September, 500 on 13th September and around 600 roosting on 9th November. Winscar Reservoir had around 600 birds at mid-day on 14th August, so it would seem there were large flocks of birds moving freely in the Langsett/Ingbirchworth areas.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *Lf. intermedius* at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, one on 27th January, three on 1st November and one on 8th December; one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 1st April; one at Broadstones Reservoir on 18th August and two at Whitley Common on 30th December.

Birds of the race *Lf. fuscus* at Scout Dike Reservoir on 9th December (two) and one at Royd Moor Reservoir on the same date. (BBSG).

**HERRING GULL**     *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor

No early counts at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with numbers quickly falling after 21 on 2nd March. The only spring birds after March were three on 1st April and one on 26th May. The first of the autumn was a single on 29th July with numbers not picking up till 19th October when there were 18. Monthly maxima to year end was 38 on 22nd November and 194 on 25th December. In the latter months some work was carried out on separating the races '*argenteus*' and '*argentatus*' in the roost and it would seem the majority, possibly up to 75%, are the Scandinavian '*argentatus*' (PB).

At Langsett Reservoir around 400 roosted on 19th January and Ingbirchworth Reservoir had a maximum of 140 in December.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *L.a. michahellis* were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th August (sub-adult) and on 25th and 26th August, and one at Broadstones Reservoir on 15th October.

**ICELAND GULL**     *Larus glaucooides*

Scarce winter visitor

A third winter at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st January (MLD, JMP et al) and an adult flew west at Elland Gravel Pits on 23rd December (TM).

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

Common winter visitor

Lower numbers than recent years at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with an early maximum of 92 on 6th January. With the reservoir frozen for much of February, the only record was three on 24th and then only single birds in March on 2nd and 26th. Birds were absent till one on 11th August and then single figure counts after 28th September. Numbers slowly built up to 24 on 22nd November and 141 on 29th December.

Other locations with reasonable numbers were Langsett Reservoir, 80 roosting on 19th January; and Elland Gravel Pits with on 60 on 6th January.

**KITTIWAKE**     *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce passage visitor

All records were spring adults with the first at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 18th March. At Booth Wood Reservoir on 3rd April, one from the morning was joined in the afternoon by a second bird, with both birds flying west shortly after. One flew west at Broadstones Reservoir on 11th May and one over the Little Don Valley the next day.

**COMMON TERN**     *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage visitor

Singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 7th and 30th May, one west at Booth Dam Quarry on 21st May and three throughout the day at Elland Gravel Pits on 31st May.

At Bretton Park a pair were seen for much of the breeding season. With birds breeding at Pugney's, just outside our area and only four miles from Bretton, this is a potential breeder in the club area. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had one from 5th to 8th June, with three on the 6th and then single adults on 11th and 16th August and single immatures on 13th and 27th September. The only other record was an immature at Scout Dike Reservoir on 27th July. Birds either this or the next species were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th May (1), 29th May (8) and 20th June (2).

**ARCTIC TERN**     *Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon passage visitor

In the spring Ingbirchworth Reservoir had two on 27th April and 2nd May and one to three birds during 5th May. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had five on 20th May and a single on 13th June. The only autumn record was an immature at Scout Dike Reservoir on 21st September.

**BLACK TERN**      *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage visitor

One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 29th May (DMP) and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir seven adults on 31st July (MLD, DMO, AJW) and an immature on 27th September (MLD, DMO).

**FERAL PIGEON**      *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3)

No records of any significance.

**STOCK DOVE**      *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (2)

A large flock of about 70 birds flew north-east over Scapegoat Hill on 10th February during very cold weather. Other high numbers in the early months were 18 at Broadstones on 17th March and 36 at Ingbirchworth on 2nd April. As last year, reported from 15 localities all of which are possible breeding areas.

**WOODPIGEON**      *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4) Numerous winter visitor

Numbers continued high from December of 1990 with, at Blackmoorfoot, 480 North on 1st January and 450 in Orange Wood on 13th January. Over Lindley Moor 250 south-west on 6th and 380 south on 11th January. Molly Carr Woods had around 300 on 11th January, 175 at Booth Dam on 12th January.

After 123 at Elland Gravel Pits on 2nd February and 100 at Wilshaw on 30th June, no large numbers were reported to the year end.

**COLLARED DOVE**      *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3)

Notable flocks were 50 at Elland Gravel Pits on 9th January and in November at Cannon Hall there were 42 on 3rd and 69 on 14th.

**TURTLE DOVE**      *Streptopelia turtur*

Migrant breeder (1)

Only one record this year of one at Silkstone Common on 2nd June (NP).

**RING-NECKED PARAKEET**      *Psittacula krameri*

Rare feral visitor

One seen regularly in the Lumb Lane area of Almondbury from summer to mid-winter (DS and Mrs VAI).

**CUCKOO**      *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first was one at Windy Bank Wood on 28th April with males following at Scammonden on 9th May, Digley on 11th May and Almondbury on 13th May. Arrived at another five sites between 16th and 26th May. With only 11 sites in total this species is probably under-recorded. None recorded after June.

**BARN OWL**      *Tyto alba*

Former resident breeder

The only definite record was one in car headlights at Cawthorne on 30th December. (BBSG). A hard bird to pin down in our area.

**LITTLE OWL**      *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred at Quarmby, Highburton, Lindley Moor and Cubley. Birds probably nested at Almondbury, Booth Dam Quarry, Scammonden, Digley and Ossett. Recorded from another ten sites, all suitable breeding areas.

**TAWNY OWL**      *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred at Boothroyd Wood, Bretton Park (at least two), Quarmby, Cannon Hall, Hinchliffe Mill and Big Valley. Recorded from another seven sites during the breeding season.

**LONG-EARED OWL**      *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1)

Two pairs raised young in the area, one at a previously known site and another at a new location.

**SHORT-EARED OWL**     *Asio flammeus*  
Resident/migrant breeder (1) Scarce winter/passage visitor

As last year, few records received. One over Diggle on 11th March, one at Holme Moss on 12th April, one near Digley on 25th August and possibly the same bird in fields to the west of Blackmoorfoot on the same date. A pair were feeding young at a site to the south of the area.

**SWIFT**     *Apus apus*  
Migrant breeder (3)

This species arrived back early at several sites with one at Elland Gravel Pits and three at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 25th April, one on 26th April and six on 27th April at the latter site. Also on 27th April there were two at Scout Dike Reservoir and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. The general arrival of numbers was between 5th and 16th May on which date there were at least 250 at Ingbirchworth.

Breeding sites noted were St Luke's Hospital and a mill in Almondbury, though there must be many more.

At Booth Dam Quarry, 70 flew west during 30th June, approximately 200 at Crosland Moor on 27th July and then migrating birds at many locations in August which dried out with two at Blackmoorfoot and one at Lindley on 28th. The last was a single at Blackmoorfoot on 6th September.

**KINGFISHER**     *Alcedo atthis*  
Resident breeder (1)

Poorly recorded. One at Tunnel End, Marsden on 1st January. One pair bred at Bretton Park and probably did so at Elland Gravel Pits which had sightings on 22 dates. There were several records, throughout the year, around the River Holme between Lockwood and Armitage Bridge, one was at Gunthwaite Dam on 31st July and in the Aspley - Kings Mill Lane area there were singles on 8th August and 25th October and two on 6th December.

**HOOPOE**     *Upupa epops*  
Rare visitor

One frequented an Emley garden from 16th to 23rd May (per Mrs Harrap). News of this record unfortunately only broke when the finder contacted the local RSPB office to find out how to attract it back!

**GREEN WOODPECKER**     *Picus viridis*  
Resident breeder (1)

No proof of breeding success, but strongly suspected at Bretton Park, near Langsett and Elland Gravel Pits. Breeding season reports were received from another eight sites and winter sightings from a further seven locations.



**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER**      *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred at Meltham (2), Fixby, Beaumont Park, Almondbury and Armitage Bridge and probably at Bretton Park and Elland Gravel Pits. Recorded from another nine locations in the breeding season and around ten different ones during the winter months when it is often seen in gardens.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER**      *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1)

Possible breeding at Bretton Park, where one or two birds were seen throughout the year and a maximum of four on 10th March, and Cliff Wood at Langsett. Birds seen in spring and summer at Molly Carr Woods, Mag Wood and Brookfoot. Other sightings were one at Silkstone on 4th February, one near Greenhead Park on 14th December, one in a garden at Ossett on 25th December and one at Smith Wood on 26th December.

**SKYLARK**      *Alauda arvensis*

Resident breeder (3-4)

Birds were noted back around breeding areas from 17th February. The only records of any note were 54 flying south in one flock at Blackmoorfoot on 5th October and at least 35 at Crosland Hill on 6th October.

**SAND MARTIN**      *Riparia riparia*

Migrant, rare breeder

Sadly, a poor year especially in autumn with only two records. All records received are listed. Bretton Park had the first with two on 31st March and then ten on 2nd and six on 7th April. There were 17 at Dewsbury S.F. on 2nd April, at Elland Gravel Pits one on 23rd April and two on 3rd May. At Ingbirchworth Reservoir in April, four on 9th, one on 10th and four on 23rd and, in May, two on 2nd and one on 5th. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had April records of two on 11th, four on 17th and two on 21st and the only autumn records of one on 8th and three on 19th August.

**SWALLOW**      *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4) Numerous passage visitor

The first, and quite early, were three at Bretton Park on 2nd April followed by one at Ingbirchworth on 4th, one at Booth Wood Reservoir on 6th and a single, again at Bretton, on 7th and 8th. The main arrival was from 10th April onwards with high spring counts of 100 at Bretton Park on 30th April, at least 130 at Blackmoorfoot on 4th May and about 200 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 7th May.

As usual, birds were seen well into October with 50 at Holmebridge on the 5th, and thinning out to the last records at Blackmoorfoot of four south on 16th and one south on 20th.

**HOUSE MARTIN**     *Delichon urbica*  
Migrant breeder (3)

Two at Bretton Park on 8th April were the equal earliest ever for the area. These were followed by singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 10th, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 13th, Digley on 14th and two at Bretton Park on the same date. Many sites saw their first birds on 27th April and spring maxima were approximately 120 at Ingbirchworth on 16th May and 44 at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd June.

In the peak passage months of August and September high counts were 150 at Bretton Park on 15th August, 60 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 1st September and at least 180 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 3rd September. Birds were at several sites until 5th October but the only record after this was one at Penistone on 18th October.

**TREE PIPIT**     *Anthus trivialis*  
Migrant breeder (2-3)

Little Don Valley had the first one on 11th April, then one at Silkstone on 26th April. Birds were well distributed from the first and second weeks in May. Singing males were recorded in 16 locations, involving at least 29 birds, during the breeding season. No records were received after late June. Details of birds at some known sites were lacking this year so this picture is not complete.

**MEADOW PIPIT**     *Anthus pratensis*  
Resident breeder (4-5) Partial migrant

Birds recorded at several low-lying sites in the early part of the year, mainly small numbers but up to 20 at Wills O'Nats throughout and 65 at Horbury S.E. on 13th February. After a slow build-up birds were well distributed by the end of March and in all areas by April. A large passage of over 200 birds flew through the valley at Booth Dam Quarry on 3rd April.

At Scammonden there were at least 50 on 4th August, 60 on 18th September, 43 (mainly flying west) on 2nd October and one on 29th November. Seven were at Longwood Edge on 26th December.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL**     *Motacilla flava*  
Migrant breeder (1)

A very poor year for this species with no breeding records. In May, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had singles on 4th, 6th, 15th and 18th. One male at Booth Dam Quarry on 1st June and one at Boshaw Whams on 10th June.

The only autumn records were singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th and 30th August, Crosland Heath Golf Club on 30th August and Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 13th September.

**GREY WAGTAIL**     *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding only confirmed at Thornhill with one pair but was suspected at many of the 16 other sites where birds were seen in spring and summer. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had one or two birds on 26 dates between 10th June, and 28th December, but mainly in August and September.

**PIED WAGTAIL**     *Motacilla alba*

Resident breeder (3)

In the first three months birds were roosting in trees near the Civic Centre and built-up from, approximately, 180 on 14th January to a maximum of 320 on 31st January and 3rd February. 170 were still roosting on 17th March. In the autumn-winter months only single birds were heard calling and could have been roosting on rooftops. Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had a maximum of 55 on 22nd September, 30 were on rooftops in Queen Street south on 29th October, and at least 30 on filter beds at Brockholes S.F. on 31st December.

Birds showing characteristics of white wagtail *M.a. alba* at Booth Dam Quarry on 3rd and 7th April, Ingbirchworth on 18th, 21st (2), 28th April and 14th May, and at Whitley Common on 23rd April.

**WAXWING**     *Bombycilla garrulus*

Uncommon winter visitor

Justifying its place on the cover of the report this superb bird was seen by a majority of club members in one of the best years ever for the species in the area. In the early months the favourite areas were Lockwood, which had a maximum of 47 on 24th February. Aspley/Folly Hall saw up to 28 birds on many dates between 8th February and as late as 29th April (11), and Wooldale with up to 20 between 13th January and 26th February. Birds were seen at another 11 sites, usually for no more than two days, the maximum being 21 at Marsh and 25 at Yateholme on 2nd March. At Lindley, 13 were present on 23rd and 24th March - a photograph of which (showing 11 birds) was published in the Huddersfield Daily Examiner on 27th March.

Late autumn records started with one at Middlestown on 24th November, 4-11 at Elland from 29th November to year end and one at Coxley Valley on 4th December. Many birds, with total numbers involved difficult to estimate, were seen in the Aspley, Old Leeds Road, Sports Centre and Fire Station areas from 4th December to the year end. Maximum flocks included, at Old Leeds Road, 56 on 14th and 42 on 26th December. 20-30 birds were recorded almost daily during this period.

**DIPPER**     *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred at Oxygrains Beck, Booth Dean Clough, Thunder Bridge and Meltham Bar, and probably at Black Brook and Butterly Reservoir. Seen at another two locations during the breeding season. In the winter months at various locations outside their breeding areas including one on canal at Slaithwaite on 6th January, one at Castle Dam on 22nd February and one on the River Colne at the ICI works on 17th November.

**WREN**      *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
Resident breeder (4)

**DUNNOCK**      *Prunello modularis*  
Resident breeder (3)

**ROBIN**      *Erithacus rubecula*  
Resident breeder (4-5)

No records of significance for the above three species.

**BLACK REDSTART**      *Phoenicurus ochruros*  
Rare visitor

A sub-adult male was on wall tops to the north of Digley Reservoir on 25th May (TM).

**REDSTART**      *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
Migrant breeder (2)

Records well down, possibly due to some previous known locations not checked. The first was a male at Windy Bank Wood on 6th May, where two were present on 27th. Four pairs were in the Little Don Valley and one at Langsett Filters. Otherwise only seen in the summer of Gregory Spring Wood and Digley.

Migrant birds in August at Scout Dike Reservoir on 12th, Lindley Moor on 20th and Ingbirchworth on 25th (2). The last was one on the canal bank near the Polytechnic on 26th September.

**WHINCHAT**      *Saxicola rubetra*  
Migrant breeder (2)

As with the previous species records down with several known sites not visited or reported from. The first was one at Deerhill on 5th May and then two at Scammonden Dam on 9th. Scammonden is certainly a stronghold of this species with possibly five pairs here and at nearby Deanhead. Also bred at Deerhill and seen on odd dates at Broadstones, Oxygrains Beck and Booth Dam Quarry. The last record was one at Scammonden on 16th September.

**STONECHAT**     *Saxicola torquata*  
Occasional breeder (1) Scarce passage and winter visitor

In January, birds were seen at Deerhill on 15th (male), 22nd and 28th (pair); Broadstones Reservoir on 13th (1), and Oxygrains Beck on 15th (female).

Late autumn/winter birds started with a male at Cubley on 12th October, then a pair at Winscar from 22nd October to at least 9th November, a pair at Oxygrains Beck on 5th November and finally a female at Broadstones on 7th December.

**WHEATEAR**     *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
Migrant breeder (2)

After the first, an early bird, at Whitley Common on 14th March, records were scarce to the month end with one at Booth Dam Quarry from 26th and Scammonden from 30th. Birds returned to many sites between 10th and 14th April and reported breeding at Broadstones, Oxygrains Beck, Deanhead Reservoir, Marsden, Booth Dam Quarry, Winscar, Lower Windleden Reservoir, Upper Windleden Reservoir (two pairs), Langsett village and Ringstone Edge Reservoir. Possible breeding occurred at another five locations.

Birds probably at the Greenland race *O.a. leucarrhoa* reported by several observers in the Broadstones area from 20th to 24th May with one on 20th, a loose party of 11 on 22nd, 10 on 23rd and three on 24th. On the last date four were in nearby Spicer House Lane.

The last records were singles in September at Leeds Road Playing Fields on 2nd and Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 18th.

**RING OUZEL**     *Turdus torquatus*  
Migrant breeder (2)

The earliest ever for the club area was recorded, a male at Booth Dam Quarry on 8th March. Other migrant males were seen here on 5th and 13th April and 8th May. After the early bird, Digley had singles on 24th and 30th March. No breeding proof but probably bred at Wessenden, Dovestones, Little Don Valley and the Digley area where there could be three or more pairs. The only late record was of a female or immature at Scout Dike Reservoir on 19th October.

**BLACKBIRD**     *Turdus merula*  
Resident breeder (5) Numerous winter visitor

No records of significance.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor Occasional breeder

Many areas had birds in early January, with some passage. 120 were in fields at Lindley Moor on 2nd in addition to over 200 flying west, up to 350 in the Penistone/Oxspring area and several sites with over 100 birds. During the cold spell in February the picture was totally different with only a handful of records, usually single figures. Good numbers were back in the area by mid-March with maximum counts of about 800 at Cubley on 11th, 400 at Royd Moor Reservoir and 250 west at Whitley Common on 17th and 150 at Ingbirchworth on 20th. April birds at four locations, many in fine summer plumage, with the last being 21 at Highburton on 30th.

During South-easterly winds which produced passage of thousands on the East Coast, many hundreds passed over Huddersfield between 19th and 25th October in particular. After a single at Blackmoorfoot on 18th, birds flying west at the same site were 194 on 19th, 392 on 20th, 53 on 21st and 62 on 25th. Langsett had 300 west on 19th and Scammonden had 175 on 24th. Apart from 80 south-west at Crosland Moor on 4th November and 95 at Blackmoorfoot on 29th December, numbers were generally less than 30 and reported from only a few areas, after the initial good numbers in October.

**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

Resident breeder (4)

No records of significance.

**REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor

Recorded in quite a few locations in January, usually less than 25 birds with the exception of 63 at Blackmoorfoot on 1st and over 50 at Pighill Wood on 30th. With snow and freezing conditions, up to nine birds were feeding in gardens, between 8th and 12th February, at Lindley Moor, Marsh, Dalton and Holmbridge. Five were also seen at the Civic Centre on most dates, 10th to 15th February, otherwise birds seemed very scarce throughout February and early March. The few reports received for March were six at Greenhead Park on 12th, five at Scammonden on 16th and at Blackmoorfoot, 18 on 16th and three on 17th.

A little later than normal birds were at four sites between Crosland Moor and Blackmoorfoot on 13th October, with 17 at the latter. Small numbers below 25 occurred until, on 20th October a strong westerly movement took place with 200 at Langsett and 159 at Blackmoorfoot. Birds continued to pass through up to early November, mainly under 25 birds but 50 at Cannon Hall and 36 at Crosland Hill on 22nd October. Very few reported in late November and December, usually single figures but 30 at Cannon Hall on 9th December.

**MISTLE THRUSH**      *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (2)

Flock numbers generally low with 20 at Crosland Hill on 12th January, 24 at Deer Hill Reservoir on 19th August and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, in September, 22 on 8th and at least 40 on 28th. The only other record of note was 11 on the Sports Centre roof on 15th December.

**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**      *Locustella naevia*

Occasional migrant breeder

One singing at Stockmoor YWT Reserve on 25th April (GC). Another at Middlestown was present from late April to June and breeding was suspected (JG et al). A pair were seen in a scrub field at Kirkheaton from 27th July to about 8th August, reeling was heard frequently until nearby fields were mowed on the last date (RW).

**SEDGE WARBLER**      *Acrocephalus schoenobanus*

Migrant breeder (1)

After one at Elland Gravel Pits on 6th May, migrants were noted at Blackmoorfoot on 10th, Ingbirchworth on 22nd, an Almondbury garden for two hours on 25th and Digley on 27th.

Breeding took place at Elland Gravel Pits, where food carrying was seen and the maximum was at least five on 24th May; Scout Dike Reservoir with at least two pairs and almost certainly Horbury where four males were singing in the breeding season. No late records.

**REED WARBLER**      *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare passage migrant

At Horbury Wyke a male was present throughout the breeding season and possibly bred (DP). Otherwise, one singing at Elland Gravel Pits on 19th June (PG) and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 25th August (BBSG).

**LESSER WHITETHROAT**      *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1)

A much better showing this year with singing males at Silkstone on 26th April and 9th May, Brookfoot from 12th to 25th May, in a garden at Ossett on 20th June and at Calder Grove and Horbury Bridge during the breeding season.

On 13th July, one flew into a window at Scissett and was killed. It was sent to the local RSPB office for identification. At least two were calling in the usual area behind Forest Road, Dalton on 26th July with birds also present here from late August to early September. Other late records, all August birds, were singles at Ossett S.F. on 4th, Ingbirchworth on 25th and Scout Dike Reservoir on 30th.

**WHITETHROAT**     *Sylvia communis*  
Migrant breeder (2)

Elland Gravel Pits had the first on 4th May, where they built up to five males on 23rd and seven on 26th May. Other migrants in May were at Booth Dam Quarry on 14th and Netherton Fold on 25th. Bred at Elland Gravel Pits and Ossett S.F. and almost certainly at Horbury (four males), Stocksmoor Common, Brickyard Plantation at Bretton and possibly at two other sites. The last record was one at Scout Dike Reservoir on 22nd August.

**GARDEN WARBLER**     *Sylvia borin*  
Migrant breeder (2)

A very early bird was at Digley Bottom Wood at 12th April. The next was a migrant at Winscar on 28th April and then a male at Silkstone S.F. on 9th May. Males singing in the breeding season at Elland Gravel Pits (two young seen), Bretton Park (3), Deffer Wood (3+), Booth Dean Clough, Coxley Valley (3) Stocksmoor Common, Horbury and Brickyard Plantation near Bretton. Singing males on odd dates at another five possible breeding areas.

Two late records, both in September, with one at Elland on 5th and two to the west of Slaithwaite by canal on 24th.

**BLACKCAP**     *Sylvia atricapilla*  
Migrant breeder (2-3) Scarce winter visitor

In the early months, single males were feeding in gardens at Horbury on 31st January and 1st February and at Netherton from 4th February to 22nd March. The bulk of birds arrived back from mid-April with a total of 53 singing males reported in the breeding season, with some locations unchecked.

After birds at Lockwood Brewery on 7th September and Crosland Heath Golf Club on 13th October, wintering males were in gardens at Middlestown on 24th November and 4th December and Meltham on 8th and 20th to 27th December.

**WOOD WARBLER**     *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*  
Migrant breeder (1-2)

One at Royd House Wood, near Farnley Tyas, on 9th May was the first, followed quickly by singing males at Bretton park on 11th, Digley Bottom Wood (2) and Coxley Valley (2) on 12th. The only confirmed breeding was at Langsett Filters but birds probably bred at Digley Bottom Wood, Hoyland Bank, Little Don Valley and Windy Bank Wood. Singing males on single dates at three other localities in May. No records received after June.



**CHIFFCHAFF**      *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder (2) Scarce winter visitor

No winter records so the first arrivals were typically mid to late March. One at Elland Gravel Pits on 17th, 22nd and 23rd, two at Bretton Park on 24th, one at Mount on 29th and at Deffer Wood from 31st. A total of 30 singing males in the breeding season was a very similar total to last year.

Passage birds in September, all singles, were at Blackmoorfoot on 5th and 9th, and in a Netherton garden on 26th. The last was at Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th October.

**WILLOW WARBLER**      *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (3-4)

One at Blackmoorfoot and Bretton Park on 11th April with singles the next day at Meltham, Booth Dean Clough and Royd Moor. Birds were at many sites between 13th and 18th April and widespread by the latter date.

August passage birds at Lindley Moor on 4th, 23rd (2) and 26th (2). No ringing took place at Blackmoorfoot this autumn due to Mike Dentou's unfortunate accident, although birds were seen at this site into September, with two on 1st and 2nd, and one from 3rd to 10th and 12th to 13th. The last was one at Scout Dike Reservoir on 17th September.

**GOLDCREST**      *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (2-3) Common passage visitor

The only record of interest was 12 at Elland Gravel Pits on 16th January. No evidence of spring or autumn passage, probably due to under-recording.

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER**      *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder (2)

Seen at only three sites in May with singles at Booth Dam on 14th, Whitley Lower on 23rd and Rishworth Lodge Plantations on 28th. Less records this year with some areas not watched. Bred at Blackmoorfoot, Ingbirchworth, near Langsett and Crosland Moor and possibly at five more sites. Only one record from Bretton Park on 4th June, a former stronghold where it is now scarce.

Late birds were at five locations up to the end of August and then a very late bird at Oakes on 6th October.

**PIED FLYCATCHER**     *Ficedula hypoleuca*  
Migrant breeder (1)

Another good year for this species. The first was a female at Booth Dean Clough on 21st April and then a male at Windy Bank Wood on 26th. At the latter site two pairs bred and a further male was singing. Three pairs bred at Cliffe Wood, Langsett with two pairs raising 13 young and the third deserted young at about four days old. Also in the Langsett area, pairs were located at North America Wood and Little Don Valley but outcome unknown. Pairs were seen on odd dates in May at Holme and Gunthwaite Dam and a male was seen near a likely nest hole at Cliffe Wood, Brockholes on 6th May. No late records.

**LONG-TAILED TIT**     *Aegithalos caudatus*  
Resident breeder (2)

The best flocks in the early months were approximately. 15 at Elland Gravel Pits on 5th January and 20 at Bretton on 30th January and 3rd February. Breeding at 12 sites and seen in the breeding season at another 15.

At least 20 were on the ICI site at Leeds Road on 13th November and 30 in the Little Don Valley on 20th November.

**WILLOW TIT**     *Parus montanus*  
Resident breeder (2)

Proof of breeding from Woodsome Valley only but pairs seen in the breeding season at Horbury, Coxley Valley, Stocksmoor Common, Hoyland Bank Wood, Silkstone S.F., Bretton Park and Scout Dike. A bird fed on nuts in a Meltham garden daily until March.

**COAL TIT**     *Parus ater*  
Resident breeder (3)

Regularly seen in the winter months at five gardens in the area, and in several others during post-breeding dispersal which is typically late August to October. No flocks or outstanding breeding records reported.

**BLUE TIT**     *Parus caeruleus*  
Resident breeder (5)

No records of significance.

**GREAT TIT**     *Parus major*  
Resident breeder (4)

No records of significance.

**NUTHATCH**     *Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder (1)

No fledged young seen, but almost certainly bred at Windy Bank Wood, Cannon Hall, Beaumont Park and Cliffe Wood, Langsett. There were sightings at Bretton Park in the winter months but no breeding evidence. Other records were three at Oakes on 18th August and one feeding on peanuts in a Fixby garden on 30th October.

**TREECREEPER**     *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Heavily under-recorded. Several pairs bred at Bretton Park and reported from only another six probable breeding sites. Occasional garden bird in the winter months at Thick Hollins, near Windy Bank Wood and one date at Blackmoorfoot.

**JAY**     *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2)

Juveniles seen at Scammonden in August and reported from another six possible breeding areas. A typical increase in sightings from September to November, generally single figures but at least 16 in the Upper and Lower Fell Greave Wood on 9th November.

**MAGPIE**     *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4)

Roosting birds in the winter months reported from three areas. At Shaw Wood, 124 on 9th and 86 on 30th January, Blackmoorfoot had 34 on 22nd and 71 on 23rd February and at Dungeon Mill, Lockwood, at least 75 on 31st December.

**NUTCRACKER**     *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

Rare visitor.

A bird thought to be this species was watched for one hour in a Fixby garden on 27th October (per Mr Murphy) and was searched for in surrounding areas in the following days. It was finally located on 9th November when it was seen briefly at 0830 hours and for 30 minutes from 1600 hours (JER). Despite many people's efforts, the bird was never re-located. Discounting an old, unsatisfactory record of 1870, this is the first for the club area.

Under consideration by appropriate records committees.

**JACKDAW**     *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4)

Flocks of note were on the tip at Elland Gravel Pits with 180 on 6th January and on 5th February around 300 landed on the Police Station, Town Centre at 0715 hours. A bird at Crosland Heath on 7th October was mottled white and grey throughout save for a dark grey crown, pure white tertials, vent and undertail coverts. Eyes, wings and tail appeared normal (MLD).

**ROOK**     *Corvus faugilegus*

Resident breeder (5)

No work done on rookeries but flocks noted at Broadstones, with 2,000 on 7th and 1,500 on 8th June and at Kingstone Edge Reservoir at least 270 feeding on freshly cut fields on 17th and 21st July.

**CARRION CROW**     *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (3)

The only flocks of over 20 birds were 60 at Elland Gravel Pits on 6th January and 40 at Deer Hill Reservoir on 24th September. One with white bases to primaries at Blackmoorfoot on 4th December.

**STARLING**     *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (5) Numerous winter visitor

The only flock of any note was 4,500 at Broadstones on 8th June.

**HOUSE SPARROW**     *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5)

No records of significance.

**TREE SPARROW**     *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding proof hard to come by but up to eight birds at Elland Gravel Pits during the year, at Almondbury three on 5th and four on 13th February and birds wintering on a chicken farm at Middlestown with a maximum of 12 on 17th February. Other records were one at Bretton Park on 19th February, three at Scout Dike Reservoir on 27th April and two during April and May at Ingbirchworth Reservoir.

**CHAFFINCH**     *Fringilla coelebs*  
Resident breeder (4) Numerous winter visitor

Numbers built up at Bretton Park from 60 on 30th January to 150 on 4th February and to several hundred (possibly up to 1,000) on 6th February. Elsewhere, numbers much less, with at least 50 at Digley Bottom Wood on 20th February and 40 at Yateholme on 14th April being the maximum.

**BRAMBLING**     *Fringilla montifringilla*  
Uncommon to common winter visitor

Up to 70 were at Deer Hill between 3rd and 10th January and between 20 and 40 at Digley Bottom on 6th and 12th January. This increased to at least 80 on 22nd and birds lingered into April here with two seen displaying on 12th. Blackmoorfoot had singles on 13th and 21st January and a single was in a Holmebridge Garden on 1st February. Windy Bank Wood and nearby areas held birds from 6th February to a late female on 28th April with a maximum of 60 on the last date. Bretton Park had approximately 50 on 6th and 8 on 13th February and between one and ten were at Mag Wood from 10th February to 24th March. Generally scarce in March but in April, apart from those mentioned, 10 on 7th and five on 14th at Langsett and three at Rishworth Lodge Plantation on 7th.

In the autumn and winter, birds were very scarce. After several were heard in Greenhead Park on 15th October, two at Langsett on 20th, one at Blackmoorfoot on 28th and another on 10th November. Birds in gardens were a pair at Linthwaite on 14th and a female at Meltham from 25th to 27th December. The only other record was a male at Digley Bottom on 15th December.

**GREENFINCH**     *Carduelis chloris*  
Resident breeder (4)

Birds were roosting in the Fixby/Grimescar area with 73 on 19th February and 43 on 4th March, other wise low numbers reported mainly from nut-feeders in gardens in the winter months. Approximately 30 were at Cannon Hall on 31st March.

**GOLDFINCH**     *Carduelis carduelis*  
Resident breeder (2-3)

In the early months, maximum counts were 34 at Litherop Lane, Bretton, on 17th March and 17 at Outlane Golf Club on 30th March.

Reasonable flocks in autumn with over 50 near Wills O'Nats on 4th October and no doubt the same birds at Blackmoorfoot a few days later feeding on thistles in the south-west corner, 53 were present on 7th and 10th October. Around 50 were also at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 19th October. Recorded from another seven areas, but less than 12 birds.

**SISKIN**     *Carduelis spinus*  
Resident breeder (1) Uncommon winter visitor

At least 20 at Elland Gravel Pits on 27th January, 40 over Digley Bottom Woods on 20th February, around 30 at Yatcholme on 16th and 25th March, 50 at Swinden Plantation on 17th March and 20 at Deffer Wood on 31st March. Regularly visited at least six gardens in February and March, up to five birds present.

Birds in the breeding season present at North America Wood, Swinden Plantation, Yatcholme and Deffer Woods.

Many birds were seen flying over the area, particularly in September and October, with 24 south-west at Meltham on 27th August; 20 west at Lindley Moor on 19th September and 16 west at Scammonden on 2nd October but Blackmoorfoot was by far the best location. After two on 14th July, a total of 155 flew south on 21 dates between 6th September and 19th October with the maximum count being 33 on 8th September. The only notable winter flocks were 20 at North America Wood on 24th November and 30 at Bretton Park on 15th December.

**LINNET**     *Carduelis cannabina*  
Resident breeder (3) Partial migrant

The only early winter record was 20 at Elland Gravel Pits on 9th January. At least 30 were at Ingbirchworth on 10th May and after the breeding season the best autumn flocks were 55 near Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 27th July and around 60 at Whitley Common on 3rd and Crosland Hill on 5th October.

**TWITE**     *Carduelis flavirostris*  
Resident and partial migrant breeder (2-3)

In February, 12 at Ingbirchworth on 24th and one at Elland Gravel Pits on 26th. More generally built up from mid-March with eight at Whitley Common on 10th and 42 at Booth Dam Quarry on 12th where up to 80 were present till grass burning on 24th April.

Reported in the breeding season from Booth Dam Quarry (two pairs bred), Deer Hill, Oxygrains Beck, Deanhead Reservoir and Scammonden.

Autumn maxima were 55 at Scammonden on 25th August, over 80 at Deer Hill on 26th September and 27 west at Blackmoorfoot on 25th October which was also the last record.

**REDPOLL**     *Carduelis flammea*  
Resident breeder (2) Uncommon winter visitor

Several early records with, in January, one in a Highburton garden on 6th, one at Silkstone S.F. on 10th and 14 at Elland Gravel Pits on 18th. Six were at Lockwood Bar on 3rd February and the best flock of the year, over 50, was at Langsett on 17th February.

Present during the breeding season at Elland Gravel Pits, Booth Dam, Holme, Yateholme and Scammonden. As with siskin, *Carduelis spinus*, some passage noted over the area mainly from August to October. At Meltham, 13 flew east on 14th August and Blackmoorfoot was again the main site with a total of 32 birds on 14 dates between 21st July and 5th November, the maximum being 10 south on 25th September. The last bird noted was a single at Yateholme on 23rd November.

**CROSSBILL**     *Loxia curvirostra*  
Irregular breeder (1) Uncommon passage visitor

Good numbers in the early months at three locations. At North America Woods, Langsett, 30 on 30th January and at least 60 on 19th February. One pair bred here and juveniles were seen on 15th April. Ten were also here on 5th May. At nearby Swinden Plantation, in March, about 25 on the 13th, 33 on 17th and, in April, 60 on the 14th. At least one pair bred in this area. Yateholme was the other main area with a singing male on several March dates, 15 on 13th March and 26 at Riding Wood Reservoir on 16th March. Birds could have bred in this area as calls were heard at nearby Brownhill Reservoir on 18th June. Other spring records were six at Scammonden on 5th March, calls heard at Deffer Wood on 30th March and one west at Booth Dam Quarry on 26th May.

Much scarcer in the second half of the year with the majority of birds flying over Blackmoorfoot; three north-west on 18th and two north on 22nd July, eight north on 14th October and approximately 60 north in one flock on 16th November. The only other records were a single overhead at Penistone on 14th August and two at Winsear on 8th November.

**BULLFINCH**     *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*  
Resident breeder (2)

Nine at Seammonden on 8th January and 18 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 9th December were the maximum counts. In the breeding season birds were reported from only nine probable breeding areas and must be under-recorded.

**HAWFINCH**     *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*  
Scarce to uncommon visitor

At Cannon Hall, two on 31st March (DBy, SH, TP) and at Bretton Park, two on 28th April and in December, three on 7th and two on 14th (WNS, RH and MAW).

**SNOW BUNTING**      *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce winter visitor

Ten flew west over Crosland Heath Golf course on 11th February (SP, JJ) and one was flushed near the main car park at Scammonden Dam on 28th February (JED).

**YELLOWHAMMER**      *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3)

No large flocks reported but 10-12 feeding with Greenfinches, *Carduelis chloris*, in the Upper Holme Valley on 2nd February was unusual for that area. One feeding on a bird table at Almondbury on 9th February during very cold weather.

**REED BUNTING**      *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident breeder (2)

Several early winter birds in the area with three visiting a bird-table in Penistone during January, one at Ingbirchworth on 10th January and at Deer Hill Reservoir, in January, seven on 26th, eight on 28th and then two on 16th February and 23rd March.

Breeding pairs or singing males at Ingbirchworth (three), Elland Gravel Pits (two), Cannon Hall, Broadstones Reservoir (2), Scammonden (3), Royd Moor Reservoir (2), Scout Dike Reservoir (7), Hey Head Wood, Oxygrains Bridge and Blackmoorfoot. Birds absent after October records at Blackmoorfoot, of singles, on 13th and 20th and three at Winscar Reservoir on 22nd.

**CORN BUNTING**      *Miliaria calandra*

Resident breeder (1)

After no reports in 1990, a few were received this year. One at Ingbirchworth on 16th April and a male singing at nearby Whitley Common on 13th May (BBSG). A singing male plus one other bird near Kirkheaton on 28th April (JMD).



# LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS 1991

With apologies for any omissions.

B. ARMITAGE  
J. BAXTER  
A. BLOWER  
P. & MRS B BRAY  
D.W. BRIERLEY  
D. BYWATER  
T. CANTWELL  
G. CARR  
B. COCKING  
B.J. COOPER  
J.E. & MRS S. M. DALE  
J. M. DALE  
N.C. DAWTRY  
A. & MRS J DEAN  
M.L. DENTON  
MR & MRS DYSON  
T. DUCKWORTH  
R. ELLIOTT  
K. FAWCETT  
D. FINNIS (N.T.)  
A. FISHER  
J. FISHER  
G. FRANCE  
J. GARBUTT  
MISS GOTHARD  
P. GRBA  
D. HALL  
MRS HARRAP  
D. HAWKES  
R. HEALEY  
A. HETHERINGTON  
S. HEY  
R.D. & MRS S.E. HOLLOWBY  
C. HORNE  
A. HOYLE  
D.S. & MRS V.A. IVES  
J. JEMMISON  
A.P. JOSEPHS (Airedale RSPB)

S. KNELL  
M.R. LANGSTON  
J. LITTLEWOOD  
D. MANCHESTER  
J. MANCHESTER  
J.I. MARTIN  
T. MELLING  
MRS M. MURPHY  
D. M. OWEN  
N. E. PARKER  
B. PENISTONE  
T. PIGGOTT  
J.M. PINDER  
D.M. POGSON  
S. POGSON  
D. PREST  
D. PROCTOR  
H. QUARTERMAN  
D. SHORE  
P.J.W. SMITH  
S. SMITH  
D.J. STANDRING  
D. SYKES  
J. THURMAN  
M. TUNMORE  
J.M. TURTON  
A.J. WAINSCOAT  
J. M. WALKER  
M. WATSON  
R. WELBURN  
M.C. WELLS  
D.J. WILLIAMSON  
R.H. & M. A. WRIGHT  
DR D.W. VALDEN  
A. ZABUKAS

BARNESLEY BIRD STUDY GROUP  
HALIFAX BIRDWATCHERS CLUB  
HALIFAX SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY  
RSPB  
WAKEFIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

# FIELD TRIPS REPORT 1991

## 20 January 1991 Fairburn Ings & Blacktoft Sands

Fairburn Ings  
Blacktoft Sands

0900-1230  
1345-1630

Weather: Quite mild with sunny periods, mainly dry but with some light drizzle developing late in the afternoon. Winds light, f-3 SW. Visibility: Good.

Both reserves were generally quiet, with little out of the ordinary — but both areas had their 'specialities' on the day, which were sought after, and for the most part, found. These added the icing on the cake to what was, I believe, quite a good day's outing. On any trip, different birds are 'special' to different people and each person enjoys different birds differently; this is surely part of the appeal of our hobby (mania?)

At Fairburn Ings most people were successful in obtaining good views of the various **Smews** that were on the water. They were not difficult to see as much of the water was iced over, and birds were concentrated in a relatively small area around the feeding station and in an area of Village Bay, not all of which was ice-free. A male and female, on open water, in bright sunshine, looked really beautiful! Besides these two there was certainly one, and possibly a second, 'red-head'.

Many people were less successful in obtaining satisfactory views of the two **Waxwings** that were feeding in association with **Fieldfares** and **Redwings** on the still plentiful hawthorn berries in scrub along Cut Lane. Still fewer saw the **Kingfisher**, or the **Water Rails** at Lin Dyke, or the **Water Pipit** on the flood meadows between the information centre and the Village Bay.

Other birds of interest included species such as **Grey Partridge** (4-5), **Sparrowhawk** (1m) [Evidence of a recent kill came in the guise of a decapitated **Song Thrush**, whose liver had been removed but little else eaten], **Goosander** (5m 4-6f), **Gadwall** (2-3), along with one solitary **Whooper Swan**.

Blacktoft Sands had visibly less birds, and memories of our last Club visit here came flooding back! The first two hours spent here seemed very dull, with little to occupy us save **Shovelers** and one or two **Teal**. Very shortly after our arrival I had heard **Bearded Tit** calling, but I did not manage to locate any until shortly before dusk, when a party of four were seen flitting over the reed-tops. In mid-afternoon, a fine drizzle began to fall and some little wind had sprung up, which does not help at all when trying to locate this particular bird.

From four o'clock onwards the picture changed dramatically, with sightings of **Barn Owl**, and both male and 'ring-tail' **Hen Harriers**. There was one memorable incident when the hunting **Barn Owl** was forced down into the reed-swamp by a **Harrier**, which must have felt its territory was being infringed, perhaps. The **Harrier** remained hovering over the **Owl** for perhaps twenty seconds or so before drifting away and allowing the **Owl** to reappear, and beat a hasty retreat. Both were seen again subsequently.

Other raptors observed here today included **Sparrowhawk**, **Kestrel** and a male **Merlin**, which was seen at rest on one of the several wooden posts dotted about here and there in the reed-swamp beyond the lagoons.

As we were leaving a **Short-eared Owl** was to be seen in flight over the reeds and parties of **Goldfinches** were settling down to roost in the hawthorn hedgerows alongside the reception hut and car-parks.

## 24 February 1991 Morecambe Bay

Weather: Dry and for the most part, with some sunshine. It was very mild and winds were fresh, south-westerly and rising in the afternoon; becoming a little cooler. Visibility good, after early mists.

Five localities were visited during the course of the day, as follows:

**Hest Bank Salt Marsh** (90 mins) is arguably the best high tide wader roost on the Bay, with spectacular numbers especially in winter and spring. It is said to be best on a 25'-28' tide.

**Morecambe Stone Jetty** (45 mins) is an excellent watching site for sea-duck, especially Mergansers, and some sea-birds, and is best visited on a flowing or ebbing tide.

**Heysham Harbour (North Wall)** and the **outflow channel from Heysham Nuclear Power Station** (90 mins) is a good area for **Purple Sandpiper** usually, but we failed to find them here. We visited the area in the hope of finding **Little Gull**, and in that we were successful.

**Middleton Salt Marsh** was visited but we did not remain there, as parking facilities for the coach were unsuitable at the car park and nearby on-road parking was impractical. Besides, a quick look over the area showed the sea well over half a mile away and the salt marsh had the appearance of being empty. We felt that we should be better served spending more time at our last port of call, which was to be

**Sunderland point** (90 mins) which is noted as an excellent low water feeding site for waders, for gulls and for some wildfowl. All are visible from the road and from the Point itself, but the road is covered by the sea on most tides (so consult tide tables before setting out).

Over the area as a whole, a total of 62 species were recorded on the day, comprising in part of 11 species of wildfowl, 14 species of wader and 7 species of gull.

A single Red-Throated Diver was identified out to sea off the Stone jetty. In the same area there was a suggestion of a Great-Northern Diver but this was not confirmed. Here also, were up to 5 great crested grebes, plus another different individual, very far out, whose identity was not determined.

Wildfowl numbers might be more easily expressed in the form of a table.

	Hest Bank	Stone Jetty	Heysham Outflow	Sunderland Point
Mute Swan				c50
Whooper/Bewicks				c15
Shelduck	c10	5-6	3-4	6
Wigeon	154			c200+
Teal				2
Pintail				2m
Goldeneye	mf			8m
Red-breasted Merganser			2m	3m
Goosander				2m
Mallard				c40

Any estimation of wader numbers in the area(s) visited that I might make would be a fruitless exercise. Disregarding two huge clouds of waders - probably **Knot** - observed in the distance from Heysham Power

Station, in descending order of abundance, species recorded were **Oystercatcher**, **Black-tailed godwit** (60/HB 4/ST 40/SP), **Curlew**, **Lapwing**, **Dunlin**, **Redshank**, **Turnstone**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** (2/HB 15/SP), **Golden Plover**, **Grey Plover** (3/HO), **Ringed Plover**, **Knot** (3/SJ), **Greenshank** (2/SP), **Snipe**.

[These numbers are my own estimation: other observers may well disagree, but they serve sufficiently to illustrate the relative abundance of wader species on the bay at this time.]

The gulls were as might have been expected, with **Black-headed Gulls** and **Herring Gulls** being the most abundant species. I was surprised by (what I thought was) the unusually high numbers on **Great Black-backs**, which were to be found at all four localities, which was also the case to a smaller degree with **Lessers**.

(My own observations of) common gulls were restricted to only a few birds over the hot-water outflow at **Heysham power station**, no doubt others were overlooked!

We were pleased to find imm **Little gnlls**, associating with **Black-headed**s, at rest on the foreshore and in the air over the **Outflow channel**. One was certainly present, with every possibility of a second bird also. It came as a surprise to find **Kittiwake** (1 imm) here.

Over the **Outflow Channel**, where warm water (how warm?) is discharged from the **Nuclear Power Station**, into the obviously much colder water of the **Irish Sea**, many gulls were constantly on the wing, individuals very frequently dipping down into the water. We wondered just what they were actually doing, as very few were seen to be feeding. The question was raised as to what the actual food content of this warmer water might be at the discharge point? There was a great deal of water vapour rising over the outflow which at times made observations difficult. At length it was suggested, albeit somewhat flippantly, but it might not be far from the truth, that the birds were simply using the 'hot' water and the steam to warm themselves!

## **24 March 1991 Hornsea Mere & Flamborough Head**

Weather: Dry, with some sun and quite mild; winds 3-4 South-westerly. Visibility: good.

### **Hornsea Mere**

**Hornsea Mere** was visited in the morning, before moving on to **Flamborough Head** in mid-afternoon and finishing off the day there.

Eleven species of wildfowl were recorded: with the exception of **Bean Goose**, where one individual had joined 3 **Pink-feet**, associating with part of the resident flock of **Grey-lags** grazing farmland adjacent to the **Mere**, there was little out of the ordinary. Numbers of all species observed were quite high and comprised, in addition to the above, **Mute Swan**, **Canada Goose**, **Wigeon**, **Mallard**, **Pochard**, **Tufted Duck** and **Goldeneye**, the last whose numbers reached in excess of c150 birds.

A single grey male **Sparrowhawk** was seen in flight across the **Mere** on one occasion. It overflew a party of **Wigeon** and **Goldeneye**, sending them scattering in all directions, before alighting in nearby willow carr. I find it hard to think that this bird could have even considered taking a duck of this size - conceivably a female might have managed it, but hardly a male!

The wooded areas held most of, if not all, the expected passerine species, those that might be associated with this habitat. There were no surprises other than the fact that we failed to find any early summer-migrants [we had hoped for **Chiffchaff**, possibly an early **Wheatear**, but it did not happen]. The most

noteworthy passerine species which turned up proved to be **Marsh Tit** (identified by voice), and on the lakeside, in proximity to the Reception Hut and the Cafe, we had the good fortune to identify 3 **White Wagtails** *M.a.alba* from amongst a small party of the nominals Race **Pied Wagtail** *M.a.yarrellii*.

## **Flamborough Head**

We had originally planned to go to **Barmston Beach** after our visit to the above locality, but we were advised by Hornsea Mere's warden, Trevor Charlton, from that we would probably be wasting our time, as little had been reported from that locality that might

merit a visit, and so a last-minute change of plan brought us here instead.

We had been told that there was a good chance of finding **Black Redstart** in the area around the 'walled garden' by the Old Lighthouse. The bird was indeed found to be in that locality by those who sought it, but it needed patience, as the bird was frequently down on the ground, for long periods, hidden from view, on the opposite side of the wall from our viewing position at the roadside.

Waders were in short supply, with only **Purple Sandpiper** (6), **Oystercatcher**, **Turnstone** (1) and **Redshank** (4) being observed. This was not surprising on this particular stretch of coastline.

Sea-birds were much more abundant, with large numbers being observed of **Fulmar**, **Gannet**, **Cormorant**, **Shag**, gulls, and especially auks.

I was surprised (should I have been?) at the large numbers of auks that had apparently returned to the breeding colony. All three common species - **Guillemot**, **Razorbill** and **Puffin** - were present in force. Some had certainly been expected, but no-one, I am sure, had quite expected them like this.

**Kittiwake** was probably the most numerous gull species, with many thousands on the cliff ledges and in the air.

## **21 April 1991 Leighton Moss Nature Reserve Centre, Silverdale, North Lancs**

Weather: Mainly dry, with some sunshine, and an occasional shower, but it was unseasonably cold, with winds 3-4, North-westerly. Visibility: good.

Our coach suffered a mishap on the motorway whilst 'en route' to our destination and we were forced to wait with as much patience as we could muster the 1½ hours it took for a relief coach to come out from Halifax before we could resume our journey. This delay meant that we had to cancel the visit to our intended first port of call - Woodwell - and head straight in to Leighton Moss. As it was, we did not arrive until after 1130; we in turn delayed our departure time by up to an hour, but it never did quite seem to make up for the late start.

With a total of 75 species observed in the area on the day, the area would have appeared to live up to expectations, but it became obvious that, despite the reasonable total, the overall number of birds in the area was well down on previous years. Whilst most, if not all, of the expected species were represented by some individuals within the area, these were the fore-runners of the main populations, which had not yet arrived. Actually, it came as a surprise when, at the end of the day, when the tally was made, the total proved to be so high.

Included in this total were 13 species of wildfowl (which does not include the pair of **Garganey's** that were supposed to be on the reserve but which I do not believe were seen by anyone in our party), 4 species

of raptor, 7 species of wader (which does include 8 summer-dressed **Black-tailed Godwits**) and all 3 species of the common hirundines, a single female **Redstart** and singing males of 5 species of warbler, all of which, with the exception of **Willow Warbler** were far from numerous on the day.

The area's 'speciality' birds - **Bittern** (heard 'booming' - I know of no-one who actually saw a bird), **Marsh Harrier** (currently attempting to breed here yet again - wonderful views of birds of both sexes over prolonged periods of time as the birds quartered the reed-swamp over the nest site) and **Bearded Tit** (1-2 pairs from several sites on the fringes of the reed-swamp) were noted by most of the participants on the trip.

## 21 May 1991 Delamere Forest, Cheshire

Weather: Very warm and sunny: no wind. Visibility: good. This was a better day, weather-wise, than we have had for quite some time.

Though the forest is basically coniferous, there are also large areas of mixed woodland, areas of broad-leaved woodland, areas of mixed scrub with many of the characteristics of lowland heath, other areas of re-afforestation, where silver birch is an important constituent tree-species and bracken and heather are dominant ground-cover species.

In addition, there are several small 'meres' within the confines of the forest's boundaries. Whilst these do not hold the bird populations of other similar-sized Cheshire meres they do open up other habitats for the forest's birds to exploit.

Consequently, the forest is home to a wide range of coniferous and broad-leaved woodland passerines, and is also able to support some species of heathland and wetland species in addition.

With 40 species observed in the area, I felt that we ought to have done better. With the benefit of hindsight, perhaps it might have been better had the trip been held later in the month, but certainly the unseasonably cold weather of late has had much to do with keeping the summer migrant populations out of many areas of the country.

Having said all that, there was still plenty to hold our interest. All three **Woodpeckers** were recorded, **Great Spotted** in some numbers and with a degree of regularity and we had good views of a pair of **Lesser Spotted's** at what was probably a nest site.

On the heathy scrub **Tree pipit** was recorded - though, whilst some claimed to have found the bird to be quite abundant, others found it to be rather elusive.

Five species of warbler were recorded, but generally numbers were low, and as these birds, as a family were intended to provide the 'raison d'être' behind the visit, this proved a major disappointment.

We can console ourselves with the fact that we did manage to obtain views, and good views as well, of several singing male **Wood Warblers**, which counts for something.

Other important members of the Delamere avifauna that we obtained good views of were **Pied Flycatcher** - at least 4-5 males - and **Nuthatches** - which were so numerous that I quite lost count of them all. Within the broad-leaved woodland sections this latter species was ubiquitous.

Last word goes to yet another speciality of the area, though not everyone managed to find them. This was **Crossbill**. Small parties of possibly up to 10 (?) birds were seen in one or two sites in mature

Scots/Canadian Pine plantation.

These birds proved elusive, highly noticeable at one time, calling incessantly, they would become silent, and have completely disappeared at the next. That the birds were regular feeders at these sites was attested to by the amount of debris at the base of the trees. Finding Crossbill-handled cones is probably the easiest method of finding these birds!

## 22 September 1991 Spurn Point and Observatory

Weather: Dry and warm in the sunshine, but otherwise quite cool and quite breezy, with winds blustery, fresh South-westerly. Visibility: good.

Everyone tends to come to Spurn in the Autumn with high expectations of falls of rare passage migrant passerines moving through the hedgerows along the lanes and lurking in the buckthorn scrub along the peninsula and, of course, a couple of hours or so sea-watching in the afternoon is sure to give up good numbers of passage sea-birds close in off Kilnsea Cliff or the Narrow Neck, not to mention the long lists of rarer waders that we are sure to locate feeding on the exposed areas of estuarine mud. Added to this, now that the new hides have been opened overlooking scrapes in the Canal Zone and on the new Beacon Ponds Reserve, well - the lists are just going to get bigger and bigger!

Sometimes, something approaching this happy state of affairs almost happens here, but much more frequently, the reality of the situation will be rather less. For several years and recently, with our trips, the first scenario held: last year's was something less and so was this.

The group as a whole, recorded 75 species, but with only a few exceptions, the list was rather unimpressive and birds in general over the whole area were thin on the ground.

Sea-watching was by far and away the most productive area of activity and observers were rewarded with views of **Sooty Shearwater** (2), **Manx Shearwater** (2), **Pomarine** (1) and **Arctic Skuas** (20+). There were at least 9 species of wildfowl, **Wigeon** and **Common Scoter** being the most abundant.

16 species of wader in the area included **Sanderling** (c10), **Curlew Sandpiper** (1), **Whimbrel** (1) and **Common Sandpiper** (1).

10 species of gulls and terns were recorded: here easily the "best" birds were a pair of **Little Tern** seen over the sea, moving south, off Kilnsea.

Migrant passerines, whilst in no way plentiful, were not entirely absent, with highlights coming from **Swift** (2), **Whinchat** (1), **Wheatear** (2), all along the peninsula. **Whitethroat** (1) near the reserve gates and **Twite** (2) along the Beacon Lane.

## 20 October 1991 South Landing, Flamborough and Flamborough Head

**South Landing: Flamborough**  
**Flamborough Head**

1020-1300  
1310-1700

Weather: Dry and sunny at first but with heavy (short-lived) rain around early afternoon, after which ever-thickening clouds built up, at times impairing visibility. Winds cold, North-westerly, strengthening 5-6. Visibility: for the most part, good.

Information obtained from "Bird Line" (and other sources) held the prospect of a good day's bird-watching, both for sea-birds over the sea from Flamborough Head and for passerines, for which the scrubby areas of the ravine at South Landing ought to be examined.

Consequently, we decided to make South Landing our first port of call. Immediately on our arrival (in the car park there), a large gathering of bird-watchers on the edge of the scrub woodlands told us that a "twit" was on and we knew that they must be on to the **Desert Warbler** that had first put in an appearance about a week ago. It was seen very easily.

It was very active, showing itself frequently and was really identifiable. Everyone was able to get good views and seemingly for as long as one wanted, which is not always the case, by any means, with these rare passage warblers. The **Desert Warbler** is an extremely rare bird, accidental in this country and is, arguably, one of the rarest birds encountered on our trips.

With this bird safely tucked under our belts we had a look at the other birds which were everywhere in and over the scrub-filled ravine. Most numerous were the large parties of **Redwing**, with some **Fieldfares**, that were continuously passing overhead, along with many others that stopped to feed in the hawthorns. Some of us, though not all, were fortunate in dropping on a female **Scarlet Rosefinch**, which put in a brief appearance in the same area as a pair of **Blackcaps**, but equally abruptly seemed to disappear again. Here also were late **Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff**. Many people were actively checking through all the many **Blackbirds**, which abounded in the ravine, looking for **Ring Ouzel** and some were rewarded with at least one, possibly two, birds of this species. A single male **Brambling** also occurred and it was nice to see **Yellowhammers** in such numbers as were present (up to c20+). Overflying the ravine, very brief appearances were put in by both **Peregrine Falcon** and **Merlin**.

Sea-watching (from the foot of the ravine) produced sightings of up to c100 each of **Little Auk** - mostly in flight but also several down on the sea close in-shore - and **Common Scoter** and at least one **Glaucous Gull**, joining the crowds of other gulls in the air, following the half-dozen small boats filled with sea-anglers about 200 yards from the shore.

Moving on to Flamborough Head in the afternoon we went searching for the **Great Grey Sbrike** that was inhabiting an area of hawthorn hedgerows in the general vicinity of "Big Hedge". Here we were hit by heavy rain and the bird, glimpsed briefly from the coach on our way in, seemed to have disappeared. After the rain had cleared, some amongst those who returned to the site were successful in turning it up.

Sea-watching from the headland produced an undetermined number of **Red-throated Divers**, in addition to which some of our party also identified at least two **Great Northern's**. Up to 4 **Great Crested Grebes** were on the sea, along with 1 **Red-necked Grebe** and 1 **Slavonian**.

Wildfowl were represented by 13 species: perhaps the most noteworthy here being **Pintail** (3), **Shoveler** (4), **Eider** (4), **Long-tailed Duck** (2), an unexpected **Goldeneye** (1) and **Red-breasted Merganser** (2).

Single birds each (I believe) of both **Arctic Skua** and **Great Skua**: this is in marked contrast to the figures for yesterday quoted on "Bird-Line" of c200 **Pomarine Skuas** and 450+ **Long-tailed**. But that was yesterday and today is another day - and that is the name of the game!

I heard of a **Short-eared Owl** being seen, but I have no other details regarding that bird. **Black Redstart** was again reported from the vicinity of the "Walled Garden" nearby the "Old Lighthouse" and I heard also of a (female) **Redstart** being turned up in the vicinity of "Big Hedge" but the final word goes to the party of c10 **Corn Buntings** that were seen in flight over cliff-top grassland adjacent to the **Trinity House Light**, followed a few minutes later by, would you believe, a **Woodcock**!



On the day - from both areas - by the group, a total of 90 species were reported.

## 24 November 1991 Filey Bay & Brigg

Weather: Dry but rather dull and overcast, with a low cloud ceiling that foretold an early dusk. A cold wind, not strong but steady, from the North-East. Visibility good to fair.

For the last trip of our '91 programme we chose to visit Filey. The bird-watching from this rocky outcrop jutting out far into the North Sea, whilst at some times quite spectacular, is always interesting and well worth the visit.

An earlier 'phone call to 'Bird-line' told us to keep an eye open for Grey Phalarope which had been reported from the Brigg area only the previous (Saturday) afternoon and went on to give instructions of where to find it. We did indeed find the bird referred to - but it proved on close inspection to be a first-winter juvenile Red-necked Phalarope, NOT Grey. A good many people, en route from the Brigg returning to the car parks had already "seen" the Grey Phalarope and were leaving, the bird safely "ticked off" and under their belts. It just serves to indicate that one should not always accept as gospel everything that one is told!

The Phalarope was the bird of the day! With only 51 species observed in the area without that particular bird, the day would probably not have been regarded as a "success". We had frequent sightings of (red-throated) divers - mainly in flight (both directions) but also one or two down on the water, with at least one bird close inshore. There was also one sighting of an unidentified grebe, but that bird was far out to sea.

Sea-duck were restricted to Eiders (2m 3f) and Common Scoter (1f). Birds of prey comprised Sparrowhawk (1f) and Kestrel (possibly up to 3).

Including the phalarope we recorded 10 species of wader; none were seen in any great number. The areas speciality wader - Purple Sandpiper - numbered only seven birds - all on rocks on the seaward end of the Brigg. This species seems to be declining here, with numbers, in my opinion, having fallen quite dramatically over the past decade.

Perhaps the most interesting wader record was that of c12 Snipe roosting on farmland [carrying a crop of winter wheat] adjoining the country park. Once located and they were surprisingly difficult to pick up, remaining motionless at all times, they gave very good views of themselves.

Most people managed sightings of Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin - but again they were not numerous and most birds were solitary individuals or the occasional pair.

Skylark and Meadow Pipits were the birds of the grasslands and (1-2) Rock Pipits were seen on the cliffs. It was very nice coming across the party of (c7) Goldfinches in flight over the grassy slopes of the upper cliffs north of the Brigg - personally, they never fail to cheer me up, whenever and wherever I encounter them.

With the above exceptions, however, we had to visit the Church woodlands in order to swell our list of passerines and here probably the 'best' birds were (3) Treecreepers, but there was also a party of 13 Collared Doves.

And so, with no trip planned for December, we come to the end of yet another year.

I should like to thank everyone who has participated in helping to make the field trips as successful and enjoyable as I believe them to be. I HOPE most people find them so.

I should like to say a special "thank you" to the hard-core of regulars who, despite rising costs, continue to give the trips their support. Without them the trips simply could not operate. I look forward to and hope for their continued and continuing support over the next year and extend an invitation and a welcome to any and all others who feel that they might like to join our number.

David Butterfield - Field Trips Organiser [Hudds 862006].

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES OBSERVED ON FIELD TRIPS THROUGHOUT 1991

Red-throated Diver	Red-legged Partridge	Barn Owl
Great Northern Diver	Grey Partridge	Short-eared Owl
	Pheasant	
Little Grebe		Swift
Great Crested Grebe	Water Rail	
Red-necked Grebe	Moorhen	Kingfisher
Slavonian Grebe	Coot	
		Green Woodpecker
Fulmar	Oystercatcher	Great Spotted Woodpecker
	Ringed Plover	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Sooty Shearwater	Golden Plover	
Manx Shearwater	Grey Plover	Skylark
	Lapwing	
Gannet	Knot	Sand Martin
	Sanderling	Swallow
Cormorant	Curlew Sandpiper	House Martin
Shag	Purple Sandpiper	
	Dunlin	Tree Pipit
Bittern	Snipe	Meadow Pipit
Grey Heron	Woodcock	Rock Pipit
	Black-tailed Godwit	Grey Wagtail
Mute Swan	Bar-tailed Godwit	Pied Wagtail
Bewick's Swan	Whimbrel	
Whooper Swan	Curlew	Waxwing
Bean Goose	Redshank	
Pink-footed Goose	Greenshank	Wren
Grey Lag Goose	Common Sandpiper	
Canada Goose	Turnstone	Duncock
Brent Goose	Red-necked Phalarope	
Shelduck		Robin
Wigeon	Pomarine Skua	Black Redstart
Gadwall	Arctic Skua	Redstart
Teal	Great Skua	Whinchat
Mallard		Stonechat
Pintail	Little Gull	Wheatear
Shoveler	Black-headed Gull	Blackbird
Pochard	Common Gull	Fieldfare
Tufted Duck	Lesser BB Gull	Song Thrush
Eider	erring Gull	Redwing
Long-tailed Duck	Great BB Gull	Mistle Thrush
Common Scoter	Kittiwake	
Goldeneye	Sandwich Tern	Sedge Warbler
Smew	Common Tern	Whitethroat
Red-breasted Merganser	Arctic Tern	Garden Warbler
Goosander	Little Tern	Blackcap
Ruddy Duck		Wood Warbler

Marsh Harrier  
Hen Harrier  
Sparrowhawk  
Kestrel  
Merlin  
Peregrine

Long-tailed Tit  
Marsh Tit  
Willow Tit  
Coal Tit  
Blue Tit  
Great Tit

Tree-creeper  
Tree Sparrow

Addenda

(White Wagtail)  
Desert Warbler

Guillemot  
Razorbill  
Little Auk  
Puffin

Stock Dove  
Rock Dove  
Woodpigeon  
Collared Dove  
Jay  
Magpie  
Jackdaw  
Carrion Crow

Starling

House Sparrow  
Bullfinch

Chiffchaff  
Willow Warbler  
Goldcrest

Pied Flycatcher

Bearded Tit

Chaffinch  
Brambling  
Greenfinch  
Goldfinch  
Linnet  
Redpoll  
Crossbill  
Scarlet Rosefinch

Yellowhammer  
Reed Bunting  
Corn Bunting

TOTAL FOR THE YEAR: 164 species.

## RINGING REPORT

As commented upon in the 1990 report changed personal circumstances allowed the netting of migrants throughout the passage period of that year. Once again personal circumstances were to change, however, and because of this it was decided against positioning a peanut-basket at Blackmoorfoot during the first winter period. As a consequence no netting attempts were carried out at this time.

Nest-finding attempts during the early part of the breeding season were hampered by wet weather. Activities during the latter half of the breeding season were curtailed due to a near fatal motorcycle accident. In total 68 pulli were ringed: Collared Dove (2 Blackmoorfoot), Pied Wagtail (5 Rishworth Moor), Dipper (5 Hill Top, 5 Rishworth Moor), Blackbird (8 Blackmoorfoot, 8 Crosland Moor), Mistle Thrush (13 Blackmoorfoot), Magpie (5 Blackmoorfoot, 5 Crosland Moor), Carrion Crow (4 Rishworth Moor), Chaffinch (8 Blackmoorfoot) and Greenfinch (1 Blackmoorfoot).

The same motorcycle accident mentioned above also prevented the netting of birds during the autumn passage period. It should be noted, however, that the various censusing techniques of the British Trust for Ornithology indicated a substantial reduction in numbers and a poor breeding season for several of our commoner caught species, including Willow Warbler. It would have been interesting, had it been possible to net, to see how numbers of this species passing through Blackmoorfoot were effected; we will never know! Continued employment throughout the second winter period resulted in the peanut-basket again not being sited at Blackmoorfoot. As a consequence no birds were ringed during this period.

It will be seen from the above that no free-flying birds were handled and that the year's ringing total was a miserly 68.

## RINGING RECOVERIES

### Key to Symbols and Terms Used

Age: 1	Pullus (nestling or chick).
2	Full-grown. Year of hatching quite unknown.
3	Hatched during the calendar year of ringing.
3J	As 3, but still in juvenile plumage.
4	Hatched before calendar year of ringing, exact year unknown.
5	Hatched during previous calendar year.
6	Hatched before previous calendar year.
7	Definitely hatched two years before year of ringing.
8	Hatched three or more calendar years before year of ringing.
10	Hatched more than four calendar years before year of ringing.

Sex: M=Male F=Female

**Manner of recovery:**

- V Caught or trapped and released with ring.  
 VV Ring number read in field or sight record of identifiable colour marks.  
 X Found dead or dying.  
 XL Found dead (not recent).  
 + Shot or killed by man.

Date of recovery: Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets.

All recoveries of five kilometres or more are published.

## RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDS

**Heron**

Colour rings	I	Apr/May '91	Bretton, near Wakefield. 53°37'N 1°34'W
	VV	17.6.91	Blackmoorfoot, near Huddersfield. 53°37'N 1°52'W 18 Kms W.
Colour rings	I	Apr/May	Bretton.
	VV	21.9.91-11.10.91 (12 sightings)	Blackmoorfoot. 18 Kms W.
Colour rings	I	Apr/May	Bretton
	VV	22.10.91	Wyke Beck, Bailiff Bridge, W. Yorks 53°43'N 1°46'W 20 Kms NW.

**Kestrel**

EN17359	I	23.6.89	Deer Hill, near Huddersfield. 53°37'N 1°53'W
	X	14.2.91	Leek, Staffordshire. 53°6'N 2°1'W 58 Kms S.

**Lesser Black-Backed Gull**

GG20018	IOF	10.6.84	Plank Lane Tip, Leigh, Gt Manchester. 53°30'N 2°34'W
	VV	25.6.84	Blackmoorfoot. 48 Kms ENE
	VV	1.2.89	Throckmorton Tip, Hereford. 52°9'N 2°2'W 172 Kms S.
	X	12.8.91	Between St Bees & Netherott, Cumbria. 54°28'N 3°35'W 277 Kms NNW

<b>Woodpigeon</b> FC39517	I +	4.7.89 7.10.91	Blackmoorfoot Wood Nook, near Meltham. 53°35'N 1°48'W 6 Kms SE
<b>House Martin</b> EI89524	3 +	29.7.86 1.6.91	Blackmoorfoot Hazelhead, Sheffield. 53°31'N 1°42'W 16 Kms SE
<b>Willow Warbler</b> 3X9706	3 X	19.7.90 16.7.91	Blackmoorfoot Brockholes, near Huddersfield. 53°36'N 1°46'W 7 Kms ESE

M. L. Denton

### LOCAL RE-TRAPS AND RECOVERIES

As described in the Ringing Report, no netting attempts were carried out during the year. As a consequence, therefore, no re-traps of birds ringed in previous years were handled. The few local recoveries of more than twelve months duration, which were reported during the year, are given in Table 1. The top line shows the approximate period between ringing and recovery. The figures show the number of individuals recovered near their place of ringing.

TABLE 1 - RECOVERIES

	1 year	2 years	TOTAL
Blackbird		1	1
Bluc Tit	1	2	3

M.L. Denton

## EARLY AND LATE DATES FOR SUMMER MIGRANTS IN HUDDERSFIELD

This table is published as an easy to read summary of all early and late dates for a majority of summer migrants to our area. Common Sandpiper, Blackcap and Chiffchaff have been omitted because all are occasionally seen in the winter months, while some of the rarer summer visitors are not mentioned because of insufficient records.

	Earliest	Location	Latest	Location
Garganey	30/3/90	Blackmoorfoot	23/9/66	Blackmoorfoot
Osprey	5/4/85	Crowden	20/11/77	Langsett Res.
Quail	15/5/65	Ingbirchworth	21/8/86	Broadstones
Little Ringed Plover	29/3/83	Dewsbury S.F.	29/9/69	Blackmoorfoot
Turtle Dove	27/4/80	Bretton Park	12/10/71	Ossett S.F.
Cuckoo	2/4/85	Digley	27/10/77	Royd Moor
Swift	22/4/62	Thunderbridge	6/11/50	Newsome
Sand Martin	12/3/89	Blackmoorfoot	23/10/71	Blackmoorfoot
Swallow	10/3/59	Elland	13/11/77	Hall Dike
House Martin	8/4/80+91	Kirkburton & Bretton	27/11/59	Gawthorpe
Tree Pipit	3/4/88	Deffer Wood	17/9/78	Blackmoorfoot
Yellow Wagtail	7/4/80	Bretton Park	6/10/80	Ossett S.F.
Black Redstart	4/4/88	Oxygrains Beck	26/11/87	Chew Res.
Redstart	5/4/65+85+87	All Breton Park	24/10/76	Deer Hill
Whinchat	15/4/72	Wessenden Head	26/10/68	Lindley Moor
Wheatear	10/3/89	Royd Edge Clough	10/11/79	Royd Moor
Ring Ouzel	8/3/91	Rishworth Moor	15/11/65	Ossett
Grasshopper Warbler	21/4/66	Magbridge	17/8/68	Horbury Bridge
Sedge Warbler	13/4/81	Healey S.F.	14/9/86	Golcar Canal
Reed Warbler	2/5/87	Bretton Park	15/9/79	Scout Dike Res.
Lesser Whitethroat	22/4/84	Horbury	27/9/73	Deighton
Whitethroat	14/4/45	Bretton Park	30/9/78	Blackmoorfoot
Garden Warbler	5/4/85	Bretton Park	24/11/84	Silkstone
Wood Warbler	21/4/81	Oxley Bank	14/9/56	Fixby
Willow Warbler	29/3/81	Bretton + Brockholes	27/10/87	Meltham
Spotted Flycatcher	29/4/73	Bretton Park	16/10/85	Coxley Valley
Pied Flycatcher	18/4/85	Scammonden	19/9/69	Horbury



## CLUB OFFICIALS FOR 1992

President	Malcolm Charnock 2 Oak Villas Carrbrook Stalybridge Tel: 0457 820074
President Elect	Donald Haigh 35 Birchington Avenue Birchcliffe Huddersfield Tel: 0422 374670
Hon. Treasurer	David Shore 4 Fixby Park Drive Huddersfield HD2 2NN Tel: 514237
Hon. Secretary	Lynn Stanley 9 Cookson Street Brighouse Tel: 715207
Recorder	Stephen Hey 200 Quamby Road Huddersfield HD3 4FD Tel: 648063
Field Meetings Organiser	David Butterfield 15 Dane Road Skelmanthorpe HD8 9BU Tel: 862006
Conservation Liason Officer and Librarian	Michael Denton 77 Hawthorne Terrace Huddersfield HD4 5RP Tel: 646990
Indoor Meetings Organiser	John Reynolds 35 Foxcroft Drive Brighouse HD6 3PQ Tel: 710478
Auditor	Donald Haigh
Committee Members	Peter Bradbury Tony Hetherington Philip Jeffcock Dennis Manchester Dave Williamson